

# DESIGNING YOUR WEDDING CEREMONY

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Aloha! Please complete this questionnaire when you two relax and take your time. Have fun with it! Please offer this process as much vision, insight, and love as you want in your ceremony, including those traditions and prayers that your parents or family members would really appreciate.

Be creative! Take your time!

Please do this in a moment when you two feel inspired. The more you take time to imagine your ceremony, the more it will reflect who you are individually and together, meaningfully creating the foundation for your wedding and marriage. Couples that do this with loving care are richly rewarded. In this way, your ceremony will open your hearts, and, if you have guests, will open theirs.

You are the special ones that distinguish your ceremony from all others.

I can write your ceremony only with your full participation.

It will be a joy to work with you!

Aloha pumehana,

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**COUPLE'S FULL NAMES:** (As you want it spoken ~ traditionally first, middle name, and last)

**WILL EITHER OF YOUR LAST NAMES CHANGE?** Please share.

**DAY/DATE OF WEDDING:**

**TIME OF WEDDING:**

**TIME TO GATHER:**

**PLACE/ADDRESS OF CEREMONY:**

**WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS DAY OF THE WEEK, DATE, WHY HAWAI'I, and WHY THIS PLACE?**

Tell your Hawai'i story/connection/desire.

**NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION FOR YOUR PHOTOGRAPHER:**

**TIME OF PHOTOGRAPHY:**

**NAME AND CONTACT FOR FLORAL DESIGNER:**

**NAME AND CONTACT FOR MUSICIAN:**

**HOME ADDRESS:** City and State

**EMAIL ADDRESSES:**

**BRIDE:**

**GROOM:**

**BRIDE'S MOBILE PHONE:**

**GROOM'S MOBILE NUMBER:**

**IF YOU ARE HAVING GUESTS, HOW MANY WILL ATTEND THE CEREMONY? WHO WILL ATTEND?**

WILL THEY BE SEATED? ARE THEY TRAVELING FROM A DISTANCE? WHERE FROM?

**COUPLE'S PARENTS' NAMES THAT YOU WANT ACKNOWLEDGED DURING THE CEREMONY AND THEIR LOCATION IF THEY WILL NOT BE PRESENT:**

(Alive or here in spirit, all those that you want acknowledged and spoken)

**WILL ANY OF YOUR PARENTS WILL BE PRESENT AT THE CEREMONY? WHO? Full names please. DO YOU HAVE CHILDREN, AND IF SO WHAT ARE THEIR NAMES AND AGES?**

**WILL THEY BE PRESENT AT THE CEREMONY?**

**GRANDPARENTS NAMES YOU WOULD LIKE MENTIONED, ALIVE OR HERE IN SPIRIT:**

**WILL ANY GRANDPARENT BE PRESENT AT THE CEREMONY? Full names please.**

**OTHER NAMES OF IMPORTANT FAMILY MEMBERS TO NOTE AS YOU WOULD LIKE THEM SPOKEN** (Please share their relationships to you) **WILL ANY BE PRESENT AT THE CEREMONY?** In small weddings, it is honoring and easy to acknowledge all by name.

IF applicable, **WEDDING PARTY PARTICIPANTS** (Note their relationships to you):

**WHAT IS YOUR WORD OR WORDS FOR THE DIVINE?**

**YOUR RELIGIOUS AFFILIATIONS, if any:**

**YOUR PARENTS' RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL TRADITIONS:**

This is an important foundation to consider if you wish to honor your parents so they know that your marriage will be blessed. What cultural traditions do you want to include? Are you open to honoring the Hawaiian culture, nature and LOKAHI (the oneness of the Divine, nature, and humanity).

**PLEASE CHOOSE YOUR PREFERENCE FOR MY DRESS or its color?**

I usually wear a traditional floral Hawaiian long dress. What is the color theme for leis, or simply select your preference ~. I wear holokus with bare feet. A holoku is a long fitted, somewhat retro classical Hawaiian cotton dress. I have two with Christmassy like colors and two with bright fiesta colors, plus a turquoise, a pink small floral, a red and blue, a red and white, several more Earthy beige backgrounds with nature greens. Please share your preference! It's important.

PERSONAL NOTE: Because the bride had noted no preference for color, one day I wore my turquoise only to arrive and see that the bride had on solid RED with black spiky shoes. Her fiancé had a red and white handkerchief. As an artist, I would have felt better to be in harmony wearing my red and white.

Your special request is welcome, with the couple providing the requested dress.

## **THE WEDDING CEREMONY**

**THE CEREMONY:** Envision your ceremony. What is the feeling you long for, the atmosphere, the words, the time of day, the setting, the vows, the joy of the occasion...and then respond with the thoughts and visions that come to allow me to see what you see.

**GATHERING OF GUESTS:** I ring the Tibetan Wedding Bell to the 7 directions, including above, below and center, just prior to the processional, that indicates the ceremony is about to commence.

