

# Spiritual Ceremony

ALOHA & Welcome To Makena!! You have chosen well when you picked this spot – Makena, in Hawaiian, means a place of abundance, where many gather. So we are present here today in recognition of the abundance of your love and aloha for each other. And what better way to begin this ceremony than with a brief meditation on the word “ALOHA”.

As you already know, “Aloha” is a multi-purpose word. It is used in greetings and fare-wells, and is used to invoke sentiments such as love/empathy/compassion/Kindness & grace.

Aloha embodies a way of living and treating each other with love and respect. Its deep meaning echoes the Christian tradition of loving one's self first and then spread this love to others. The ancient Hawaiians believed that “ALOHA” was never to be uttered without respect for the supreme creator.

So you see, it is a word of many meanings, BUT the literal meaning of aloha is the presence of breath or the breath of life.

Its two syllables are a joining of “ALO”, meaning presence, front and face, and “HA”, meaning breath.

Let us share our Aloha by taking a moment to close our eyes and breathe deeply together.

{Pause}

As you become more present, be aware of the tropical breezes that caress us.

The Hawaiians believe that carried on these winds at a wedding are the spirits of your ohana, all those that love you, whether alive today or in the spirit world. So feel their blessing caress your face as we share this Aloha breath.

The blowing of the conch shell, or Pu, is said to invoke their presence as well.

**PAUSE      --      CONCH SHELL 3x**

## Lei Exchange

A key element of a traditional Hawaiian wedding is the exchange of leis. This is done for several reasons. One is that the lei is an unbroken circle, like the rings that soon will be blessed and exchanged, representing the eternal commitment of your hearts together.

Also, as each flower is brought into the circle, it loses none of its individual beauty, reminding us that in the unity of your love, you have lost none of your unique individuality.

In fact, the loving care and nurturing security of your relationship helps you grow even more fully into that special person with whom your partner fell in love.

So, let these beautifully crafted lei with their hand picked flowers and twine, carefully bonded together with love, be a special reflection of your love and Aloha for one another.

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As the Hawaiians say:

**He Lei Kau, He Lei Ho'oilō ke Aloha**

which means "I will wear your love as a lei forever.

\_\_\_\_\_, please place this Lei around the neck of your beautiful bride, and as you do so:

**HONI KA UA** – kiss her on the lips

----This is one of the advantages of a Hawaiian wedding; the kissing starts right away!

And likewise, \_\_\_\_\_, place this Lei around the neck of your beloved and **HONI KA UA** - with a kiss.

**PAUSE CONCH SHELL**

We have gathered here today, before God, and in love, to join \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in one of the holiest of bonds.

May you cherish this day forever.

In Honor of this very special moment, let us pause to give thanks for all the rich and wonderful experiences that have brought you to this high point in your lives.

Let us be especially grateful to all the Kumu, Kupuna and Ohana, meaning your Elders, Mentors, and Family who helped shape who you are today.

We are equally grateful for all the Love and Aloha you were blessed with along life's way.

May it continue to foster in you the vision of a great Love and provide you with the resources to create a home that shall endure in peace and harmony.

Now, as you make your promises to each other, may you make them with the deepest insight into their meaning and with your fullest sincerity. Let this be the formal beginning of a relationship that will grow and mature with each passing year until the latter days become more wonderful than the first.

Let us now bow our head in prayer.

Oh Lord hear our prayer for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ who today are united in Marriage before you. Please give them Your blessings and always strengthen their Love for each other. Amen.

I find some likeness between marriage and religion. Both are concerned with the emergence of the larger Self. It is finding of one's life by losing it. Such is the privilege of husband and wife, to be each himself, and herself and yet another.

Thus they face the world stronger with the strength of two, wiser with the wisdom of two, and braver

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with the courage of two. The high and fine art of married life is in this mutual enrichment, mental, emotional, and spiritual, this give and take between two personalities.

You are about to enter into a union which is most sacred and most serious, requiring of those who enter into it a complete and unreserved giving of Self.

It will bind you together for life in a relationship so close and so intimate that it will profoundly affect everything you do, whether together or apart .

That future, with its hopes and disappointments, its successes and its failures, its pleasures and its pains, its joys and its sorrows is yet hidden from your eyes. Love can make it easy, perfect Love can make it a joy. May, then, this Love which joins your hands and hearts here today never fail, but grow deeper and stronger as the years go on!

## VOWS

I ask you each to now agree to the marriage vows. WILL YOU PLEASE FACE EACH OTHER AND JOIN HANDS.

Please repeat after me:

I,----(*Groom*)-- receive you,--(*Bride*)---- as my wife, partner and love. Beside me and apart from me, in laughter and in tears, in sickness and in health, in conflict and serenity, asking that you be no other than yourself. Loving what I know of you and trusting what I do not know. In all the ways that life may bring.

(Bride Repeats)

The hand offered by each of you is an extension of Self, just as is your mutual Love. Cherish the touch, for you touch not only your own but another Life. Be ever sensitive to its pulse. Seek always to understand and respect its rhythm.

You have vowed your love to each other. Are you now ready to confirm that love in the responsibilities of marriage?

If so answer, "*WE ARE*"

## RING EXCHANGE

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At this time I ask that you place the marriage rings in my hand.

Your rings by their very shape are symbols of eternal unity without beginning or end. They are the emblem of the love that exists between you and outwardly express your devotion to one another. Let them always remind you of the commitments you make today. May the Lord bless these rings which you give as your sign of love and devotion. Amen.

    Groom    , as you place     Bride    's ring on her finger I ask that you repeat these words after me:

*---(Bride's name)-----, with this ring I promise to grow with you to build our love, to speak openly and honestly to listen to you, and to love and cherish you AND ONLY YOU for all the days ahead .*

*From this day forward you shall not walk alone. My heart will be your shelter and my arms will be your home. All that I have, and all that I have said, I seal it with this ring. With this ring I thee wed.*

(Bride repeats above)

The lord bless you and keep you. What, therefore, God has joined together let no man put asunder. AMEN.

Before I conclude this ceremony with a Hawaiian blessing, I would like to share a native American, Apache in this case, benediction with you:

Now you will feel no rain, for each of you will be shelter for the other. Now you will feel no cold, for each of you will be warmth for the other. Now there is no loneliness for you, now you are two persons but there is only one life before you. Go now to your dwelling place to enter into the days of your togetherness and may your days be good and long together. Amen.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_,  
*This is my Hawaiian Blessing for you.....*

**ALOHA MAI**

**May Love Always surround you**

**Ea Ea**

**May There be Sweetness in Every Breath**

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**Ike Pono**

**May there always be Righteousness**

**Ola Mau Loa**

**May Your Lives Be Long**

**Uwehe E**

**And Be Free From Harm**

**Ha'awi Loko Mai Ka'i**

**May Wishes Given From Goodness Within**

**La'a Mai Loko Maika'i**

**Be Received By Goodness Within**

**I Ho'okahi Kahi Ke Aloha Ua Mau.**

**Be United As One in Love Forever.**

And so by the power vested in me by the great state of Hawaii, I HEREBY PRONOUNCE YOU HUSBAND AND WIFE!

                    , you may kiss your beautiful bride.

**CONCH ---- Presentation**

It is my special honor for to present to you, Mr. and Mrs. (Groom and Bride), Husband and Wife!