The Hukilau Song

by Jack Owens

**G** Oh we're going' to a Hukilau,

**D<sup>7</sup>** A Huki, Huki, Huki, Hukilau

Everybody loves a Hukilau,

**G** Where the lau-lau is the kau-kau at the big lu-au

> E<sup>7</sup> Oh we'll throw our nets out into the sea A<sup>7</sup>

And all the ama-ama come-a swimmin' to me

**G E**<sup>7</sup> Oh we're goin' to a Hukilau,

D<sup>7</sup>G A Huki, Huki, Huki, Huki-lau!

 $\begin{array}{c} \textbf{G} & \textbf{D}^{7} \\ \text{What a beautiful day for fishin' the old Hawaiian way} \\ \textbf{A}^{m7} & \textbf{D}^{7} & \textbf{A}^{7} & \textbf{D}^{7} \\ \text{All the Hukilau nets are swishin', down in old } \begin{array}{c} \textbf{La-i-e Bay} \\ \textbf{La-ee-ay} \end{array} \right)$ 

**G** Oh we're going' to the Hukilau, **D**<sup>7</sup> A Huki, Huki, Huki, Hukilau

G						
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A7						
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 $D^7$ 

There's romance 'neath Hawaiian skies

**G** Where the lovely hula hula maidens roll their eyes

E<sup>7</sup> While the silvery moon is shinin' above

 $A^7$ The kane and wahines sing a song about love  $G = E^7 = D^7$ 

Para-dise now, at the Hukilau, a Huki, Huki, Huki Hukilau

A Huki, Huki, Huki, Huki

Huki, Huki, Huki **G** A Huki, Huki, Huki Huki-lau!

A **hukilau** is a way of fishing invented by the ancient Hawaiians. The word comes from huki, **meaning** pull, and lau, **meaning** leaves. A large number of people, usually family and friends, would work together in casting the net from shore and then pulling it back.

G

A festive beach gathering is also known to local Hawaiians as a **hukilau** 

Ama-ama, local fish resembling a striped mullet

*Laulau* is a Hawaiian dish. In old Hawaii, laulau was assembled by taking a few luau leaves and placing a few pieces of fish and pork in the center. The ends of the luau leaf are folded and wrapped again in ti leaf. When ready, all the laulau is placed in an underground oven, called an imu. Hot rocks are placed on the dish and covered in banana leaves and buried again. A few hours later the laulau is ready to eat.

In modern times, the dish uses taro leaves, salted butterfish, and either pork, beef, or chicken and is usually steamed on the stove. Laulau is a typical plate lunch dish and is usually served with a side of rice and macaroni salad.

*Kaukau* means food or 'to eat'. It is not a Hawaiian word, instead it comes from the Pidgin English chow-chow which means food.