

Some Ideas for Wedding Scripts – by Julie D. Wirtz

Humanistic Style Wedding Ceremony with Leis and Sand

We are gathered here today to join Groom and Bride in marriage. Love is life's greatest treasure and to embrace it wholeheartedly in the here and now is one of the most life affirming experiences a human can have. What the two of you have is so good that you desire to spend the rest of your lives together.

So we have set aside this time, here in this beautiful setting, to make your relationship permanent and official, with the highest promises of love and devotion two people can make to each other.

The promises made here today will mingle with the gentle breeze, to be carried by the wind, to echo in the mountains, become absorbed into the earth, sea and sky, so that your marriage vows will follow you, wherever you go in life, as a constant sweet whisper of comfort and security.

Optional Lei Greeting

In Hawaii, it's customary for a bride and groom to greet each other with a lei and a kiss of aloha on their wedding day. You have chosen these two leis to adorn each other with in celebration of your wedding.

Groom, as you place this lei over Bride's head and shoulders with a kiss of aloha, you are welcoming her into your heart, your home, your life, your family, and greeting her as your partner in the continuation of your lives together.

Bride, as you place this lei over Groom's head and shoulders, you are welcoming him into your heart, your home, your life, your family, and inviting him to be your partner through the continuation of your lives together.

This is a permanent invitation, that stands long after these flowers wither and dry, and the words we speak here drift off into the winds of time. For the memory and meaning of this ceremony today will linger as a sweet embrace and affects your life from this moment forward.

Notice how the beautiful flower lei would fall apart if it were not for the fine thread holding it together. Your marriage is like the thread, in that it may not be your main focus, as you enjoy your daily life together, but you know it's there quietly holding you together safely and securely.

Preface to the Vows

Bride and Groom, today we are recognizing your special connection. You have similarities in your values, passions and personalities. This creates a rich foundation for your marriage; one based on genuine friendship, loyalty, humor, and the sense of well being and acceptance you have when you're together.

It's not only your similarities, but your differences that you find attractive in each other. There may be features and qualities you each lack, but are supplied by the other, making your relationship whole and balanced, opening up new possibilities for a richer future together than either of you could have separately.

The sharing of values, humor and affection, strengthen a marriage, and create an atmosphere, where unique personality traits are combined into a perfect balance, where collectively two people can achieve more fullness in their lives, because the joys are intensified by being shared, and sorrows are diminished because of the support of the other.

In human history, we have not yet discovered a better way of life than sharing it together in a love that is lasting and responsible. A shared and secure commitment meets our deepest human needs for love and companionship, for someone with whom we can share in an intimate and trusting way all the hopes, joys, and dreams of life.

Vows

Groom and Bride, please face each other and take hands for your vows.

Groom, do you choose Bride to be your wife, to love her, comfort her, honor, treasure her, and forsaking all others, keep you only to her, so long as you both shall live?

Groom answers, "I do"

Bride, do you choose Groom to be your husband, to love him, comfort him, honor, treasure him, and forsaking all others, keep you only to him, so long as you both shall live?

Bride answers, "I do"

Please face each other, take hands and repeat your vows:

I, Groom, take you, Bride, to be my wife, to have and to hold, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, to love and to cherish, from this day forward.

I, Bride, take you, Groom, to be my husband, to have and to hold, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, to love and to cherish, from this day forward.

(Feel free to make personal vows or expressions of love & commitment instead of or in addition to the traditional vows.)

Rings

Groom and Bride, you have rings to exchange as a symbol of your marriage. The wedding ring has a circular shape, which is symbolic of wholeness, sacredness and peace. A circle begins nowhere in particular, but never ends, always returning to itself, like life and true love. These wedding rings are outward symbols of the inward promises you've just made to each other and to yourselves.

When you slide your fingers inside these rings, you are taking responsibility for the happiness and success of your marriage, acknowledging that the health of your marriage is in your hands, your hearts and your souls, determined by your integrity in upholding the vows you have just made to each other.

Groom, please repeat after me, while placing the ring on Bride's finger:

"I give you this ring, as a symbol of our devotion to each other."

Bride, please repeat after me, while placing the ring on Groom's finger:

"I give you this ring, as a symbol of our devotion to each other."

Optional Blending of the Sand beneath your Feet

Bride and Groom, to demonstrate how your lives will be forever mingled, never to be entirely separate again, let's use the sand right here beneath your feet. Groom, bend down and scoop some sand from under Bride's feet and hold it in your hands.

The sand taken from under Bride's feet represents her very essence, from her childhood all the way to the present, all the paths she has taken, people she has met, choices she's made, all that led her to you and to this spot at this very moment. Now, Bride, bend down and scoop some sand from under Groom's feet.

This sand represents his very essence, from his childhood all the way to the present, all the paths he has taken, people he has met, choices he's made, all that led him to you at this moment.

The sand taken from under your feet represents all the roads you have traveled apart and all the things that have made you what you are today, from your varied backgrounds. You accept all these things about each other.

As you pour the sands together, it represents both your history and your future, all the roads you will travel together in your lifetime. You'll notice that once combined, these grains of sand can never be separated into their individual handfuls again. They are mixed forever.

(Pour sand into container)

By taking these grains of sand home with you, they will help to remind you of your unity and the way you feel right now, right here, at the very place you made your vows to each other.

Closing

Bride and Groom, the words and feelings expressed here today are not just spoken this once and then forgotten, but must be carried out with your actions every day you share together. Never forget the feelings you had when you first recognized the love between you and the respect you have for each other, despite your differences.

If you experience challenging days that cause you lose sight of what you have, remember this day and the feelings you have right now, and come back to this moment in time. Remember it is your humanness that you love most in one another. It is what has made you each so special that you have chosen to spend the rest of your lives enjoying all the many wondrous qualities you have to share with each other.

Optional Blessing, Reading, Quote, Remarks... such as

May you have many joys, and be the light of each other's day. May you always see and encourage the best in each other. May the challenges that life brings your way make your marriage grow stronger. May you always be each other's best friend and greatest love.

Pronouncement and Kiss

Inasmuch as you, Groom and you, Bride have given and pledged your vows of love, honor and devotion to each other, I am delighted to pronounce you husband and wife!

You may seal these vows and celebrate this moment with a kiss!

See more samples and variations below

Simple Basic Wedding Ceremony (Create your own basic)

Aloha! We are gathered here today to join Groom and Bride in marriage.

There are no vows as meaningful as the ones you are making today. Love is life's greatest treasure and marriage is one of life's most sacred experiences.

Optional Openings:

(Any opening from choices below, Lei Greeting, 3 meanings of Aloha, a poem, can be added here)

Vows

Groom, do you take/choose Bride to be your wife, to love her, comfort her, honor and treasure her, and forsaking all others, keep you only unto her, for so long as you both shall live? Groom answers, "I do"

Bride, do you take/choose Groom to be your husband, to love him, comfort him, honor and treasure him, and forsaking all others, keep you only unto him, so long as you both shall live? Bride answers, "I do"

Please face each other, take hands and repeat after me:

I, Groom, take/choose you, Bride, to be my wife, to have and to hold, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, to love and to cherish, from this day forward.

I, Bride, take/choose you, Groom, to be my husband, to have and to hold, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, to love and to cherish, from this day forward.

Rings

Groom, do you have a ring for Bride? Please place the ring on Bride's finger and say: "With this ring, I thee wed, and pledge my faithful love."

Bride, do you have a ring for Groom? Please place the ring on Groom's finger and say: "With this ring, I thee wed, and pledge my faithful love."

Let these rings be given and received as a symbol of your affection, sincerity, devotion and fidelity to one another.

Closing and Pronouncement

(A closing from choices below and/or Hands, Sand, other unity gesture here.)

*Inasmuch as you, **Groom** and you, **Bride** have given and pledged your vows to each other, by the authority vested in me by the State of Hawaii, I am delighted to pronounce you husband and wife. You may now seal these promises with a kiss!*

Optional openings examples – choose one, more, none or own words:

1. *Marriage is a commitment to life, the best that two people can find and bring out in each other. It offers opportunities for sharing and growth that no other relationship can equal. It is a physical and an emotional joining that is promised for a lifetime.*
2. *The success of a marriage is based on a strong foundation of trust, respect, and dedication to one another. As we unite Bride and Groom today, they will continue to be an inseparable pair traveling through life perfecting the art of compromise, while continuing to discover the true joys of life.*
3. *Just as two very different threads woven in opposite directions can form a beautiful tapestry, so can your two lives merge together to form a very beautiful marriage.*
4. *Marriage is not only a commitment between lovers; it is also an agreement between two friends with the same goals for their relationship.*
5. *We are gathered here in the sand, by the sea, to celebrate with Groom and Bride, the love they have for each other, and their desire to unite their lives in marriage. Let's take a moment to appreciate the natural beauty around us, to listen to the surf, to feel the warmth of the sun, wiggle our toes in the sand, and to see the incredible colors of the earth, sea and sky. Let us breathe in this beauty, let it fill us up and then, let us breathe it out, infused with love. So that we may all appreciate, and feel the love we are here today to witness.*
6. *You have come here today from your varied life experiences to make public and official your commitment to one another. You promise to inspire strength and confidence in each other and to share and support each other's dreams, values and goals. You promise to give your marriage the highest priority in your lives.*
7. *Bride and Groom welcome you, their family and friends. Each of you has given something of yourself into their lives. So, it is fitting then that you share in this celebration of their commitment to each other. Marriage is more than a joining of two individuals; it also joins two families, two sets of backgrounds and histories.*

Optional Ring Exchange wording:

Bride and Groom, you have rings to exchange as a symbol of your marriage.

