

Beliefs: *Live Aloha.*

In the epilogue for "The Betrayal of Lili'uokalani: Last Queen of Hawaii 1838-1917," by Helen G. Allen, there is a quote by Queen Lili'uokalani, who had lived to see the end of her beloved Hawaiian nation. The Queen, through all the pain and injustices that she had experienced, was an example of *living aloha*. In 1917, she said to her hānai daughter, Lydia K. Aholo, "To gain the kingdom of heaven is to hear what is not said, to see what cannot be seen, and to know the unknowable – that is Aloha. All things in this world are two: in heaven there is but One."

Pilahi Paki (1910-1985) was a teacher, a composer, a translator, a community leader, a respected kupuna, a living treasure and a proponent of the spirit of Aloha. At a Governor's conference in 1970, she spoke to the attendees about the meaning and importance of aloha to citizens of our island home. She said, "In the next millennium, the world will turn to Hawai'i in its search for world peace because Hawai'i has the key...and that key is ALOHA." Pilahi Paki together with Alvin Shim, a well-known Hawaiian attorney/businessman, authored The "Aloha Spirit" law that the Legislature passed in 1986. The law states, (the) "*Aloha Spirit*" is the coordination of mind and heart within each person. It brings each person to the self. Each person must think and emote good feelings to others (see the Appendices for the complete version of the Aloha Law).

What Is Aloha?

- A**, Akahai-Kindness, expressed with tenderness
- L**, Lōkahi-Unity, expressed with harmony
- O**, 'Olu'olu-Agreeable, expressed with pleasantness
- H**, Ha'aha'a-Humility, expressed with modesty
- A**, Ahonui-Patience, expressed with perseverance

Pilahi Paki composed the poem above. Each line begins with one of the letters that spell the word "Aloha." She explained that, "these are traits of character that express the charm, warmth and sincerity of Hawaii's people. It was the working philosophy of native Hawaiians and was presented as a gift to the people of Hawaii."

Aloha is the guiding spirit of life and relationships. It is the guiding force that directs us to live a healthy and good life in mind, body, and spirit and how we treat one another. **It is the essence of our kupuna (ancestors/ elders) who teach us the culture and traditions of our people.** Pilahi Paki continues, "Aloha" is more than a word of greeting or farewell or a salutation. 'Aloha' means mutual regard and affection and extends warmth in caring with no obligation in return. 'Aloha' is the essence of relationships in which each person is important to every other person for collective existence."

The depth of understanding of aloha should be natural to all of us who live in this state. Because of its importance it should be said with sincerity. If not, do not say the word. Aloha is the soul of our people and a mainstay of our lifestyle here in our Hawaii nei.

Adapted from 1 Corinthians 4:7

Aloha is patient; Aloha is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Aloha does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.