

Song Title **HONOLULU CITY LIGHTS**

Rating: **YES: Caution**

REVIEWERS' NOTE

Reevaluation: Dec 23, 2023 : change from YES to YES: Caution

- **COSTUME/PROPS:** Non-indigenous performers must not use Hawaiian costuming or props. (Leis are ok.)
- **CHOREOGRAPHY:** As hula is not merely a dance but also a significant cultural practice for native Hawaiians, performers must be respectful of its history and importance to the Hawaiian people. (See "The Hula" section of [this document](#).) Therefore, movements that evoke the hula must not be included unless it is by performers who have formally learned the dance. Performers should never add hula-like movements in a stereotypical manner because it reflects a lack of respect for Hawaiian history and culture.

* * *

What year was this song written? 1970's

Who wrote the lyrics? Keola Beamer

What did your research tell you about the lyricist?

Beamer is a slack-key guitar player and a musician who fused Hawaiian roots and contemporary music in his compositions. He is the fifth generation of one of Hawaii's most respected musical families. His family traces their roots to royal families of the 14th century.

What other material has been written by this lyricist?

Beamer wrote and composed many songs including "Kapalua Bay", "Kalena Kai", "Hula Lady", "Island Cruisin'" and "Hilo Rain".

Who is the composer of this song? Same as lyricist

Who and what is this song about, as originally intended by the composer and earlier performers?

Beamer wants to describe his feeling of nostalgia whenever he's away from Honolulu, and how his memories beckon him to return home to Honolulu.

<https://genius.com/Keola-and-kapono-beamer-honolulu-city-lights-lyrics>

Share a link to the earliest performance of this song that you can find.

The original performance can be heard on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=98e7A1XdkxM>

What historical or social events were happening at the time this song was written?

These were the significant events in Hawaii in the 1970's:

1970 – The governor asked that the use of the island of Kaho'olawe for bombing practice by the Navy cease.

- Hawaii became the first state to legalize abortion.

- First Merrie Monarch hula festival was held in Hilo.

1971 – Surfer Eddie Aikau was named Lifeguard of the Year.

- Hawaii's first ukulele festival was held.

1972 – Jesse Kuhaulua is the first non-Asian to win a sumo tournament in Nagoya, Japan.

1973 – The first Honolulu Marathon was held.

- . Elvis goes global with "Aloha From Hawaii", the first satellite live global concert.

Does any illustration or other characteristic of the original sheet music reflect an inappropriate theme? No

Did this song, originally or subsequently, demean a marginalized racial/ethnic group (a group considered at a social disadvantage) through idiomatic expressions, metaphors, jargon, or message? And/or does the song present a sanitized/idyllic or false narrative regarding the American South and the life of the enslaved or newly freed OR of other marginalized racial/ethnic groups and their history? No

Please supply the links to any additional sources you used for this section of research.

En.wikipedia.org/wiki/Keola_Beamer

En.wikipedia.org/wiki>Honolulu_City_Lights

Hawaiihistory.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=ig.page&year=1970

Additional Questions to Consider (do not pertain to Admissibility)

The remaining questions pertain to Diversity, Equity & Inclusion issues other than those of race. As such, **THESE QUESTIONS DO NOT AFFECT A SONG'S ADMISSIBILITY**. They are provided to encourage your group to consider factors that may affect members of your audience and/or your performers with regard to religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, and more. ***Please refer to the Music Choices section of [Chapter Choices to Address Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#) (in the [Chorus Toolkit](#)) for details and strategies related to these factors.***

Could the message/lyrics of the song, original or subsequent, limit any singer or audience member's ability to engage, related to the following? A YES answer does not imply that the song is demeaning or exclusionary. [Please see instructions here.](#)

Age: No

Disability: No

Gender: No

Religion: No

Sexual Orientation: No

Visible Physical Difference: No

Other? No

Are there any adjustments to the lyrics that would make it more inclusive or current to our chorus culture or societal norms?

No, I did not identify any lyrics that might be addressed.