Ka'a Ahi Kahului

Words and Music By: Palani Vaughan

6 Source: In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the steam locomotive found its

way into countless musical cultures throughout the world. Musicians integrated its distinctive rhythms into their playing, singers and harmonica players imitated its many sounds, composers celebrated its remarkable capacity to link distant communities or conjure up adventure. July 29, 1879, marked the arrival of passenger train service to Hawai'i, when the Kahului Railroad Company of Maui began running from Kahului to Wailuku.

Because King David Kalākaua encouraged railroad construction in Hawai'i, Kalākaua-era enthusiast Palani Vaughan wrote this song in the early 1970s. The second verse honors King Kalākaua and the chorus contains the onomatopoeic phrase, "chuku chuku" to simulate the sound of the engine. The rhythm recreates the steady beat of a train as it runs across the rails kuehu aku ma ke alahao (stirring up dust along the track). "I kind of muffle the string with my right hand to create the train sound," Led says. Led Ka'apana plays in Standard tuning (E-A-D-G-B-D) and arranged in the keys of F and C. (notes from Dancing Cat)

Sample Song List:

- Palani Vaughan, Palani Vaughan's Best with the King's Own -Vol I, 1993
- Ledward Ka'apana, Led Live Solo, 1994
- Kahua, Mali'o e, 2002
- Brian Tolentino, Ka Ukulele Lele, 2005
- Keoki Kahumoku & Herb Ohta, Jr, Hawaiian From The Heart, 2000
- Hau'ula, Na Mele 'Ohana,
- Cyril Pahinui, 'la 'Oe E Ka La Helu 'Ekahi Vol. 1
- Bruddah Waltah, Ka Ho`ina, 1997
- Troy Fernandez, Cruzin' Island Style (DVD),
- Troy Fernandez, Hawaiian Style Ukulele, 2005
- Makapu'u Sand Band, Makapu'u Sand Band, 1996
- I Ku Mau Mau, I Ku Mau Mau, 2004

Page 1 REVISED 04/03/2006

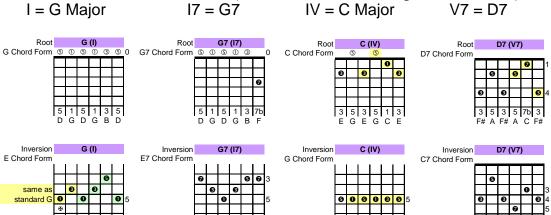
Ka`a Ahi Kahului

Key of G Major(#) 4/4 Time (fast tempo)

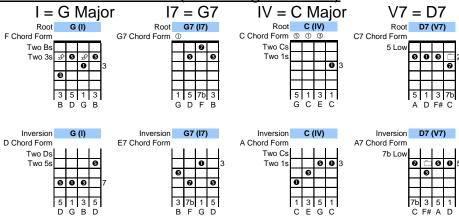
Song Structure:

Verse – 8 bars (repeated)
||I~~~|~~~~|V7~~~|I~|IV~~~|I~~~|V7~~~|IV~~~|
||Hui_- 8 bars
||I7~~~|I~~~|V7~~~|I~~~|I~~~|V7~~~|I~~~|

Kika Ki Ho'alu Basic Chords (Taro Patch G Tuning - DGDGBD)



<u>Ukulele Basic Chords (C Tuning – GCEA)</u>



Performance Notes: This a fun song with a driving up-tempo choo-choo beat and kika sound effects -- thumps, slides, bends -- to create the sound and feel of riding on the old sugar cane train to Kahului.

This Kanikapila Guide Sheet is for personal enjoyment and education only. Selling this KGS or making a profit performing this song without the express written consent from the copyright owner(s) is strictly prohibited and punishable by law.

Ka`a Ahi Kahului

Intro ~ G7 / / / G / / / G7 / / / G / / / □ Verse: | Eia ka mo`olelo | pōkole | Here is the short story **D7 G7** | No ke ka`a ahi mua | o Hawai`i Nei | About the first train in Hawai`i | Chūkū-chūkū maila | Chūkū-chūkū maila | Choo-choo here. Choo-choo there **D7** C | Ko`ehu (kuehu) aku ma ke ala-|-hao | Stirring dust along the tracks ~~ Repeat ~~ Hui: Chorus: **G7** G | Wū-wū | Ka`a Ahi Kahului | Woo-woo! Kahului Railroad **D7** ∣ Ke alahao a i Wai-∣-luku ∣ Tracks all the way to Wailuku **G7** | Wu-wu | Ka`a Ahi Kahului | Woo-woo! Kahului Railroad **D7** | Chūkū-chūkū mua o Ha-|-wai`i | The first train of Hawai`i ☐ Turnaround D7 G ☐

Page 3 REVISED 04/03/2006

Ka`a Ahi Kahului

Additional Verses:

| Hūlō, Hūlō, | no Ka Lani e | | No Ka Lani `O Kalā-|-kaua | | Ke mea i kākau | kona inoa | | Ma ka Palapalano ka | chūkū-chūkū |

Hurrah! Hurrah! for the chief

For the chief, Kalākaua

The one who signed his name

On the Act for the Railroad

| Lohe mai e nā keiki | hānau o ka `āina | | Lohe mai i ka mo`olelo | chūkū | | A i ko `oukou | Ka Lani hope | | Ka mea i kākau kona i-|-noa |

Listen, oh children of the land
Listen to the train story
And (hear) about your last King
The one who signed his name

Page 4 REVISED 04/03/2006