The wedding ring is symbolic of the security offered in marriage. It is an outward symbol of the inward promises you've made to each other and yourselves. These rings symbolize the wholeness that marriage provides. When you slide your fingers inside these rings, you are accepting responsibility for the success of your marriage, acknowledging that the health and happiness of your marriage is in your hands, your hearts and your souls, determined by your integrity in upholding the vows you have just made to each other.

Groom, repeat these words while placing the ring on Bride's finger:

*"I give you this ring, as a symbol of our marriage,
and our faithful devotion to each other."*

Bride, please repeat these words, while placing the ring on J's finger:

*"I give you this ring, as a symbol of our marriage,
and our faithful devotion to each other."*

Alternatives: I give you this ring, as a symbol, of the vows we have just made to each other.... Please wear this ring, as a sunbol of our commitment to each other... etc.

Optional closings examples –choose one, more, none, or own words:

1. *Remember it is your humanness that you love most in one another. It is what has made you each so special that you have chosen to spend the rest of your lives exploring all the many wondrous qualities you have to give to each other.*
2. *May the spirit of love always be a part of your lives so that the union we celebrate today be worthy of continued celebration tomorrow and every tomorrow.*
3. *May you always share with each other the gift of love. Be one in heart and in mind. May you always create a home together that puts into your hearts the joys of love, generosity and kindness.*
4. *The vows you have just taken, pledging love, mean far more than mere words ever can. May their gentle spirit move in you. May your years fulfill the beauty of the feelings expressed today.*
5. *May the sun bring you new energy by day. May the moon softly restore you by night. May the rain wash away your worries. And may you live all the days of your lives in peace, love, and happiness.*
6. *May your lives together be joyful and content, and may your love be as bright as the stars, warm as the sun, accepting as the ocean, and enduring as the mountains.*
7. *May your marriage bring you all the peace, joy, comfort and contentment known in the human heart. And may you both look forward to each new season of your marriage.*
8. *May you have many joys, and be the light of each other's day. May you always see and encourage the best in each other. May the challenges that life brings your way make your marriage grow stronger. May you always be each other's best friend and greatest love.*

See many more samples below for optional Lei exchange, Sand Blending, Various poems and readings, etc.

Sample Wedding Ceremony – Taking Responsibility

Marriage is a commitment between two hearts, two souls, two friends, two lovers. It is the highest promise that two people can make, toward finding and bringing out the best in each other. Marriage offers mutual lifelong support. It is a physical and an emotional joining that is promised for a lifetime. Today, we will make public and official the promises you've already made to each other privately, heart to heart, soul to soul, friend to friend, lover to lover.

Lei Greeting:

(Optional – and customizable for various types of lei)

Here in Hawaii, it's customary for a bride and groom to greet each other with a lei and a kiss of aloha, on their wedding day. You have chosen these beautiful flower leis for this special occasion. Notice how fragile the flower petals are and how delicately they're strung together. Let this be a reminder that love is also fragile and relationships need to be handled tenderly and with care.

Groom, as you take this lei and place it over Bride's head and shoulders, you are welcoming her into your circle of family and friends.

Bride, as you take this lei and place it over Groom's head and shoulders, you are doing the same, inviting him into your circle of family and friends.

This is a permanent invitation that stands long after these flowers wither and dry, and the words you will speak here drift off into the winds of time. For the memory and meaning of today's ceremony will linger, like the fragrance of these flowers.

As you wear these leis throughout the rest of this ceremony, feel the sweet embrace of love and support from all those who love you, including each other.

Preface to the Vows

Groom and Bride, you each have found that one special person who brightens your day, makes you laugh, encourages you to love and offers steadfast support in life's challenges. This is a special gift you give each other and yourselves.

As you prepare for your life together, it's easy to say "Let's leave it to love to show us the way to happiness in our marriage." But the reality is that the success of your marriage depends solely on you, your dedication to this relationship, your devotion to each other, and your integrity as human beings.

Marriage is a sacred bond, not to be entered into lightly, but thoughtfully and reverently. The promises you make today are not just spoken and then forgotten, but must be renewed with new words and actions each day that you enjoy together, as your marriage matures and becomes richer and fuller.

Exchange of vows

Groom and Bride, please face each other and take hands for your vows.

Groom, do you take Bride to be your wife, to love her, comfort her, honor and treasure her, and keep you only to her, for so long as you both shall live?

Answer: I do

Bride, do you take Groom to be your husband, to love him, comfort him, honor and treasure him, and keep you only to him, so long as you both shall live?

Answer: I do

Now, look into each other's eyes and repeat these words:

I, Groom, take you, Bride, to be my wife, to have and to hold, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, to love and to cherish, from this day forward.

I, Bride, take you, Groom, to be my husband, to have and to hold, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, to love and to cherish, from this day forward.

Personal words to each other - Optional

Groom:

Bride:

Rings

May we have the rings please? The ring is a circle, which is the symbol of eternity. It has no beginning and no end, like time and true love. Let these rings signify to all that you are now united in a faithful commitment to each other.

Groom, as you place your ring on Bride's finger, please repeat these words:

"With this ring, I pledge my faithful love."

Bride, as you place your ring on Groom's finger, please repeat the same words:

"With this ring, I pledge my faithful love."

Closing

May your future together be joyful and content, and may your love be as bright as the stars, warm as the sun, accepting as the ocean, and as steadfast and enduring as the mountains.

Pronouncement

Inasmuch as you, Groom and you, Bride have given and pledged your vows to each other, by the authority vested in me by the State of Hawaii, I am delighted to pronounce you husband and wife.

Kiss

You may now seal your vows with a kiss!

Sample Wedding Ceremony – Trust & Dedication...

Aloha and welcome! We are gathered here today to share with Groom and Bride in the celebration of their marriage. There are no vows as meaningful as the ones they are making today.

Marriage is one of life's most sacred experiences. I know they enter into it thoughtfully. Married life is a give and take between two personalities, diminishing neither, but rather enhancing both.

A successful marriage requires love, trust, dedication, faith, and commitment.

It takes love, which is the core of your relationship and the reason you are here today.

It takes trust; to know in your hearts that each of you wants only what is best for the other and for your relationship. The most fulfilling bond can only be achieved when both individuals have enough trust in each other to share their most intimate selves.

It takes dedication; to nurture the fragile bud of love, so that it may bloom forever, giving all around you cause to admire your devotion, to see the gentleness of your love and feel the joy you bring to each other.

It will take faith, to go forward together, without knowing exactly what the future will bring.

It will take commitment, to hold true to the journey you both have pledged today.

Bride and Groom understand that a successful marriage will require all these things, plus effort and at times, sacrifice. Today they promise to give this marriage the highest priority in their lives.

Groom and Bride know that their relationship will be strongest when both partners are fulfilled as individuals. They will promise to inspire strength and confidence in one another. They will support each other's dreams and motivations.

As the two of you come together into this marriage, you are affirming your faith in your relationship and love for one another. Remember to cherish each other as special unique individuals, respect the thoughts, ideas and suggestions of one another and make time to enjoy each other. Live each day so that you may share it together.

<Good place to insert a Lei Exchange, reading, poem, quote, if you like>

Groom and Bride, if you are ready to take your vows, please face each other and take hands.

Groom, please repeat these vows:

Bride, I choose you as my wife, with all your strengths and weaknesses. I promise to share with you, and keep you in times of joy and sorrow; I promise to celebrate life with you and greet you as my partner, so long as we both shall live.

Bride, please repeat these vows:

Groom, I choose you as my husband, with all your strengths and weaknesses. I promise to share with you, and keep you in times joy and sorrow; I promise to celebrate life with you and greet you as my partner, so long as we both shall live.

Rings

May we have the rings, please.

You have chosen these rings as a symbol of your love and the promise you make today.

*Groom, repeat these words as you place your ring on Bride's finger:
"With this ring, I thee wed and pledge my faithful love."*

*Bride, repeat these words as you place your ring on Groom's finger:
"With this ring, I thee wed and pledge my faithful love."*

(You may always change the wording or substitute other ring vows and sentiments from this packet or your own words.)

<Optional Hands, Sand or other Unity Ceremony can go here>

In as much as you, Groom and you, Bride have pledged your vows of love to each other, by the authority vested in me by the State of Hawaii, I am delighted to pronounce you husband and wife.

Mr. and Mrs. LastName, you may share your first kiss as a married couple!

(Feel free to add in or substitute any of the above with material from this packet or found elsewhere.)

Sample Short & Sweet Wedding Ceremony

Welcome! On behalf of Groom and Bride, I'd like to thank you for coming to participate in the special occasion of their wedding. (Modify for private event)

Love is life's greatest treasure. It is something that makes Groom and Bride more powerful together than either one could be separately.

Groom and Bride, each of you gives of yourself, your life and your love, unto the hands of each other. You do so willingly and warmly. In return, each of you receives the same gift of love and commitment from the other. You receive this gift of love, not only from each other, but also from the friends and family who are with us here today, and from those who are with us today in spirit only.

VOWS

(Vows can be repeated after Officiant or read from a card)

Please take hands for your vows.

Groom: "I commit my life to our marriage. I promise to comfort and encourage you. I promise to support you in times of joy and sorrow. You are my closest friend, and I love you. Do you take me to be your husband, and to share your life with me?" *Bride says: "I do."*

Bride: "I commit my life to our marriage. I promise to comfort and encourage you. I promise to support you in times of joy and sorrow. You are my closest friend, and I love you. Do you take me to be your wife and share your life with me?"
Groom says: "I do."

May we have the rings please? The ring represents eternity. And though our lives will end someday, your love is everlasting, an inspired force that binds you together forever. These rings signify to all that you are now united in a partnership of love and commitment with one another.

Please repeat these words, while placing the ring on your spouse's finger.

Groom: "I give you this ring as the symbol of our unity."

