



Kāhuli Aku

“In the beautiful forests of Hawai‘i, there lived tiny shells called kāhuli. They were named the kāhuli because of the curious way they turn from side to side when they walk. They live on the cool branches of the hau trees and on the leaves of the ti plant. They are beautiful little shells of delicate pink, yellow, and green.”*

Kāhuli aku

Turn little tree shell

Kāhuli mai

Turn back again

Kāhuli lei ‘ula

Here is a red lei

Lei ‘ākōlea

Lei of ‘ākōlea fern

Kōlea, kōlea

Plover bird, plover bird

Ki‘i i ka wai

Go down to the stream

Wai ‘ākōlea

Sip the sweet nectar

Wai ‘ākōlea

From the flower,

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Ah-----

*Excerpt from “The Promise of the Tree Shells” by Nona Beamer