

Kutztown University

## Research Commons at Kutztown University

---

Sikaiana Traditional Songs

Sikaiana

---

1981

### MaKo Hatu Composed Songs

Reuben Tenai

John Kilatu Dr

Follow this and additional works at: [https://research.library.kutztown.edu/sikaiana\\_songs\\_traditional](https://research.library.kutztown.edu/sikaiana_songs_traditional)



Part of the [Composition Commons](#), [Ethnomusicology Commons](#), [Linguistic Anthropology Commons](#), [Music Performance Commons](#), [Polynesian Studies Commons](#), and the [Social and Cultural Anthropology Commons](#)

---

#### Recommended Citation

Tenai, Reuben and Kilatu, John Dr, "MaKo Hatu Composed Songs" (1981). *Sikaiana Traditional Songs*. 8. [https://research.library.kutztown.edu/sikaiana\\_songs\\_traditional/8](https://research.library.kutztown.edu/sikaiana_songs_traditional/8)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Sikaiana at Research Commons at Kutztown University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Sikaiana Traditional Songs by an authorized administrator of Research Commons at Kutztown University. For more information, please contact [czerny@kutztown.edu](mailto:czerny@kutztown.edu).

I found these two songs in my notes. They were written by someone else and given to me. I went over them with John Kilatu. The parts of the second song must have been given to me by John Kilatu. The songs may have come from Reuben Tenai. They are both sad songs. One discusses a person who feels that he has been abandoned by all his relatives, describing himself as a solitary bird flying over the oceans, a canoe without its lashings and anchor. The metaphor of the canoe without its parts is metaphoric speech (*hulihulisala*) that no one is helping him to find a wife. The song refers to Tulagi, the capital of the British Protectorate before World War II. Kilatu emphasized the man's isolation and despair.

The second song describes a descent line that has no inheritors—*puni* is the Sikaiana word. It is applied to the land-holding patrilineal descent lines that have no patrilineal inheritors. The song compares a person to a canoe which is caught in the rough currents of the ocean. (In my notes I found an alternative interpretation from someone who claimed that he knew the composer that the last verse of the song described the composer's illegitimate children—it was composed as a reply to those who wrote about him not having children, in fact he had many children through affairs with other men's wives.)

## Manu o te Moana

Eva ko te manu mai te moana  
Ku he iloa ka toku henua ko hano ai  
Ko hano nei ki hea  
Ku laoi ia penei

Tani ko te tala tai o Tulagi (capital before WWII)  
Ku he iloa ka toku henua ko hano ai  
Ko hano new ki hea  
Ku laoi ia penei

### Puku 1 (verse 1)

Te tinana ni he sese he talihoe mo toku vaka  
Ku he iloa ka toku henua ko hano ai  
Te tinana tiaki ki tokatoka ia soko-nau  
Ku he iloa ka toku henua ko hano ai

### Puku 2

Te tamana ni he sese he taetae mo toku vaka  
Ku he iloa ko toku henua ko hano ai  
Te tamana tiaki ko tokatoka ia soko-nau  
Ku he iloa ka toku henua ko hano ai

### Puku 3

Te tupuna ni he sese he tuala mo toku vaka  
Ku he iloa ko toku henua ko hano ai  
Te tupuna tiaka tokotoko ia soko-nau  
Ku he iloa ka toku henua ko hano ai

### Puku 4

Te tupuna ni he sese he tukulu mo toku vaka  
Ku he iloa ka toku henua ko hano ai  
Te tupuna tiaki ko tokatoka ia soko-nau  
Ku he iloa ka toku henua ko hano ai

The bird flutters about overseas without direction  
I do not know where to go for my home  
Where should I go?  
It is good like this.

The cry comes from Tulagi (the earlier capital of the Solomon Islands)  
I don't know where to go for my home  
Where should I go?  
It is good like this.

The mother does not look for the *talihoe* (canoe part)  
I do not know where to go for my home  
The mother does not look out for me (I am alone)  
I don't know where to go for my home

The father does not look for a fishing net  
I don't know where to go for my home  
The father does not look out for me  
I don't know where to go for my home

The grandmother does not look for the anchor  
I don't know where to go for my home  
The grandmother does not look out for me  
I don't know where to go for my home

The grandfather does not look for the tukulu (canoe part)  
I don't know where to go for my home  
The grandfather does not look out for me  
I don't know where to go for my home

## Tama Puni

Mua            Too vaka holau ni hau too tamana

Akoako        Kia ina toku vaka e he sula  
E hutia taohia e tahe o te moana  
I te ukeuke o te moana e mahi

Tutalua        To vaka holau ni kake I to tamana  
Puipui te ika-saa o te moana

(Repeat akoako)    Kiaina toku vaka e he sula  
E hutia taohia e tahe o te moana  
I te ukeuke o te moana e mahi

Hati            Ku laoi to vaka ku sula kite henua  
(Repeat akoako)

Ku laoi oo kalemata ku anaia i uta  
(Repeat akoako)

Puku 1        Hakatu te laa o to vaka koe ku tele  
(Repeat akoako)  
Hakamakamaka te haha o to laa tani valo koe i te tele of to vaka  
(Repeat akoako)

Puku 2        Hakatu te la o to vaka koe ku tele  
(Repeat akoako)  
Hakamakaka te haha o to laa tani kiki koe i te tika o to vaka  
(Repeat akoako)

Puku 3        Hakatu to laa o to vaka koe ku tele  
(Repeat akoako)  
Hakamakaka te haha o to laa vinivini koe i te kohu te tai o to vaka  
(Repeat akoako)

## Person Without Children

- Mua           The lashings of your boat were made by your father
- Akoako       No matter my ship has not appeared  
It is pulled and held in the currents of the sea  
The waves of the sea are very rough
- Tutalua      Your boat was sanctified by your father  
To keep all the dangers from it
- Hati          It is good that your ship has appeared to the island  
It is good that your face is seen on shore
- Puku 1       Set the sail of your boat to sail  
Strain the guide rope of your boat, you scream in the sailing of your boat
- Puku 2               Set the sail of your boat to sail  
Strain the guide rope of your sail, you laugh and giggle as it sails
- Puku 3               Set the sail of your boat to sail  
You strain to pull the sail rope you, you whistle in the spray of your boat