Bride: "I give you this ring as the symbol of our unity."

As Groom and Bride have declared their vows of love and commitment to each other, and have pledged to share their life's journey together from this day forward, I am delighted to announce that they are now husband and wife.

Ladies and gentlemen, I now present to you Mr. and Mrs. _____!

You may now share your first kiss as a married couple.

Wedding in Natural Surroundings with Nature Theme

With the sky our only ceiling, the mountains our only walls, and the earth our only floor, we stand here in Nature's Cathedral to recognize the worth and beauty of love.

Nature has always inspired a feeling of connection to something larger than ourselves. There is a pattern, a purpose, cycles of ebb and flow and parallels to our own growth. Love is one of those things that is larger than life and is infinite in its capacity to stretch to include everyone and everything we care about. In marriage we gladly accept that love is the greatest thing in our lives and that through nurturing it, we ourselves become infinite and limitless.

Sample Reading

Choose your own – write your own – or skip this part

"Blessing For A Marriage" by James Dillet Freeman.

"May your marriage bring you all the exquisite excitements a marriage should bring, and may life grant you also patience, tolerance, and understanding.

May you always need one another - not so much to fill your emptiness as to help you to know your fullness. A mountain needs a valley to be complete; the valley does not make the mountain less, but more; and the valley is more a valley because it has a mountain towering over it. So let it be with you and you.

May you need one another, but not out of weakness.

May you want one another, but not out of lack.

May you entice one another, but not compel one another.

May you embrace one another, but not out encircle one another.

May you succeed in all-important ways with one another, and not fail in the little graces.

May you look for things to praise, often say, "I love you!" and take no notice of small faults.

If you have quarrels that push you apart, may both of you hope to have good sense enough to take the first step back.

May you enter into the mystery, which is the awareness of one another's presence - no more physical than spiritual, warm and near when you are side-by-side, and warm and near when you are in separate rooms or even distant cities.

May you have happiness, and may you find it making one another happy.

May you have love, and may you find it loving one another!"

Vows

Please face each other, take hands for your vows.

I, Groom, choose you Bride, to be my wife, to walk the path of life together, through hard times and easy times, and to discover and share the many joys of life with you. I vow to care for you and to grow with you throughout the seasons of life.

I, Bride, choose you Groom, to be my husband, to walk the path of life together, through hard times and easy times, and to discover and share the many joys of life with you. I vow to care for you and to grow with you throughout the seasons of life.

Rings

May we have the rings please? The ring is a circle, which is the symbol of eternity. It has no beginning and no end, like time, nature and love. It returns to itself, like life. The hole in the center of the ring is not just space; it is the symbol of a gateway, or door; leading to your future together. As you slide your fingers inside these rings, you are accepting responsibility for living the vows you have just made.

Groom, place your ring on Bride's finger as you repeat these words.

"I give you this ring as a symbol of my constant faith and love."

Bride, place your ring on Groom's finger, as you repeat the same words

"I give you this ring, as a symbol of my constant faith and love."

Let these rings serve not as locks binding you together, but as keyholes, with your hands, hearts and souls as the keys that will unlock the happiness you will share in your future life together.

Closing Words

Groom and Bride, may the love you have found grow in meaning and strength. May the flow of your love help brighten the face of the earth. May the source of all love touch and bless you and grace your lives with color and courage.

Let your memories of today's ceremony be symbolic of these qualities: May your marriage be strong and enduring as the mountains, with passions as vibrant as the crashing waves and cascading waterfalls, along with moments as tender as sweet fragrances wafting on the gentle breeze. May you cultivate and inspire in each other fertile valleys in which to grow toward your potential, offering the best of your talents and gifts to the world, and may you delight in each other, with refreshed fervor each day.

Inasmuch as you, Groom, and you, Bride, have declared your vows of love and commitment to each other, and have pledged to share your life's journey together from this day forward, I am delighted to pronounce you husband and wife.

You may seal these vows with your first kiss as partners in life, for life!

Wedding Ceremony Sample – Worth & Beauty of Love

We are here today to recognize and celebrate the worth and beauty of love. Groom and Bride have come here today, from their varied life experiences, to become united by the sacred bonds of marriage. They stand here today to make public and official the vows of commitment they already feel in their hearts.

When a commitment this strong is made by two people, the force of that commitment, of that love, of that courage, reaches out and touches all of, so we share a part of your love. Like a stone dropped in a small pond, the ripple of love from this celebration extends and changes the world we live in.

Bride and Groom, you are now taking into your care and keeping the happiness of the one person in all the world whom you love best. You are adding to your life not only the affection of each other, but also the companionship and the blessing of a deep trust. You are agreeing to share strength, responsibilities, and love.

In human history, we have not yet discovered a better way of life than sharing it together in a love that is lasting and responsible. Marriage meets our deepest human needs for love and companionship, for someone with whom we can share in an intimate and trusting way all the hopes, joys, and dreams of life.

Real love is something beyond the warmth and glow or the excitement and romance, of being deeply in love. It is caring as much or more about the welfare and happiness of your partner as about your own. Real love is not total absorption in each other; it is looking outward together in the same direction.

Love makes burdens lighter because you divide them. It makes joys more intense because you share them. It makes you stronger so you can be involved with life in ways you dare not risk alone.

Groom and Bride, you are entering into marriage because you want to be together. You are marrying because you know you will grow more in happiness and love more fully as life mates.

No greater blessing of happiness can come to you than to have this devoted love, which you now publicly avow. Keep this understanding of your marriage alive in the days ahead. May your love continuously grow more wonderful with each day you enjoy together.

(Optional Lei Exchange, Reading, Etc. can go here)

Please face each other take hands for your vows:

Do you, Groom, take Bride to be your wife? To have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness in health, to cherish with devoted love and faithfulness for so long as you both shall live?

Groom: I do.

Do you, Bride, take Groom to be your husband? To have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to cherish with devoted love and faithfulness for so long as you both shall live?

Bride: I do.

May we have the rings please?

The ring is a circle, which is the symbol of eternity. It has no beginning and no end, like time. It returns to itself, like life. The hole in the center of the ring is not just space; it is the symbol of a gateway, or door; leading to things and events both known and unknown.

Groom, take your ring and place it on Bride's finger as you repeat these words.

"I give you this ring as a symbol of my constant faith and love."

Bride, take your ring and place it on Groom's finger, as you repeat these words.

"I give you this ring, as a symbol of my constant faith and love."

Let these rings serve not as locks binding you together, but as keys, unlocking the secrets of your hearts for each other to know, and thus bringing you closer together forever.

(Optional Hands, Sand, Wine, Rose, Reading, Etc. can go here)

Groom and Bride may the love you have found grow in meaning and strength. May the flow of your love help brighten the face of the earth. May the source of all love touch and bless you and grace your lives with color and courage.

Inasmuch as you, Groom, and you, Bride, have declared your vows of love and commitment to each other, and have pledged to share your life's journey together from this day forward, I am delighted to pronounce you husband and wife.

Groom, you may now kiss your bride!

Aloha Pau' Ole (May your love be everlasting)

Short Wedding Ceremony - Someone to come home to...

Aloha and welcome to the wedding of Groom and Bride, who have found that special "someone" to love and trust with heart, mind, and soul. After a long search, they each have found that someone special to come home to. They have found someone to support them and comfort them in times of trial.

We celebrate with them the love they have discovered in each other and we support their decision to commit themselves to each other for the rest of their lives.

Marriage is an honorable estate not to be entered into lightly but thoughtfully and reverently. Marriage is a commitment to take another person as a Friend, Companion and Lover.

The uniting of two individuals from two separate families and backgrounds to establish a new family, is an important and memorable event. The uniting of this couple is an occasion of great significance and one which we can all celebrate. Marriage is not a casual event nor is it simply a private affair between two individuals.

This marriage brings together this day two individuals, two families, and two sets of social communities. It deserves and needs the support of a wider commitment to each other by offering Bride and Groom our continued support, love, and best wishes in their lives together, in their love together which they publicly express in this ceremony.

May we have the rings please?

Groom, as you place your ring on Bride's finger, please repeat these words:

" I promise to you _____, before our family and friends, to commit my love to you; to respect your individuality; to be with you through life's changes; and to nurture and strengthen the love between us, as long as we both shall live."

Bride, as you place your ring on Groom's finger, please repeat these words:

" I promise to you _____, before our family and friends, to commit my love to you; to respect your individuality; to be with you through life's changes; and to nurture and strengthen the love between us, as long as we both shall live."

<May insert Lei Exchange, Sand Ceremony, Rose Exchange, Wine, etc. here>

Now, inasmuch as Bride and Groom have come here today, of their free will and in our presence, and have declared their love and commitment to each other, by the power vested in me by the laws of the State of Hawaii, it is with great pleasure that I pronounce them husband and wife.

You may now seal your vows with a kiss!

Sample Wedding Ceremony – Friendship & Devotion

Welcome! We are gathered here together, on this beautiful afternoon, to share and support Bride and Groom as they become forever joined in marriage.

(Optional 3 meanings of Aloha, Lei Exchange, Reading, etc. can go here)

As Bride and Groom take their vows today, we are privileged to witness the joyous beginning of a new family -- a family that will be nourished and nurtured through the devotion of two separate individuals growing together through the common bonds of love.

May their marriage bring them all the peace, joy, comfort and contentment known in the human heart. And may Groom and Bride both look forward to each new season of their marriage --- just as the world looks forward to each new season of the year. For all seasons bring with them their own special moments and memories.

Our purpose for being here today is the joyous result of a long search by both Bride and Groom. Each has truly found that ONE person in the entire world with whom to share their life.

Had Bride's and Groom's quest for their soulmate not been fulfilled, we would not be here now rejoicing with them on this most memorable, most special of days.

