

## **SPIRITUAL CEREMONY**

### **INTRODUCTION**

[GROOM] and [BRIDE] you have come to this beautiful setting here in Maui, the land of aloha, so that you could publicly commit yourselves to each other in marriage.

Think for a moment of the caterpillar. He begins life as a lowly, uninteresting little creature. Yet he is one day transformed by an extraordinary metamorphosis into the most exquisite and fragile butterfly. In a similar way, your relationship is changing today. Today you are being transformed into one.

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

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.

### **1 CORINTHIANS 13**

Now love is a verb. It's not just a state of being, but it's an ACTION verb. Love is more than how you feel about each other; it's also about what you do FOR each other that will keep your relationship growing and alive.

Probably the best words ever written about the character of love are found in 1 Corinthians 13. Here it is from the Living Bible:

“Love is very patient and kind, never jealous or envious, never boastful or proud, never haughty or selfish or rude. Love does not demand its own way. It is not irritable or touchy. It does not hold grudges and will hardly even notice when others do it wrong. It is never glad about injustice, but rejoices whenever truth wins out.”

If you love someone you will be loyal to him no matter what the cost. You will always believe in him, always expect the best of him, and always stand your ground in defending him.”

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.

[GROOM] and [BRIDE], in the Hawaiian language there is a term to describe how couples should treat one another. Ho'oponopono means: “to put things right by family discussion.” In other words, don't let the sun set when you find that you are angry. Talk things out. Makes things right with each other quickly, before the sun disappears into the horizon.

## **WEDDING POEM**

Marriage is more than a contract. Marriage is a commitment to take that joy deep, deeper than happiness, deep into the discovery of who you most truly are. It is a spiritual journey, to a life of becoming—in which joy can comprehend despair, running through rivers into joy again. And thus marriage is even deeper than commitment. It is a covenant—a covenant that says: I love you, I trust you. I will be there for you when you are hurting and when I am hurting, I will not leave. Marriage is intended to provide a sanctuary safe enough to risk fully loving, fully living and completely sharing from the center of oneself. This is worth everything.

### **HIS VOWS**

[GROOM], please take your lei and place it around [BRIDE]'s neck.

[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.

Do you [GROOM]; take [BRIDE], to be your wife, to live together according to God's Word? Will you love and cherish her, assisting her in all her 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], cherish [BRIDE] always, treating her as your princess.

### **HER VOWS**

[BRIDE], take this lei and place it around [GROOM]'s neck. [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.

Do you, [BRIDE], take [GROOM], to be your husband, to live together according to God's Word? Will you love and cherish him, assisting him in all his labors? Will you be true to him both in sickness and health, both when things are going well and when there are difficulties? And will you be faithful to him as long as you both shall live? If so, you may answer, I WILL.

[BRIDE], cherish [GROOM] always, treating him as your prince.

### **HER RING**

[GROOM], May I have the ring that is the lasting symbol of your vows to [BRIDE]? This gold ring has been subjected to tremendous heat so that the waste could be removed and the metal purified into a fit token of your commitment of love here today.

[GROOM], let this ring symbolize your willingness to build your character through your self-sacrificial love for [BRIDE]. Place the ring on the third finger of [BRIDE] 'S left hand and repeat after me as you make these vows to her:

"I [GROOM], from this day forward take you [BRIDE] to be my lawfully wedded wife. I will love you, I will cherish you, I will be true to you, no matter what comes, whether we become rich or poor, whether

there is sickness or health, as long as we both shall live, and with this ring, as a symbol of my love, I now marry you.”

## **HIS RING**

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

This ring is a circle. A circle symbolizes eternity—because it never ends. [BRIDE], let this ring remind you of the new lifetime relationship that you are entering with [GROOM]. Place the ring on the third finger of [GROOM]’s left hand and repeat after me as you make these vows to [GROOM]:

“I [BRIDE], from this day forward take you [GROOM] to be my lawfully wedded husband. I will love you, I will cherish you, I will be true to you, no matter what comes. Whether we become rich or poor, whether there is sickness or health, as long as we both shall live, and with this ring, as a symbol of my love, I now marry you.”

## **PRAYER**

## **PROCLAMATION**

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

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

God has joined you together —let no one tear you apart. You may kiss your bride.