

## Lahaina Ondo Official Music Video



Music Video



Dance Tutorial

### Music Video Credits

Producer - KSG Films  
Director - Keli'i Grace  
1st Assistant Director - Brock Ladd  
Grip/Gaff - Jess Johnston  
Camera Operator - Ivy Lagodlagod  
Production Assistant - Doug Haban  
Production Assistant - Victor Limon  
Craft Services - Jeri Endo

### Participating Dance Clubs:

Iwakuni Odori Aiko Kai  
Honolulu Fukushima Bon Dance Club  
Ko'olau Sakura Odori Kai  
Ewa Fukushima Bon Dance Club  
Haleiwa Bon Dance Club  
O'ahu District Bon Dance Club  
Wahiawa Hongwanji Bon Dance Team  
Waipahu Soto Mission Bon Dance Class

### Lahaina Ondo

Lyrics: Lance D. Collins and Sumiko Tatsuguchi • Melody: Paolo Cotrone  
Singers: Colette Gomoto and Brian Nagami • Music: Paolo Cotrone

波乗り誘われた夏の日  
私季節ともと行く  
青い大波南から  
沈む西日は輝いて

Going surfing with my friends on a summer day  
Season's changing going with the flow  
Surf's up big waves from the south  
The setting sun sparkles on the west horizon

ククイ山が呼んでます  
黄金マンゴー赤い花  
川のせせらぎ涼しいよ  
きらめく太陽木々に生えて

Puu Kukui is calling me  
Golden mango red flowers  
The bubbling streams is cooling  
The glittering sun is reflecting off the trees

釣り糸垂らす海しずか  
網引人は岩の上  
かごの中にアジとリム  
星降る空いつまでも

The ocean is calm and fishing poles are out  
Someone is throwing net from the rocks  
Akule and limu are in the cooler  
The evening sky is always filled with stars

今日はラハイナ盆踊り  
とやまおじさん張り切ってます  
おばあちゃんせっせ支度してる  
私太鼓あなた踊る

Today is Lahaina Bon Odori  
Mr Toyama is excited  
The aunties are busy getting things ready  
I am drumming while you dance

## Lahaina Ondo in Context

As sugar plantations greatly expanded lands under cultivation after the ratification of the 1876 Treaty of Reciprocity, the need for farm workers also greatly expanded. To undercut labor organizing, plantation owners sought new labor sources other than from China. After King Kalakaua visited Japan, the ban on Japanese migration to Hawai'i was lifted. Major hardships caused by the Meiji reforms pushed Japanese farmers primarily from Fukuoka, Yamaguchi, Kumamoto and Hiroshima prefectures to come to Hawai'i. The song Holehole Uta is a compilation of traditional songs, called Holehole Bushi, composed by these immigrant workers about the hardships they faced on the plantations.

At the request of King Kamehameha IV, Hawai'i Aloha Lyrics were written by Rev. Lorenzo Lyons of Waimea and set to an older Christian hymn "I Left It All With Jesus" composed by American James McGranahan. This song is considered to be the unofficial anthem of Hawai'i and has customarily been sung by gatherings of local people, celebrating the connection of Hawai'i's people to the land. It also reminds us of the unresolved political claims of the Hawaiian people to their national lands and self-determination.

After American and European businessmen overthrew the Kingdom of Hawai'i in January 1893 with the assistance of the U.S. military, there was a five year period before the U.S. began its formal occupation of the Hawaiian Islands. During this period, Ma'ema'e Lihau was composed by Emma Kapena, daughter of reknown Hawaiian scholar David Malo. This love song describes the West Maui mountain, Lihau, and the lehua blossoms of its famous 'ohia trees.

Labor organizing by Japanese workers and then Japan's defeat of Russia in 1905 led to America's restriction on further male immigration from Japan after 1907. However, women continued to arrive as wives to male laborers, many through the "picture bride" phenomenon, for another two decades. A broader struggle between workers' desire for familiar cultural practices and plantation owners' efforts to control labor resulted in plantation support for Japanese Buddhist missionary work in Hawai'i although several temples emerged independently, such as the Shinshu Kyokai Mission.

Bon dances are inclusive, communal folk dance events that honor deceased ancestors. Bon dances evolved in Hawai'i with plantation workers' and communities' lived experience. In Japan, obon is celebrated in mid-August but in Hawai'i, it is celebrated throughout the summer months. While Buddhism became a key marker of identity for Hawai'i Japanese, Hawai'i bon dances in certain ways connect with broader working class experiences in Hawai'i beyond Japanese identity and beyond the plantation.

Lahaina Ondo was written by Maui attorney Lance D. Collins and Shinshu Kyokai Mission boumori Sumiko Tatsuguchi over several years to recall fond memories of everyday life in the summertime of West Maui such as surfing, mango picking, fishing, hiking, stream activities and bon dancing. An accompanying dance was choreographed by Iwakuni Odori Aiko Kai Sensei Marion Kanemori and performed at the special, post-fire Lahaina bon dance on August 10, 2024.