An essential requirement of a good marriage is a strong bond of real friendship and trust. Bride and Groom, your love for each other will grow deeper with every passing day, but it's important to remember that your love stands on a foundation of genuine, mutual affection and respect for each other. To truly LOVE another person is to be willing to accept both their strong points, and their weak points, with equal measures of understanding and respect.

AT THIS TIME, PLEASE FACE EACH OTHER AND TAKE EACH OTHER'S HANDS.

Groom, do you take Bride to be your wife, your partner in life and your one true love? Will you cherish her friendship and love her today, tomorrow and forever? Will you trust and honor her, laugh with her and cry with her? Will you be faithful through good times and bad, in sickness and in health as long as you both shall live?

[ANSWER: I DO]

Bride, do you take Groom to be your husband, your partner in life and your one true love? Will you cherish his friendship and love him today, tomorrow and forever? Will you trust and honor him, laugh with him and cry with him? Will you be faithful through good times and bad, in sickness and in health as long as you both shall live?

[ANSWER: I DO]

May we have the rings please? The ring has long been the visible symbol of vows taken in marriage. A circle, with no beginning, and no ending, represents that love, which is everlasting. Love has no beginning, it is simply recognized through honesty, grows through companionship, and deepens with understanding.

The symbolism of these rings, however, becomes meaningless if it isn't supported by a strong inner conviction and a loving, lasting commitment.

*Groom, as you place this ring on Bride's finger, repeat after me:
Bride -- with this ring -- I thee wed -- and pledge my faithful love.*

*Bride, as you place the ring on Groom's finger, repeat after me:
Groom -- with this ring -- I thee wed -- and pledge my faithful love.*

<OPTIONAL Hand, Sand, Water, Wine Ceremony or reading can go here>

For my final words to you as two individual spirits, I would like to leave you with this thought:

Everything you do affects the lives of others --- not just your own. When you're married, it is only proper to consider beforehand what effect your individual actions will have on your mate. If both of you can maintain a conscious sense of empathy, kindness and consideration --- then your marriage will truly become a union of lasting love and fulfillment.

Under the authority vested in me by the State of Hawaii, I am delighted to pronounce you husband and wife.

Optional: Ladies and gentlemen, friends and family, with great pleasure, I now present to you for the first time, MR. and MRS. LASTNAME!

Groom, you may now kiss your bride!

Aloha pau' ole. (May your love be never ending)

Short & Sweet - Beach Wedding Ceremony

Aloha! We are gathered here in the sand, by the sea, to celebrate with Groom and Bride, the love they have for each other, and their desire to unite their lives in marriage. Let's take a moment to appreciate the natural beauty around us, to listen to the surf, to feel the warmth of the sun, wiggle our toes in the sand, and to see the incredible colors of the earth, sea and sky. Let us breathe in this beauty, let it fill our hearts, and then let us breathe it out, infused with love. So that we may all appreciate, and really feel the love we are here today to celebrate.

(Lei Exchange, Preface to Vows or other component can go here...)

Vows

Groom and Bride, you have been together long enough that your hearts led you here today to make public and official a vow of commitment to each other.

Groom, do you take Bride to be your wife, to love her, comfort her, honor and treasure her, and forsaking all others, keep you only unto her, for so long as you both shall live? Answer: I do

Bride, do you take Groom to be your husband, to love him, comfort him, honor and treasure him, and forsaking all others, keep you only unto him, so long as you both shall live? Answer: I do

For your vows, face each other and repeat after me:

I, Groom, take you, Bride, to be my wife, to have and to hold, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, to love and to cherish, from this day forward.

I, Bride, take you, Groom, to be my husband, to have and to hold, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, to love and to cherish, from this day forward.

Rings

May we have the rings please?

The ring is a circle, which is the symbol of eternity. It has no beginning and no end, like time. It returns to itself, like life. The hole in the center of the ring is not just space; it is the symbol of a gateway, or door; leading to things and events both known and unknown. When you slide your fingers inside these rings, you are embarking on a journey together, supporting each other come what may.

Groom, please repeat after me, while placing the ring on Bride's finger:

"I give you this ring as the symbol of my love, honor and faithfulness."

Bride, please repeat after me, while placing the ring on Groom's finger:

"I give you this ring as the symbol of my love, honor and faithfulness."

Let these rings serve not as locks but as keys unlocking to doors to your new adventure as a married couple.

****Optional Beach Sand Ceremony, Hands Ceremony, etc. can go here.*

Closing Words Ideas -- Blessings

Option 1:

May your lives together be joyful and content, And may your love be as bright as the stars, Warm as the sun, accepting as the ocean, And enduring as the mountains.

Option 2:

*May the sun bring you new energy by day.
May the moon softly restore you by night.
May the rain wash away your worries.
And may you live the days of your lives in peace, love, and happiness.*

Option 3:

In loving each other, be swift like the wind, brave like the sea, gentle like the breeze, patient like the sun, powerful like the roaring of thunder and brilliant like the lightning. Be shining like the morning dawn and let your love glow like the evening sunset.

Pronouncement

Inasmuch as you, Groom and you, Bride have given and pledged your vows to each other, by the authority vested in me by the State of Hawaii, I am delighted to pronounce you husband and wife.

Kiss

You may now seal your marriage vows with a kiss!

Aloha Pau' ole! (May your love never end.)

Sample Wedding Ceremony mixed with Hawaiian Themes

*The conch shell is blown in all four directions to announce a great event.
(This is optional – I do have a conch shell that I can bring, if a male member of the party wants to blow it.)*

Bride and Groom, we are gathered here today on this beautiful Kauai beach to join the two of you in marriage. We are not here to mark the beginning of a relationship, but rather to recognize and give importance and permanence to a bond that already exists.

Today you are vowing to take into your care and keeping, the happiness of the one person in the entire world whom you love best. You are adding to your life not only the affection of each other, but also companionship and the blessing of a deep trust. You are agreeing to share strength, responsibilities, and love, making your marriage the highest priority in your lives.

(Optional Lei Exchange – modify for various types of lei)

In Hawaii, the flower lei is a symbol of love, given with aloha to adorn the person who holds your affection. It is also a symbol of things fragile and earthly. A flower lei will last for only a day or two and then it is gone. Our lives are like the lei within the span of eternity. We are here in this life for only such a short time. Therefore it's important to breathe in and savor each moment. Give tender care and consideration for each other, for your love is fragile like the lei. May the leis you now offer each other be recognized for the tender beauty shown in the devotion of your love for one another.

Attendant or Officiant hands lei to Bride & Groom to Exchange)

(The Meanings of Aloha)

Many people know that in Hawaii, the word "aloha" has several meanings. For your marriage today, all meanings apply.

The first meaning of "aloha" is the greeting "hello" significant because together you are greeting your new life together.

The second meaning of "aloha" is "good bye" signifying leaving your past solitary lives behind, for you will be together in joy forever more.

The third meaning of "aloha" is of course the most important. And that meaning is "love". It is that love that we are celebrating today.

Aloha also means the sharing of peace, compassion and mercy. These are all good things for a marriage to have and to perpetuate, so it's appropriate to begin this marriage with the spirit of aloha.

Ho'ao

The wisdom of the ancient Hawaiians offers a unique word for marriage-Ho'ao. The meanings of this word are: To experience a partnership, to take care of, to learn and to teach, and to illuminate and bring the light of spiritual insight to all problems and challenges. May your marriage in the spirit of "Ho'ao" continually reflect the light of truth, honor, respect, and unconditional love.

(The meaning of Love)

Real love is something beyond the rosy glow or the excitement and romance of being deeply in love. It is caring as much or more about the welfare and happiness of your partner as about your own. Real love is not total absorption in each other; it is looking outward in the same direction together.

Love makes burdens lighter because you divide them. It makes joys more intense because you share them. It makes you stronger so you can be involved with life in ways you dare not risk alone.

<Optional quote or reading can go here – for example...>

To quote from Kahlil Gibran,

"Love one another, but make not a bond of that love. Let it rather be like a moving sea between the shores of your souls. And stand together, and yet not too near together. For even the pillars of the temple must stand apart; and the oak tree and the cypress will not grow in each other's shadow."

Groom and Bride, you are entering into marriage because you want to be together for the rest of your lives. You are marrying because you know your relationship will bloom more fully as permanent life mates. You know that marriage provides a strength and security, to you both, that you would not have by remaining separate and apart.

Please face each other and hold hands for your vows:

Groom, do you take Bride to be your wife, to love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, and forsaking all others, keep you only unto her, for so long as you both shall live? Answer: I do.

Bride, you take Groom to be your husband, to love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, and forsaking all others, keep you only unto him, so long as you both shall live? Answer: I do.

(Optional Ring Exchange)

May we have the rings please?

You have chosen these rings as a symbol of your commitment and the promises you have made today.

The ring is a circle, which is the symbol of eternity. It has no beginning and no end, like time. It returns to itself, like life.

The hole in the center of the ring is not just space; it is the symbol of a gateway, or door; leading to things and events both known and unknown.

When you place your fingers inside these rings, you are embarking on a journey together, pledging to support each other, come what may.

Groom, please place your ring on Bride's finger, as you repeat these words.

"I give you this ring, in token and in pledge, of my constant faith and abiding love."

Bride, please place your ring on Groom's finger, as you repeat these words.

"I give you this ring, in token and in pledge, of my constant faith and abiding love."

Let these rings serve not as locks binding you together, but as keys, unlocking the doors to your new adventure as a married couple.

*****Optional Sand, Rose, Hands or Wine Ceremony could go here:**

(If Sand Ceremony)

Props needed: sand under your feet and a decorative jar, vase or bottle

Today, Bride and Groom, you are making a commitment of your eternal love for one another. To demonstrate how your lives will be forever entwined, never to be entirely separate again, let's use the sand right here beneath your feet.

