

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:

<https://www.ksbe.edu/news/videos/advent-week-3-mele-ekolu-mea-nui>
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 a‘e

(Of the three, love is superior)

Pōmaika‘i nā mea a pau

(Everything prospers)

Pōmaika‘i nā 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*

`Evalu 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

G G7
`Evalu mea nui ma ka honua

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

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

D7 G
Pōmaika`i nā mea āpau

D7 G
Pōmaika`i nā mea āpau

G G7
E nā mākuā nā keiki

C
Nā mamo a Iuda me `Epelaima

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

D7 G
Pōmaika`i nā mea apau

D7 G
Pōmaika`i nā mea apau

Slow finish...

And everything is
blessed

And everything is
blessed

Three important things
in the world
Faith, hope

And love, love is the
best

And everything is
blessed

And everything is
blessed

Oh parents, children

Descendants of Judah and
Ephraim

Think always that
righteousness is best
And everything is
blessed

And everything is
blessed

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