

Kahu Pomaika`i's Ceremony Sequence Suggestion

You can provide a ceremony sequence of your own, or use any or part of my suggestions that follow. The order of events can be switched, new events added, or omitted. Please use the following as a basic guideline to the various parts of a traditional wedding ceremony.

Prelude: This is the time when guests are arriving up until the representative/Mother of the bride is seated. Note: It is not necessary to have a representative.

Processional: This is when the wedding party walks down the aisle, followed by the bride and her presenter/Father. The guests are asked to stand as the bride is escorted down the aisle. Note: It is not necessary to have a presenter.

Giving away of Bride: (optional) I may ask the questions, "Who gives "bride's name" to be married to "groom's name"? The parent(s) or escort would answer, "I do" or "We do".

Welcome to family and friends and opening remarks: (guests are seated). This is the greeting of the guests by Kahu Pomaika`i on behalf of the couple.

Lei Exchange: Two maile (traditional green leaf open-ended lei) are exchanged and sealed with a kiss as a symbol of two separate lives to become one.

Minister address: This part is usually about 5 minutes where I speak about a few Hawaiian values (universal core values) regarding the elements that are important in a commitment such as marriage like "ho`omau" to persevere. Through smooth times and rough times, it means "hanging in there", weathering the storm...

Kahu Pomaika`i will speak about *Lokahi* (balance) and present the canoe paddle which represents *Lokahi*

Ho`oponopono: Ho`oponopono means *to make right or to put things in their proper order*. This is a universal prayer that is said to release and cleanse the AKA Cords or energetic connections from past relationships of negativity or disharmony. This part is normally about 5 minutes where a ti leaf (the most sacred leaf in Hawaiian culture) is used as well as pa`akai (Hawaiian sea salt) and blessing water from the Sacred Healing Pools. Subsequently, ho`oponopono is very powerful and couples will feel a "lightness" in their spirit.

Reading of "May You Be Blessed": (optional) This is a poem that I have found to be appropriate. You will face each other and together hold the canoe paddle. The poem can be found on the Wedding page.

Declaration of intent: This is where both individuals assert that they are going into the marriage by their own volition. Known as the "I do's". At this time personal vows may be said.

Wedding Vows: Here you speak your words of commitment to each other through the vows that you speak. You can choose from traditional vows, modified vows, (See separate vow sheet) or you can write your own. You can repeat after me or speak from your heart.

Ring Blessing and Exchange: This is the where the rings are placed in wedding calabash atop a mound of pa`akai (sea salt) and blessed with the use of the "Ha" or *breath of life*. This is done as a blessing upon the couple and upon the marriage. Family and friends (`ohana) can be incorporated into the ring blessing as well.

Prayer by Kahu Pomaika`i: (optional) In a religious ceremony, a prayer to God asking for his blessing in the marriage or more popularly, a spiritual blessing that just asks the "universe" for blessings and opens the ceremony up to the acknowledgment of a greater force by offering gratitude for this day. Kahu Pomaika`i will proceed with the Lord's Prayer in Hawaiian.

Pronouncement: "By the authority vested in me by the state of Hawaii, I now pronounce you husband and wife".

Kiss: Traditional "kiss" (please hold 3 seconds for appropriate pictures).

Presentation of Couple: "Ladies and Gentlemen, It is my honor to present to you, "Mr and Mrs....."