Groom, bend down and scoop some sand from under Bride's feet and hold it in your hands. The sand taken from under Bride's feet represents all the paths she has taken, people she has met, choices she's made, all that led her to you and to this spot at this very moment.

Now, Bride, bend down and scoop some sand from under Groom's feet. This sand represents all the paths he has taken, people he has met, choices he's made, all that led him to you at this moment.

The sand taken from under your feet represents all the roads you have traveled apart and all the things that have made you what you are today, from your varied backgrounds. You accept all these things about each other.

As you pour the sands together, it represents both your history and your future, all the roads you will travel together in your lifetime. You'll notice that once combined, these grains of sand can never be separated into their individual handfuls again. They are mixed forever.

(Pour the sand from the vase or your hands into jar.)

For from this day forward, you will be sharing your adventures together, never walking separate paths again. You will always carry a little bit of each other with you where ever you go in life.

(If Hands Ceremony- No Props Needed)

Bride, please face Groom and hold his hands, palms up, so that you may see the gift that they are to you.

These are the hands that will passionately love you and cherish you through the years. These are the hands that will wipe the tears from your eyes; Tears of sorrow and tears of joy. These are the hands that will comfort you in illness or when overcome with fear or grief. These are the hands that will give you support and celebrate with you in your accomplishments.

Groom, now turn Bride's hands, palms up, so that you may see the gift that they are to you. These are the hands that will hold you tight as you struggle through difficult times. These are the hands that will comfort you when you are sick or console you when you are grieving. These are the hands that will passionately love you and cherish you through the years, for a lifetime of happiness. These are the hands that will give you support as she encourages you to fulfill your dreams.

My/Our wish for you today is that both of you will use these hands to build and maintain a marriage with enduring strength, support and security.

(If Wine Ceremony)

[Before the ceremony, a glass of wine is set somewhere near the site, on a table perhaps.] Please note that alcohol is not permitted on State Beaches, Parks, etc., but okay for private property.

The years of our lives are as a cup of wine poured out for us to drink. The cup of life contains within it the sweet wine of happiness, joy, hope, and delight. This same cup, at times, holds the bitter wine of sorrow, grief, and despair.

Those who drink deeply of life invite the full range of experiences into their being. As you drink from this cup, you acknowledge to one another that your lives, until this moment separate, have become one vessel into which all your sorrows and joys, all your hopes and fears, will be poured, and from which you will receive mutual sustenance.

Many days you will sit at the same table and eat and drink together. Drink now, and may the cup of your lives be full to running over.

[Bride and Groom drink a small amount of wine from the wine glass]

<Closing Words or a Blessing like this can go here, before the end>

Groom and Bride: May the love you have found grow in meaning and strength with each passing day. May your love always be as warm as the sun, as forgiving as the ocean and as enduring as the mountains. May the flow of your love help brighten the face of the earth.

Pronouncement

Inasmuch as you, Groom and you Bride, have declared your vows of love and commitment to each other, and have pledged to share your life's journey together from this day forward, I am delighted to pronounce you husband and wife.

Groom, you may now kiss your bride!

Aloha E! Aloha E! Aloha E!

Ceremony Ideas

Unity Candle Ceremony *(Does not work well outdoors!)*

The Unity Candle Ceremony consists of the lighting of one candle from two separate candles held by the bride and groom. This ceremony symbolizes the union of two lives into one. Creative variations can be added to the ceremony, such as the mothers of the bride and groom, or any designated member of the wedding party, lighting the candles after they walk down the aisle or during the ceremony. The couple may keep the candle (some re-light the candle each year on their anniversary).

Lei Exchange

The couple ceremoniously adorn each other with a lei, while the officiant describes how relationships are fragile like the petals of the flowers in the lei and must be treated with tender care. Wording is customized depending on type of lei – maile leaf, kukui nut, ti leaf, etc. is sometimes used.

Sand Ceremony

Using sand collected from under the bride's and groom's feet (if on the beach) or 2 different colors of sand, for indoor weddings, this ceremony shows the meshing of two personalities. This can be modified to add children as well.

Breaking of the Glass

The breaking of the glass at the end of a wedding ceremony usually is reserved for Jewish ceremonies. However, it is a beautiful ending to any wedding. "Breaking the glass serves to remind us of two very important aspects of a marriage. The bride and groom - and everyone - should consider these marriage vows as an IRREVOCABLE ACT - just as permanent and final as the breaking of this glass is unchangeable. But the breaking of the glass also is a warning of the FRAILITY of a marriage. That sometimes a single thoughtless act, breach of trust, or infidelity can damage a marriage in ways that are very difficult to undo - just as it would be so difficult to undo the breaking of this glass."

Children Included in the Ceremony

Many couples are remarrying and want to include their children in the ceremony. There are numerous ways this may be done.

Flower Ceremony

This is a family/friends ceremony. Each designated person comes up and places a different flower in a vase to create a garden of love.

Hands Ceremony

A break in the ceremony in which the officiant uses the phrasing, "These are the hands that..."

Honoring the Mothers

A brief reading is done and then the bride and/or groom present their mother(s) with a small gift (flowers usually).

Silent Blessing and Moment of Remembrance

Both are small blessings/readings honoring the deceased. They may include specific names or a general statement.

Ribbon Ceremony/Handfasting

The ancient Celts tied the hands of the bride and groom. The officiant loosely binds the hands together. They remain that way for the rest of the ceremony

Rose Ceremony

A symbolic ceremony using roses, the symbol of love, showing support from guests and witnesses. Couples who have chosen this have described it as an extremely beautiful and moving ceremony.

Acknowledging Friends and Families

We incorporate the giving of leis to each of the guests in appreciation for their presence.

Support from all the Guests Attending

Rather than ask who has just cause why this couple should not be married, why not ask who supports this marriage? The entire gathering of witnesses shout "I do!" which includes everyone present.

Blessing to the Four Directions

A long time ago, people believed the human soul shared characteristics with all things celestial. This prayer service designates the four points on a compass with human virtues.

Jumping The Broom

There are many different versions of this ritual that involves the couple jumping over the broom. Essentially, the jumping of the broom is a symbol of sweeping away of the old and welcoming the new, or a symbol of a new beginning.

Anything You Want!

Do you have your own wedding ideas? We will incorporate anything you want into the ceremony so that it is the most magical event of your life.

Sample Beach Sand Ceremony
(If wedding takes place outdoors in the sand or soil)



Today, Bride and Groom, you are making a commitment of your eternal love for one another. To demonstrate how your lives will be forever entwined, never to be entirely separate again, let's use the sand right here beneath your feet.

Groom, bend down and scoop some sand from under Bride's feet and hold it in your hand for a moment. The sand you hold in your hands represents all the paths she has taken, people she has met, choices she's made, all that led her to you at this moment.

Now, Bride, bend down and scoop some sand from under Groom's feet and hold it in your hand for a moment. This sand represents all the paths he has taken, people he has met, choices he's made, all that led him to you at this moment.

The sand taken from under your feet represents all the roads you have traveled apart and all the things that have made you what you are today, from your varied backgrounds.

As we pour the sands together, it represents both your history and your future, all the roads you will travel together in your lifetime.

(Pour the sand into a vase or jar with a stopper.)

You'll notice, that once combined, these grains of sand can never be separated into their individual handfuls again. They are mixed forever. You will always carry a little bit of each other with you wherever you go.

Optional: Add sand from under children's feet, to show a blended family.

Optional: Use, coconut shells, sea shells, or some other type of aid in scooping the sand. You do lose that "hands on feel" though.

Jars, Bottles, Vases can be found at Ben Franklin, Walmart, Island Soap and Candle, many of the shops in the resort areas on Kauai...

Beach Sand Ceremony – Variation adding Child/Children:

Groom and Bride, you have already exchanged rings and those rings you wear today will continue to be a reminder of the vows you made to each other then. So, today we are going to create a keepsake of this wedding and the vows you made today.

To demonstrate how your lives are forever entwined, never to be entirely separate again, let's use the sand right here beneath your feet.

Groom, please scoop some sand from under Bride's feet and hold it in your hands for a moment.

The sand you hold in your hands represents all the paths Bride has taken, people she has met, choices she's made, all that has made her who she is and brought her to you -and to this very spot, at this very moment.

Now Bride, please bend down and scoop some sand from under Groom's feet.

The sand you hold in your hands represents all the paths Groom has taken, people he has met, choices he's made, all that has made him who he is and brought him to you - and to this very spot, at this very moment.

The sand taken from under your feet represents all the roads you have traveled apart in your varied backgrounds.

As we pour the sands together, into this vase, it represents all the roads you will travel together in your lifetime.

One of those roads is parenthood. Bride and Groom, if you each would scoop some sand from under Child's feet, we can add his/her history and future to the path you will all forge and travel together.

Now, if Child would please scoop some sand, from right here between Mom and Dad, it will represent the importance of family. As s/he pours the sand into the vase, it adds the element of unity and togetherness. That's what a family is all about.

For from this day forward, you will continue to share your adventures together, never walking separate paths again. You will always have the support of each other.

When you look at this vase representing your family, keep in mind that the grains of sand you have poured together, are forever blended, for to try to separate them again into their respective handfuls would be impossible. Each of you will always carry a little of each other with you, wherever you go throughout life.

Bride and Groom Lei Exchange

The lei exchange can be done before the start of the ceremony when the bride makes her entrance.

The best man holds the groom's lei for the bride and the maid of honor holds the bride's lei for the groom. (Or Officiant can hold leis, or they can rest in a basket...)

When the bride makes her entrance and meets with her groom they take the leis from maid of honor and best man and adorn each other with them.

