

## **CONTEMPORARY CEREMONY**

### **INTRODUCTION**

[GROOM] and [BRIDE], you have arrived on the romantic island of Maui, the land of aloha, for your special day. You've also reached that point in your relationship where you desire a greater commitment. Today you are ready to pledge your love in this union we call marriage.

Your relationship is changing today. You will no longer be just two good friends. Today you are being transformed into one. Marriage is the merger of two separate individuals into a union dedicated for their common good.

### **WHY DO YOU LOVE?**

Have you ever thought about why you want to get married? Take a moment, and gaze into each other's eyes. What is it that you see there that has captured your soul? What spark, what love, and what beauty have you found in those eyes that have made you into a better person?

Do you remember when you first met? When you first kissed? Can you recall the moment when your lover turned your life and your heart upside down . . . ?

Now, today, you have come to bring all of these emotions into something more. Today you stand before these witnesses and desire to make a commitment that will produce a lifetime of fulfillment. That is your hope, your desire and your commitment today.

### **LOVE IS A VERB**

Now we know that there will never be a perfect marriage. As you enter into this next step in your relationship, you should understand that it takes a lot of love AND a lot of work to make a good marriage. Some couples tend to think of marriage as a 50/50 proposition. But the best relationships are usually 90/10. If you both will give 90%—you'll have a formula likely to bring you a lifetime of happiness.

Let me also remind you that love is a verb. It's not just a state of being—but it's an ACTION verb. It's not how you feel about each other, but what you DO for each other that will keep your relationship growing and alive.

When you don't feel like being loving, think about how you would like to be treated. When you sense that you are being ignored, learn how to listen to your partner's needs.

In the Hawaiian language ho 'oponopono means: "to put things right by family discussion." In other words, don't let the sun sink into the horizon without working out each day's problems. [GROOM] and [BRIDE], when your feelings are hurt, don't stuff

them inside. Instead, cultivate the great art of forgiving. Expect the best from your lover and you can transform your home into a castle where love thrives.

## **SANDBURG'S POEM**

Poet Carl Sandburg captured the essence of a love which can stand the test of time when he wrote:

"I love you. I love you for what you are, but I love you yet more for what you are going to be. I love you not so much for your realities as for your ideals. I pray for your desires, that they may be great, rather than for your satisfactions, which may be so hazardously little.

"A satisfied flower is one whose petals are about to fall. But the most beautiful rose is one, hardly more than a bud, wherein the pangs and ecstasies of desire are working for larger and finer growth. Not always shall you be what you are now. You are going forward toward something great. I am on the way with you and . . . I love you."

## **HIS VOWS**

[GROOM], please take the lei and place it around [BRIDE] 's neck and in the Hawaiian tradition, give her a kiss on both cheeks.

Do you [GROOM], take [BRIDE], to be your wife? Will you love and cherish her, giving her assistance in all of life's labors? Will you be true to her both in sickness and health, when things are going well and when there are problems? And will you be faithful to her as long as you both shall live? If so, you may answer, I WILL.

[GROOM], let the beautiful & fragrant flowers that you have placed on [BRIDE] remind you of the beautiful and fragile nature of your relationship with her. Cherish her always treating her as your princess.

## **HER VOWS**

[BRIDE], take this lei and place it around [GROOM] 's neck and in the Hawaiian tradition, give him a kiss on both cheeks.

[BRIDE], let the beauty & fragrance of these flowers which you have placed on [GROOM] remind you always of this day when you committed yourself to be his bride. Cherish him always treating him as your prince.

Do you, [BRIDE], take [GROOM], to be your husband? Will you love and cherish him, giving him assistance in all of life's labors? Will you be true to him both in sickness and health, both when things are going well and when there are problems? And will you be faithful to him as long as you both shall live? If so, you may answer, I WILL.

## **HER RING**

[GROOM], may I have the ring that is the lasting symbol of your vows to [BRIDE]?

This ring is gold and it has been subjected to tremendous heat so that the waste could be removed and the metal purified; it is a fit token of your commitment of love.

[GROOM], let this ring symbolize your willingness to build your character as you love [BRIDE].

Place the ring on the third finger of [BRIDE]'s left hand and repeat after me as you make these vows to her:

"From this day on, I [GROOM], take you [BRIDE] to be my wife. I will love you, I will cherish you, I will be true to you, no matter what comes into our lives, if we are rich or poor, if there is sickness or health, I am committed to stay with you as long as we both shall live; With this ring, as a symbol of my love I now marry you."

## **HIS RING**

[BRIDE], may I have the ring that's the lasting symbol of your vows to [GROOM]?

The ring is a circle. A circle has no ending so it symbolizes an enduring love. [BRIDE], let this ring remind you of this lifetime commitment you are making to [GROOM] today.

Place the ring on the third finger of [GROOM]'s left hand and repeat after me as you make these vows to him:

"From this day on, I [BRIDE], take you [GROOM] to be my husband. I will love you, I will cherish you, I will be true to you, no matter what comes into our lives -- if we are rich or poor, if there is sickness or health, I am committed to stay with you as long as we both shall live; with this ring, as a symbol of my love, I now marry you."

## **PROCLAMATION**

Now that you [GROOM] and [BRIDE] have openly declared your wish to be united in marriage, and as you have made these promises to each other before these witnesses, and have given each other rings to confirm your vows;

I, David Webster, by the power and authority given to me as a minister, and according to the laws of the County of Maui, as well as the State of Hawaii, do now pronounce you to be: Husband and wife.

You may kiss your bride.