

**Wedding Ceremony  
Spiritual 2  
Rev Joe Miles**

Optional - Conch Shell Blow: Here and at end of your ceremony.

Oli Aloha

*Onaona I ka hala me ka lehua*  
Fragrant with the breath of hala and lehua

*He hale lehua no'ia na ka noe*  
This is the sight I long to see

*O ka'u no'ia e'ano'i nei*  
Of this, my present desire

*E li'a nei ho'i o ka hiki mai*  
Your coming fills me with eagerness

*A hiki mai no'oe oukou*  
Now that you have come

*A hiki pū no me ke aloha*  
Love comes with you

*Aloha e, Aloha e, Aloha e*  
Greetings, greetings, greetings

(Translation)

The Oli Aloha is a chant, which offers a word of greeting.  
It says in part: This is the sight for which you have longed.  
Now that you have come, love has come with you.

Today we meet by the sea as the two of you become one.

Here where the earth meets this constant and unlimited force. And as are these waters,  
may the love you share be limitless, flowing and ever changing.

HAWAIIAN BLESSING

A o ka mea nona ka mana  
E hana mai ai i na mea a pau

A kakou e noi aku ai, 'a e manao iho ai  
A nui loa aku hoi

And of the things of power....  
All great and small things from above for all...  
Beyond measure....

This is a very rough translation. I will explain it more fully during your ceremony, e.g. "and of the things of power" means the power of Love, the power of Creation, the power of the Universe...

## LEI EXCHANGE

Optional (must purchase from coordinator or provide lei)

For those of us who call Hawaii home, the flower lei is a symbol of love.

Here in the Islands a wedding often begins as it does today with the exchange of leis and a kiss. We do this 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.

As you exchange these leis you now will begin to weave your own lei of life. And now, with loving Aloha please present your leis to one another. "*E honi aku*" (give her/him a kiss)

## INTRODUCTION TO VOWS

If it were possible to begin this ceremony by gathering together all the wishes of happiness for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ from all present here...if we could gather together those precious wishes of affection and our very fondest hopes and turn them into music, we would be listening now to a most inspiring anthem, where it would be composed of the most harmonious notes possible to produce.

Even though this is not possible, just speaking of it should assure \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ that our hearts are attuned to yours in these moments so meaningful to all of us for *what greater thing is there for two human souls than to feel that they are joined together to strengthen each other in all labor, to comfort each other in all sorrow, to share with each other in all gladness.*

Marriage is an act of faith and a personal commitment as well as a moral and physical union between the parties. Marriage has been described as the best and most important relationship that can exist between two human beings; the construction of their love and trust into a single growing energy of spiritual life.

It is a moral commitment that requires and deserves daily attention since no earthly happiness exceeds that of a reciprocal satisfaction in the conjugal state.

Marriage should be a lifelong consecration to the ideal of loving kindness, backed with the will to make it last.

We read in "The Prophet",

True love gives nothing but itself and takes nothing but from itself  
 Love does not possess, nor would it be possessed  
 For love is sufficient unto love.  
 Love has no other desire but to fulfill itself,  
 To awake at dawn with a winged heart and  
 Give thanks for another day of loving.  
 To rest at noon and meditate love's ecstasy;  
 To return home at eventide with gratitude,  
 And then to sleep with a prayer for the beloved in your heart  
 And a song of praise upon your lips.

Today you commit yourselves to honoring and protecting one another above your separate selves, and to valuing your union above your own interests. In so doing, you will find a wealth of love and peace not otherwise attainable.

But with this joy comes a profound responsibility to protect the bond you share. For it is only with continual care that your love is truly secure in the face of life's inevitable tests.

Please... regard each other with the deepest respect. Appreciate each other's talents, foster each other's dreams, and be ever mindful of the many gifts the other offers you.

Inspire and encourage one another. For by strengthening your partner, you strengthen your marriage. Bring out the very best in each other. Be sparing in criticism and generous in praise for things well done.

In communication, be honest and open. For the heart that communicates truth without hesitation earns trust and builds a secure home. Without truth there is no respect, and without respect there is no love.

Accept your marriage as a work-in-progress that will hereafter consume your attention, yet never be completed because a lifelong love requires a lifetime of hard work. But it is a joyous labor, whose fruits are the very richest.

A vast, unknown future stretches out before you. That future, with its hopes and its challenges, its joys and its sorrows, is hidden from your eyes. But it is a great tribute to your belief in each other that you are willing to share that life together.

May the pure, simple love with which you join hearts and hands today only grow deeper and stronger with every year you spend together.

It is in this spirit that you have come here today to exchange these vows.

## VOWS

\_\_\_\_\_, do you take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your wedded [wife, husband], to love, to cherish, to continually bestow upon her/him your heart's deepest devotion?

\_\_\_\_\_ says: "I do."

And \_\_\_\_\_, do you take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your wedded [husband, wife], to love, to cherish, to continually bestow upon him/her your heart's deepest devotion?

\_\_\_\_\_ says: "I do."

Please hold hands and repeat after me:

\_\_\_\_\_, you are consecrated to me now as my [wife, husband], from this day forward,  
to love, to cherish and to have and to hold, for better or for worse,  
for richer or for poorer in sickness and in health, in sadness and in joy,  
to share together as long as we both shall live.

\_\_\_\_\_, you are consecrated to me now as my [husband, wife], from this day forward,  
to love, to cherish and to have and to hold, for better or for worse,  
for richer or for poorer in sickness and in health, in sadness and in joy,  
to share together as long as we both shall live.

## RING EXCHANGE

You have chosen to exchange rings as a sign and seal of the promises you are making to one another today.

May these rings be blessed as a symbol of this affectionate unity.

These two lives are now joined in one unbroken circle.

Wherever you go, may you always return to one another in your togetherness.

May these two find in each other the love for which all men and women yearn.

May they grow in understanding and in compassion.

May the home which you have established together be such a place of sanctuary that many will find there a friend.

May these rings, on your fingers, symbolize the touch of the spirit of love in your hearts.

\_\_\_\_\_, in placing this ring on \_\_\_\_\_'s finger repeat after me:

\_\_\_\_\_, I give you this ring as the pledge of my love and as the symbol of our unity.

\_\_\_\_\_, in placing this ring on \_\_\_\_\_'s finger, repeat after me:

\_\_\_\_\_, I give you this ring as the pledge of my love and as the symbol of our unity.

May this shining hour be an open door through which \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ will go forth to build that dearest of all relationships, a happy marriage.

May the years deal gently with you; walking together may you find far more in life than either would have found alone.

#### PRONOUNCEMENT

In as much as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have consented together in marriage before this company; have pledged their faith and declared their unity by each giving and receiving a ring and are now joined in mutual esteem and devotion.

As an ordained Minister, it is my privilege to pronounce that they are [husband and wife, wife and wife, husband and husband] together.

\_\_\_\_\_, you may kiss your [wife, husband]!