**** Alternatively, the officiant or attendants can hold both leis for the couple to give one to the groom to adorn his bride, and one to the bride to adorn her groom -- after the ceremony has begun, an incorporate some wording with it.*

Sample script for the lei exchange might be:

“In Hawaii, the flower lei is a symbol of love, given with aloha to adorn the person who holds your affection. It is also a symbol of things fragile and earthly.

A flower lei will last for only a day or two and then it is gone. Our lives are like the lei within the span of eternity. We are here in this life for only such a short time. Therefore it's important to breathe in and savor each moment. Give tender care and consideration for each other, for your love is fragile like the lei.

May the leis you now offer each other be recognized for the tender beauty shown in the devotion of your love for one another.”

Attendant or Officiant hands lei to Bride & Groom to Exchange)

Note: I have variations of wording for the various types of leis, and different sentiments for the exchange. See samples of recent ceremonies.

Hands of the Bride and Groom



Bride, please face ***Groom*** and hold his hands, palms up, so that you may see the gift that they are to you.

These are the hands that will passionately love you and cherish you through the years. These are the hands that will wipe the tears from your eyes: Tears of sorrow and tears of joy. These are the hands that will comfort you in illness or when overcome with fear or grief. These are the hands that will give you support and celebrate with you in your accomplishments.

Groom, now turn ***Bride's*** hands, palms up, so that you may see the gift that they are to you.

These are the hands that will hold you tight as you struggle through difficult times. These are the hands that will comfort you when you are sick or console you when you are grieving. These are the hands that will passionately love you and cherish you through the years, for a lifetime of happiness. These are the hands that will give you support as she encourages you to fulfill your dreams.

Our wish for you today is that both of you will use these hands to build and maintain a marriage with security, support and love.

Sand Ceremony – 2 colors



The Unity Sand Ceremony is an alternative for the popular "unity candle ceremony" incorporated into many of today's weddings. The essence is to symbolize the union of "two into one". This sand version is not only beautiful and interesting but also more appropriate for an outdoor setting than a unity candle. With the addition of fresh flowers, these distinctive vases will make an intriguing addition to a home's decor.

Prior to the wedding pre-fill the two outside vases with the sand - white for the Bride and black for the Groom. You will need to furnish one pound each of scenic deep black sand and scenic white sand to use in your ceremony. A jar, bowl or bottle can be used instead of vases.

- 1. The Groom will start by pouring a portion of the black sand into the central glass vase.*
- 2. The Bride will follow by pouring a portion of the white sand also into the central vase creating a layered effect.*
- 3. To complete the ceremony, the Groom and the Bride alternate pouring the balance of their sand into the central vase. To make this process a little easier, create a funnel using decorative paper. Personalize the funnel by including the names, date or even poetry that holds a special meaning for the Bride and Groom. (The central vase can be engraved with the Bride and Groom's monogram). The comingling of the colored sand represents the joining of the Bride and Groom.*
- 4. Following the wedding, the two outside vases can be used to display fresh flowers while the central vase will remain a cherished keepsake of your wedding day.*

Sample text for this ceremony will be furnished, but basically goes like this:

Script for 2 Color Sand Ceremony:

Bride and Groom, we will now illustrate how your separate and different personalities will be interlaced and artfully balanced within the vessel of your marriage.

The sand in these two vases represent your different personalities, the paths you have traveled, the people you have met, the dreams you have followed, choices you've made, everything in your past that has made you who you are and has led you here today, to this very spot, exchanging your vows.

This center vase represents your marriage.

As you both pour your unique qualities into the container of your marriage, they will be laced together like a work of art.

(Groom and Bride pour the sand into the center vessel)

As the grains of sand become intermingled, it is impossible to separate them into their individual colors again. Just as you will always carry a bit of the other with you in everything you do separately. This delicate meshing of your personalities is the art of marriage.

(Children can also add their colors to the display.)

Note: You can furnish your own sand and vases, jars or bottles for this ceremony by purchasing them online or at your neighborhood craft store. You might look bottles with stoppers, if you plan to transport the vase, some come in heart shapes and colors. You might try these local craft stores for the sand and/or vases:

On Kauai, Ben Franklin Craft Store – Packets of “Scenic Sand” come in a variety of colors. There are vases and bottles as well in that store and other more unique shops around the island.

Online or on the Mainland:

Michael's Craft Supply for colored sand and vases

Ben Franklin Craft Stores

www.joann.com for ordering sand online

www.discountsschoolsupply.com for ordering sand online

Colored Sand Ceremony – Adding Child/Children

Groom and Bride, your marriage doesn't affect just the two of you. It affects all those around you, especially your children. Let's demonstrate how your separate and different personalities will become interlaced and artfully balanced within the vessel of the family brought together by this marriage.

The different colors of sand in these bottles represent your different personalities, your roots, the paths you have traveled, the people you have met, the dreams you have followed, choices you've made, everything in your past that has made you who you are and of course brought you here together, at this very moment, merging together as one family.

The green sand represents Groom's personality and the purple sand represents Bride's. The blue sand represents the personality of Child #1 and the pink sand represents the personality of Child #2. This center heart shaped bottle represents your marriage, your family.

As each of you pour the color of your personality into this center vase, you will see how beautifully your unique qualities combine to create a lively and loving family, the colors lacing together like a work of art.

Groom, would you please start by pouring a portion of your sand into the vase? Now Bride, please pour a portion of your sand. Now let's have Child #1 and Child #2 pour the colors of their personalities into the mix. Please repeat taking turns pouring your sand into the center vase, until it is full.

As the grains of sand become slightly intermingled, it is impossible to separate them entirely into their individual colors again. Just as you will always carry a bit of the others with you in everything you do separately. This delicate meshing of your personalities is the art of marriage.

You'll notice that the individual bottles still have sand left in them. That means that after your contribution to the completeness of this family, there is still plenty of your personality left to share with others as you go through life, for each of you will continue to brighten the lives of everyone you touch, with your individual energy and color.

May the spirit of love always be a part of your lives, so that the union we celebrate here this day be worthy of continued celebration tomorrow and every day.

Inasmuch as you have given and pledged your vows to each other, I am happy to pronounce you as husband and wife.

Groom, you may now kiss your bride!

Awaiaulu 'ia Ke Aloha (May your love be forever entwined)

The Meanings of Aloha

Aloha!

The word "aloha" has several meanings.

For your marriage today, all the meanings certainly apply.

The first meaning of "aloha" is the greeting "hello" significant because together you are greeting your new life together.

The second meaning of "aloha" is "good bye" signifying leaving your past solitary lives behind, for you will be together in joy forever more.

The third meaning of "aloha" is of course the most important. And that meaning is "love".

Aloha also means the sharing of peace, compassion and mercy. These are all good things for a marriage to have and to perpetuate, so it's appropriate to being this marriage with the spirit of aloha.

Optional addition to the beginning of this segment –

In Hawaii, we use the word "Aloha" which literally means to share the spirit of life, our breath, from one person to another. When you think about it, the air we breathe touches the air once breathed by a myriad of others, over the centuries, those who have made great contributions to the world as well as those who have made the world a brighter place with their quiet presence. In this way, we are all connected.

Further optional beginning to include those who are with us in spirit only today -

Those who could not be with us physically today are with us in spirit, for their breath is carried on the same gentle breeze we feel on our faces, along with the spirit of those who have gone before us, affecting the lives of Bride and Groom, in big and little ways, helping to make them who they are today, so with that I invite you all to greet each other with the spirit of Aloha. (All say Aloha!)

Optional Greetings

#1 Welcome to the marriage of _____ and _____.
Love is life's greatest treasure. It is something to keep our hopes alive. It drives us to be our best and to help one another. It is something that makes _____ and _____ more powerful together than either one could be separately.

#2 We are gathered here today to share with (Groom's name _____) and (Bride's name _____) in the celebration of their marriage. There are no vows as meaningful as the ones they are making today. Marriage is one of life's most sacred experiences. I know that they enter into it thoughtfully. Married life is a give and take between two personalities, diminishing neither, but rather enhancing both. A successful marriage requires trust, dedication and sometimes sacrifice.

#3 We are gathered here today to witness the coming together of two people, _____ and _____, whose hearts and spirits are entwined as one. They now desire to profess before all the world their intention, from this moment on, to walk the road of life together.

#4 Friends, Groom and Bride have invited us here today to share in the celebration of their marriage.

We come together not to mark the beginning of a relationship, but to recognize a bond that already exists. This marriage is one expression of the many varieties of love.

#5 We have come here today to celebrate love. We see it in the faces of _____ and _____ who stand before us, and we experience it in our own hearts as well. We are happy to witness and share in this precious event.

#6 _____ and _____ welcome you, their family and friends, to share in the celebration of their marriage. Each of you has given something of yourselves into their lives, so it is fitting that you are here to witness and share in their joy.

#7 We are gathered together on this beautiful afternoon to share with BRIDE and GROOM as they prepare to be joined by the sacred bonds of marriage.

#8 If any one can show just cause why they may not be lawfully joined together, let them speak now or forever hold their peace.

#9 Welcome everyone, if we have all silenced our cell phones and pagers, let's begin.

Opening Remarks

#1 As Sir Hugh Walpole once said, "The most wonderful of all things in life is the discovery of another human being with whom one's relationship has a growing depth, beauty, and joy as the years increase. This inner progressiveness of love between two human beings is a most marvelous thing; it cannot be found by looking for it or by passionately wishing for it. It is a sort of divine accident, and the most wonderful of all things in life."

#2 We hope that the words and spirit of our gathering here today will be filled with a truth that will deepen with the passing years. We hope, too, that the meaning of the vows that _____ and _____ are about to share with one another will deepen as they discover the possibilities of their life together.

