

Intended for Grades 4-8 Estimated Time: 30-45 min.

Lesson Title: *EKOLU MEA NUI* - Three Great Things

Lesson Purpose: Students will:

- * Learn the song *Ekolu Mea Nui* – Three Great Things (Faith, Hope, Love)
- * Create a reflection (position statement, poem, personal quote, or illustration) incorporating the three key ideas presented in this song

Materials & Preparation:

- * Computer with Internet access; speakers
- * Paper; writing and drawing supplies
- * Copies of song words or ability to project words

Background Information:

This song was composed for the Congregational church in Maui in 1925 by Robert Nawahine (1868-1951), Nawahine was an outstanding musician and leader of the central Maui churches.

These concepts of faith, hope, and love are universal values important to Hawaiian culture as well as to many others around the world. Students who spend some time thinking about these three concepts delve a little deeper into their own spirits, identifying what they value and what enriches them.

Steps:

1. Introduce the song *Ekolu Mea Nui*. Share that a Maui musician wrote it in the 1920's. Play it using one of the links below.
2. Ask if anyone is familiar with this song. Identify where they might have heard it... family gathering? luau? church?
3. Pass out the words to *Ekolu Mea Nui* or project them for students to read. Play the song once more for students to hear; invite them to sing along.
4. Discuss what hope, faith and love means to participants. Consider having students first pair share, and then record their ideas on a chart.
5. Ask participants to create a personal expression that shares how they feel about these three words: faith, hope, love. Instruct students that they must incorporate these three words into whatever they choose to create. Provide brief instructions on the following options. *Participants can:*
 - * Write a position statement (what you believe; why you believe it)
 - * Create a poem, rap, or chant
 - * Write a personal quote & create a poster with it
 - * Draw an illustration with a caption
 - * Make a logo representing these three ideas - include a brief description

Reflection Questions:

What did you learn? What might be helpful in the future?

Resources: Websites to access the song *Ekolu Mea Nui*:

<http://kapalama.ksbe.edu/elementary/mele/ekolu/ekolumeanui.mp3>
http://www.huapala.org/Ea/Ekolu_Mea_Nui.html

Ekolu Mea Nui

(Three ways in which we experience the world)

“The Hawaiian Epistemology Song”

Robert J.K. Nawahine, 1925

Ekolu mea nui ma ka honua

(Three primary things in this world)

O ka mana‘oi‘o, ka mana‘olana

(Faith, hope, and love)

A me ke aloha, ke aloha kai oi ae

(Of the three, love is superior)

Pomaikai na mea a pau

(Everything prospers)

Pomaikai na mea a pau

(Everything is blessed)



Mana`oi`o: Knowing because of direct experience; the manifestation of truths. **mohiotanga – knowing** - *The Physical Plane*

Mana`olana: Knowledge, thinking, ideas, thought. The surrounding truths. **matauranga – knowledge** - *The Mental Plane*

Aloha: Understanding, wisdom through experience and thought. The conduit of truths. Channel through which *mana`olana* and *mana`oi`o* are relayed in order to solidify the pathways of truth, **māramatanga – enlightenment** - *The Spiritual Plane*

These ideas on Hawaiian epistemology (theory of knowledge) brought to you by Maui-nui-a-kama mentor, friend, surfer, singer, and teacher... Pulama Collier

ʻEkolu Mea Nui

by Robert J.K. Nāwāhine

Intro D7-G-D7-G

D7 G
Pōmaika`i nā mea āpau
D7 G
Pōmaika`i nā mea āpau

And everything is
blessed
And everything is
blessed

G G7
`Ekolu mea nui ma ka honua

Three important things
in the world
Faith, hope

C
`O ka mana`o `i`o ka mana`o lana

D7 G
A me ke aloha ke aloha ka i `oi a`e

And love, love is the
best

D7 G
Pōmaika`i nā mea āpau

And everything is
blessed

D7 G
Pōmaika`i nā mea āpau

And everything is
blessed

G G7
E nā mākua nā keiki

Oh parents, children

C
Nā mamo a Iuda me `Epelaima

Descendants of Judah and
Ephraim

D7 G
E pa`a ka mana`o i ka pono i `oi a`e

Think always that
righteousness is best

D7 G
Pōmaika`i nā mea apau

And everything is
blessed

D7 G
Pōmaika`i nā mea apau

And everything is
blessed

Slow finish...

Source: Nā Mele o Hawai`i Nei by Elbert & Mahoe - Based on I Cor 13:13 "And now abideth faith, hope and love, these three; but the greatest of these is love", this himeni was composed for the Congregational church's ho`ike in Maui about 1925, by Robert Nāwāhine (1868-1951) an outstanding musician and leader of the central Maui churches. Music clip by Gippy Cooke