**PROCESSIONAL:** Even if simple, will there be a processional? What will the order be? Will the bride walk with a family escort? The groom is traditionally standing with Calley awaiting his bride?

### **HAWAIIAN EXCHANGE OF LEIS:**

A beautiful and deep tradition In Hawai'i! Highly recommended for the meaning, depth, beauty and fragrance.

I enthusiastically recommend is the exchange of leis, symbolizing the sweetness of love, and the passing of time. I recommend, if you have family or very close friends present to also buy them leis to present during the ceremony. When there few guests, it is delightful to offer leis to each. Fragrance alone makes the ceremony memorable.

**RINGS: Will you have rings, and if so, made of what materials? Is there a story attached to your rings?**

**THE CONVOCATION, INVOCATION AND ADDRESS:** Contemplate the feelings, and traditions... and any words you would like me or your family to offer. It is the personal magic of you two that I want to reflect. Would you like the story of your first meeting told?

I highly recommend a minute or two of silence to relax and get everyone to slow down and feel Hawai'i, gather everyone's energy and align our intentions to create a sacred space. This works, even with very religious or conservative guests. Are you open to offering this as a time for a silent renewal of vows for those present if you have guests? If there are words describe what this union means to you, offer them! Describe why you are choosing to marry and why at this time.

**THE BLESSING OF A CHILD:** Would you two like to bring children into your life? Would you like to offer a blessing welcoming the one? If you are pregnant or have children, would you like the children acknowledged and blessed? Has the forthcoming birth been announced? Will children be present?

**PRAYERS AND READINGS:** Please do some research and poetry nights! Do you have prayers, poetry, verses, or short readings to offer, and friends or family to read them? Do you have family traditions you wish to honor and uphold? Do your parents want to offer a prayer for you? This just takes a few minutes and can assure your parents that your marriage is properly blessed.)

**THE SEVEN BLESSINGS:** Wonderful for you to explore! Highly recommended! What are the 7 most important qualities of your relationship? Humor? Respect? Play? Trust? Are you open to 7 family members or friends offering a one-sentence blessing based on the relationship qualities that energize you together? After each quality blessing is read, everyone present responds in unison ~ "WE BLESS THIS MARRIAGE". This invokes a truly special feeling in the ceremony. Guests LOVE this and love to be included.

### **MUSIC:**

**IMPORTANT NOTE: THE COUPLE PROVIDES THE MUSIC IN ORDER, AND DEVICE MUST BE QUED UP AND READY TO GO.**

Names of songs/artists? Please provide play list with artists in the order to be played. Live? I know wonderful Hawaiian singer/ukulele players. On your phone? Music is wonderful:

1. As a processional to open the ceremony
2. As a musical interlude after the silence,
3. People who want more music can choose a song to play before the vows. (One couple actually chose 7 songs!)
4. As a recessional as the ceremony closes.

There are several classic Hawaiian wedding songs such as *The Hawaiian Wedding Song*, *Somewhere Over the Rainbow/Beautiful World*, and I love Keali'i Reichel's *The Road that Never Ends* as it creates sacred space for Hawai'i beautifully and quickly. There are many Hawaiian love songs. What is **your** play list? Have fun with this.

**INTENTIONS AND THE BLESSING OF THE RINGS:** If you are having guests, you may pass your rings around to have each one touch and offer their own blessing upon your rings.

**THE CALL TO VOWS AND THE SACRED PROMISES:** Will you write your own vows? Highly recommended, and more couples are taking this on. Some do both... they share first and then repeat after me (not necessary, it's individual). There are infinite possibilities. Listen to your heart... humor... love. Do you want to repeat after me (for many, the least stressful), speak them from the heart (delightful, requiring some spiritual courage and panache) or read them (I will insert your vows in the ceremony, and hand them to you at the right moment.) This is more elegant than pulling out your device.

**THE PRONOUNCEMENT:** The pronouncement acknowledges either a name changing, or

both names remaining the same, which more couples are doing out of respect for birth names. You must decide before you fill out your license application.

**BLESSING OF THE MARRIAGE:** This is a brief closing prayer. Requests are welcome.

The Apache Ideal is perfect for this.

### **THE APACHE IDEAL**

Now you will feel no rain, for each of you will be shelter to the other.  
Now you will feel no cold, for each of you will be warmth to the other.

Now there is no more loneliness for you.  
Now you are two bodies, but there is but one life before you.  
Prepare now to go eventually to your dwelling place,  
To enter into the days of your oneness and meaning.

And may your days be good and long upon the earth.  
Go in Peace.

**THE PRESENTATION AND WALK OF THE NEWLYWEDS:** Will you have a recessional? Will there be a shower of rose petals, small flowers or sesame seeds?

**COCONUT WATER TOAST AND SIGNING OF THE MARRIAGE LICENSE:** Signing of licenses is no longer required by the State of Hawai'i although you may choose to sign in the appropriate places. Would you like to toast with the purest water on Earth? This can be done after signing the license.