#3 Marriage is dedication. You give yourself, your life and love, into the hands of the one you love. You do so trustingly and generously. By the same token, each of you receives a gift -- the life and love of the other. You receive this gift not only from the one you love, but also from the parents who brought you into the world and reared you and from the personal world of friends and family who are joined in friendship and faith in your marriage.

#4 We ask that the radiant power which first brought these two together be with them always. (To the couple) Love is stronger than your conflicts, bigger than life's changes, always inviting you to learn, to bloom, to expand, and grow.

#5 You have come here today from your varied life experiences to make public the commitment you have made, each to the other. You come to combine your two separate lives into one. Although you will be sharing one life, never forget, you are two separate people. Cherish and affirm your differences. Love each other. Keep your commitment primary. Together you will laugh and cry, be sick and well, be happy and angry, share and grow. Grow, sometimes together, sometimes separately. But never remain stagnant. Love and life are always changing, always new. If you will ensure a healthy lasting marriage, always, always value each other. Although you will disagree, remember to respect each other's feelings, needs and wants. And above all, never, never lose your sense of humor. By Joan Kahn-Schneider

#7 It is fitting to speak briefly about love. We live in a world of joy and fear and search for meaning and strength in the seeming disorder. We discover the truest guideline to our quest when we realize love in all its magnitudes. Love is the eternal force of life. Love is the force that allows us to face fear and uncertainty with courage.

The giving of yourself in love is difficult, for you must learn to give of your love without total submission of yourself. Therefore, in your giving, give your joy, your sadness, your interest, your understanding, your knowledge – all expressions that make up life. But in this giving, remember to preserve yourself – your integrity, your individuality. This is the challenge of love within marriage.

Small Sample of Wedding Readings:

Love is a Friendship That Has Caught Fire

- Translator Unknown,

*Love is a friendship that has caught fire.
It is quiet understanding, mutual confidence, sharing and forgiving.
It is loyalty through good and bad.
It settles for less than perfection,
and makes allowances for human weakness.
Love is content with the present.
It hopes for the future and it doesn't brood over the past.
It's the day-in and day-out chronicle of irritations, problems,
compromises, small disappointments, big victories,
and working toward common goals.
If you have love in your life,
it can make up for a great many things you lack.
If you don't have it,
no matter what else there is, it is not enough.*

**Marriage Joins Two People In The Circle Of Its Love
Edmund O'Neill (b.1929)**

*"Marriage is a commitment to life,
the best that two people can find and bring out in each other.
It offers opportunities for sharing and growth
that no other relationship can equal.
It is a physical and an emotional joining
that is promised for a lifetime.*

*Within the circle of its love,
marriage encompasses all of life's most important relationships.
A wife and a husband are each other's best friend,
confidant, lover, teacher, listener, and critic.
And there may come times when one partner is heartbroken or ailing, and the love of the
other may resemble the tender caring of a parent for a child.*

*Marriage deepens and enriches every facet of life.
Happiness is fuller, memories are fresher, commitment is stronger,
even anger is felt more strongly, and passes away more quickly.*

*Marriage understands and forgives the mistakes life is unable to avoid.
It encourages and nurtures new life, new experiences,
and new ways of expressing a love that is deeper than life.*

*When two people pledge their love and care for each other in marriage,
they create a spirit unique unto themselves which binds them closer
than any spoken or written words.*

*Marriage is a promise, a potential made in the hearts of two people who love each other
and takes a lifetime to fulfill."*

The Key to Love
by Anon, 1st century China

I'd like to share with you some thoughts written in China by an anonymous writer in the first century. It is amazing how love transcends differences of time and culture to speak to the soul of we human beings.

*"The key to love is understanding ...
The ability to comprehend not only the spoken word,
but those unspoken gestures,
the little things that say so much by themselves.*

*The key to love is forgiveness ...
to accept each others faults and pardon mistakes,
without forgetting, but with remembering
what you learn from them.*

*The key to love is sharing ...
Facing your good fortunes as well as the bad, together;
both conquering problems, forever searching for ways
to intensify your happiness.*

*The key to love is giving ...
with out thought of return,
but with the hope of just a simple smile,
and by giving in but never giving up.*

*The key to love is respect ...
realizing that you are two separate people,
with different ideas;
that you don't belong to each other,
that you belong with each other, and share a mutual bond.*

*The key to love is inside us all ...
It takes time and patience to unlock all the ingredients
that will take you to its threshold;
it is the continual learning process
that demands a lot of work ...*

*but the rewards are more than worth the effort ...
and that is the key to love."*

An excerpt from "Gift from the Sea" by Anne Morrow Lindbergh

"A good relationship has a pattern like a dance and is built on some of the same rules. The partners do not need to hold on tightly, because they move confidently in the same pattern, intricate but gay and swift and free, like a country dance of Mozart's. To touch heavily would be to arrest the pattern and freeze the movement; to check the endlessly changing beauty of its unfolding. There is no place here for the possessive clutch, the clinging arm, the heavy hand; only the barest touch in passing. Now arm in arm, now face to face, now back to back -- it does not matter which. Because they know they are partners moving to the same rhythm, creating a pattern together, and being invisibly nourished by it. The joy of such a pattern is not only the joy of creation or the joy of participation; it is also the joy of living in the moment. Lightness of touch and living in the moment are intertwined."

From This Day Forward

Author Unknown

*From this day forward,
You shall not walk alone.
My heart will be your shelter,
And my arms will be your home.*

A sample reading from Larry Reyka, Humanist Celebrant

Treat yourselves and each other with respect, and remind yourselves often of what brought you together. Take responsibility for making the other feel safe, and give the highest priority to the tenderness, gentleness and kindness that your connection deserves. When frustration, difficulty and fear assail your relationship, as they threaten all relationships at some time or another, remember to focus on what is right between you, not only the part that seems wrong. In this way, you can survive the times when clouds drift across the face of the sun in your lives, remembering that, just because you may lose sight of it for a moment, does not mean the sun has gone away. And, if each of you takes responsibility for the quality of your life together, it will be marked by abundance and delight.

Vows

Vows can be repeated by Groom and Bride or read by the Officiant with an "I do" reply. Hearing you repeat your vows is more satisfying to the guests and more meaningful than simply saying "I do" but if shyness or a language barrier is a factor, than the "I do" will do just fine. Many couples do both.

Declaration of Intent (an "I do" example)

Do you Groom/Bride, take Bride/Groom to be your wife/husband? To laugh with her in joy, grieve with her/him in sorrow, grow with her/him in love and to be faithful to her/him as long as you both shall live? (Throughout the seasons of life.)

Answer: I do.

"Repeat after me" examples

*In the presence of our family and friends,
I choose you to be my wife.
To laugh with you in joy
To grieve with you in sorrow
To grow with you in love
to be faithful to you alone as long as we both shall live.*

*I, GROOM take you BRIDE to be my wife,
(I, BRIDE take you GROOM to be my Husband)
my partner in life and my one true love.
I will cherish our friendship and love you today, tomorrow, and forever.
I will trust you and honor you
I will laugh with you and cry with you.
I will love you faithfully
Through the best and the worst,
Through the difficult and the easy.
Whatever may come I will always be there.
As I have given you my hand to hold
So I give you my life to keep*

(OR TO INCLUDE CHILDREN...)

*I Groom, choose you, Bride,
and (child/ren), to be my family.*

*I promise to honor & respect you,
and to provide for you to the best of my ability.*

*I promise to make our home a haven,
where trust, love, and laughter are abundant.*

*I make these promises lovingly, and freely,
and vow to honor them all the days of my life.*

Sample Vows to Use as Inspiration for Writing Your Own

- *With all my heart I take you to be my spouse. I will love you through the good and the bad, through the joy and the sorrow. I will try to be understanding, and to trust in you completely. I will make you a part of me and in turn, become a part of you. Together we will face all of life's experiences and share one another's dreams and goals. We will be equal partners in an open, honest relationship throughout the years.*
- *I, _____, take you, _____, to be my soulmate and best friend for life. To love you always - both through our likenesses and through our differences. To grow in admiration and respect, as we begin the story of our life together.*
- *I promise to be your friend and lover
Your partner in parenthood, [life]
Your ally in conflict,
Your greatest fan and your toughest adversary,
Your comrade in adventure,
Your student and your teacher,
Your consolation in disappointment,
And most of all, your companion in the search for happiness, fulfillment and contentment.*
- *I love you _____ with all my heart and soul, as you are everything that I could ever hope to find in a woman/man. You are loving, thoughtful, caring, smart, and beautiful/handsome in my eyes and your love always makes me feel like the happiest and luckiest man/woman alive. I am proud to have you as my life's partner and I promise that I will always be at your side, through good and bad, and give you everything that is in my power to grant to assure your health and happiness for as long as I live. I am yours forever....*
- *I offer myself to you as companion, lover, and friend. I promise to love you and to honor our love. I respect your strengths and accept your weaknesses. I vow to be faithful to you and to love you with all my heart, to always strive for our happiness, harmony, and future together for as long as I shall live.*
- *When you need someone to encourage you, I want it to be me. When you need a helping hand, I want it to be mine. When you long for someone to smile at, turn to me. When you have something to share, share it with me.*
- *I never thought I would meet someone as wonderful as you. You are my light, my heart, my soul and my one true friend. Today, fate has chosen you to be my wife, to grow old with and to love and cherish for the rest of my life. I vow that through all the times we will encounter, the good and the bad, I will be right there by your side. I will always support you in all of your life decisions and no matter what you need, I am always here for you. You have an amazing heart and I am lucky to be able to share my life with you.*

- **Optional Introduction Words for Ring Exchange:**

- *The ring is a circle, which is the symbol of eternity. It has no beginning and no end, like time. It returns to itself, like life. The hole in the center of the ring is not just space; it is the symbol of a gateway, or door; leading to things and events both known and unknown.*
- *The circle is the symbol of the sun and the earth and the universe. It is a symbol of sacredness and of perfection and peace. In these rings, it is the symbol of unity, in which your two lives are now joined in one unbroken circle, in which, wherever you go, you will always return unto one another to your togetherness.*
- *The ring is a circle that has no beginning and no end. It represents eternity and harmony. It is limitless and boundless, with no divisions making it a perfect symbol of completeness.*
- *The circle is a symbol of enclosure. The wedding ring symbolizes not just a pledge of eternal love, but the enclosure of the heart, a pledge of fidelity.*
- *The circle is a symbol of perfection, completeness and symmetry. The wedding ring symbolizes unity.*
- *Traditionally, the passage to the status of husband and wife is marked by the exchange of rings. These rings are a symbol of the unbroken circle of love. Love freely given has no beginning and no end. Love freely given has no giver and no receiver – for each is the giver and each is the receiver. May these rings remind you always of the vows you have made here today*

Feel free to create your own poetic sentiment about your rings. There are also several samples of ring exchanges online and in wedding ceremony books.

Optional Vows and Sentiments to be said during Ring Exchange:

With this ring, I thee wed and pledge my faithful love.

In token and in pledge of my constant faith and abiding love, I give you this ring.

As a sign and symbol of our union, I give you this ring.

Take this ring as a symbol of my love and devotion.

Accept this ring as a token of my love and devotion

I give this ring in token and in pledge of my constant faith and abiding love, with all that I am and all that I will become.

I give you this ring as a symbol of my love and faithfulness. As I place it on your finger, I commit my heart and soul to you. I ask you to wear this ring as a reminder of the vows we have spoken today. (or promises we have made today)

See recent ceremonies for more ideas... or do a search online.

What to do with engagement rings?

Options:

Just before your wedding you can move your engagement ring to the third finger of your right hand so that your wedding ring can go on the correct finger during the service. You can later move your engagement ring over.

Groom can place both rings on at the same time during the ceremony.

You can keep the engagement ring on – and add the wedding ring to the outside, moving them around later. (Photographers often take the rings for artistic shots afterwards.)

There is no right or wrong way – do what feels best for you.

Optional Wedding Closings

1

*May your lives together be joyful and content,
And may your love be as bright as the stars,
Warm as the sun, accepting as the ocean,
And enduring as the mountains.*

2

*The vows you have just taken, pledging love, mean far more than mere words ever can.
May their gentle spirit move in you. May your years fulfill the beauty of the feelings
expressed today. And may you always put these vows above the things that make life
smaller.*

3

*May the spirit of love be ever a part of your lives so that the union we here celebrate this day
be worthy of continued celebration tomorrow and tomorrow and every tomorrow.*

4

*May these two find happiness in their union. May they live faithfully together, performing
the vow and covenant they have made between them; and may they ever remain in
sympathy and understanding: that their years may be rich in the joys of life, and their days
good, and long upon the earth.*

5

*The world does a good job of reminding us how fragile we are. Individuals are fragile;
relationships are fragile too.*

*Every marriage needs the love, nurture and support of a network of friends and family. On
this wedding day I ask you not only to be friends of _____ or _____ but friends
of _____ and _____ together, friends of the relationship.*

*In the moment of silence that follows, I ask each of you, in your own way, to confer a silent
prayer, blessing, wish or hope upon this wedding. [The officiant pauses for a moment of
silence.]*

*Blessing: May the love you have found grow in meaning and strength until its beauty is
shown in a common devotion to all that is compassionate and life giving. May the flow of
your love help brighten the face of the earth. May the source of all love touch and bless you
and grace your lives with color and courage.*

6

*_____ and _____, you have now affirmed before your families and friends
your love and your caring for each other. You have come from different backgrounds. You
have walked different paths. You are different individuals. Your love has transcended these
differences. In the years before you may the richness of the traditions that have nurtured
you enhance and brighten your lives as you help to create and shape the future.*

*May the challenges of your life together be met with courage and optimism. May you learn
from your failures and grow in your achievements. May life bless you with children, friends
and family in a wide network of mutual support and enjoyment. May you face pain, toil and
trouble with a stout but light heart. May you share with others the radiance of your seasons
of joy and pleasure.*

7

*Out of this tangled world, two souls have come together, drawn by mutual love and respect.
May their days and years yet unborn deepen the joy of their choice and make it abidingly
true.*

#8

May you always share with each other the gift of love. Be one in heart and in mind. May you always create a home together that puts into your hearts the joys of love, generosity and kindness.

#9

May the love in your hearts give you joy. May the greatness of life bring you peace. And may your days be good and your lives be long upon the earth.

#10

We ask that each member of this community, here gathered to witness this marriage, may live in a spirit of sharing, of mutual support, of love, and of caring for one another. May we carry the warmth and smiles from this occasion to the rest of our worlds.

#11

May you never take each other for granted but always experience the wonders of your union. May your love consist not only in gazing into each other's eyes, but also in looking outward in the same direction.

May your life together be a source of strength and inspiration to yourselves, your families and your friends. May you never forget the beginning of your love for one another, take care of it, nurture it, and allow it to grow strong and firm in the years that are to come.

May you always concentrate on making each other happy and secure in your commitment to one another and always rely on your ability to keep the promises you have made to one another today throughout the thick and thin of life's experiences. And may you always be in love. May your love be as beautiful each day you share as it is on this day of your wedding and may all of your wishes come true.

#12

Marriage Advice from Jane Wells (1886)

Let your love be stronger than your hate and anger.

Learn the wisdom of compromise, for it is better to bend a little than to break.

Believe the best rather than the worst.

People have a way of living up or down to your opinion of them.

Remember that true friendship is the basis for any lasting relationship.

The person you choose to marry is deserving of the courtesies and kindnesses you bestow on your friends.

#13

May the sun bring you new energy by day.

May the moon softly restore you by night.

May the rain wash away your worries.

And may you live the days of your lives in peace, love, and happiness.

#14

Mark Twain once said that "a marriage makes two fractional lives a whole. It gives to two questioning natures a reason for living. It brings a new gladness to the sunshine, and a new fragrance to the flowers, and new beauty to the earth, a new mystery to life."

Hawaiian Phrases and Values, for use in Wedding Ceremonies

Ho'ao The wisdom of the ancient Hawaiians offers a unique word for marriage- Ho'ao. The meanings of this word are; to experience a partnership, to take care of, to learn and to teach, and to illuminate and bring the light of spiritual insight to all problems and challenges.

A O Ko Aloha Ka`u E Hi`ipoi Mau ~ With you joy will be mine forever

Aloha Au Ia'oe ~ I Love You

Aloha e! Aloha e! Aloha e! ~ Yes, love indeed!

Aloha kekahi i kekahi ~ Love one another unconditionally

Aloha No Au Ia 'Oe ~ I Truly Love You

Aloha Nui Loa ~ All my love

Aloha Pau Ole ~ May your love be everlasting

Awaiulu Ke Aloha ~ Love is made fast by tying together - ie, marriage

E Hookumu Maua Ka Hale Puni Maua Ohana Me Ka Pumehana A Me Ka Oiloli Kealoha ~ May we create a home that surrounds our family and friends with warmth, laughter and love.

E Hoomau Maua Kealoha ~ May our love last forever

Hele Mai 'Oe I Ko Maua Male 'Ana ~ Come to our wedding

He pûnâwai kahe wale kealoha. ~ Love is a spring that flows freely.

He`olina leo ka ke aloha. Joy is in the voice of love

Ho`omoe wai kahi ke kao`o. Let's travel together like water flowing in one direction."

He kehau ho'oma'ema'e ke aloha. Love is like a cleansing dew.

I ka noho pu ana'ike i ke aloha. One sees love after living together.

Ka`u ia e lei a`e nei la ~ I pledge my love to you alone

Ke Aloha ~ Beloved

Ko Aloha Makamae E Ipo ~ Sweetheart you are so precious

Ku`u Lei ~ My beloved

Male 'ana ~ Wedding

Me Ke Aloha ~ With love

Me Ke Aloha Pumehana ~ With the warmth of my love

Mau Loa ~ Forever

Nau ko`u aloha ~ My love is yours

Ua ola loko i ke aloha means "Love gives life within" which means that love is essential to one's mental, physical, emotional and spiritual welfare.

What values and traits are important in your relationship? What do you hope to define and emphasize in your marriage vows?

*If the samples in the ceremony packet don't convey the values you want to exemplify through your marriage, then please **share what values or traits will be important in your marriage**, so that we can incorporate those themes for more custom personalization, for example:*

*Love / Soul Mates / Synergy
Trust / Conviction / Devotion / Commitment
Honesty / Faithfulness / Dedication
Communication / Best Friends
Focus on Spirituality
Happiness / Celebration/Joy
Combining of Families / Raising Step Children
Having Children/Values / Purpose
Growing Old Together / Health
Compromise / Tolerance / Growth
Battling Obstacles Together / Holding it together through hardships
Travel & Adventure / Fun / Exploring
Your Careers / Prosperity / Success
Passion / Sex / Chemistry
Respect / Equality / Partnership
Unconditional Love / Acceptance of Weaknesses and Strengths
Companionship / Comfort*

Typical Order of a FORMAL Wedding Ceremony

- ***Procession***
- ***Greeting by Officiant***
- ***Optional Reading by Officiant or Guest***
- ***Remarks by Officiant***
- ***Exchange of vows and rings (written or chosen by couple)***
- ***Optional Special Ceremony***
- ***Blessing by Officiant***
- ***Pronouncement***
- ***The Kiss***
- ***Recessional***