

We're Going to a Hukilau!

Dance and Learn About Hawaiian Culture

UCR Gluck Dance Fellow: Xiomara Forbez

Hula is a Native Hawaiian dance form that combines music, song, dance, and story. The hula "Hukilau" (lyrics below) tells the story of a **hukilau**, a way of fishing as a community or group from Hawai'i. A large fishing net is thrown into the water and the group of people pull the net in together. "**Huki**" in Hawaiian means pull and "**lau**" means leaves.



<http://www.kauai.com/blog/hukilau-catching-fish-the-hawaiian-way>

Possible Movement Activity: Have students get into a group (either in a circle or in half circle like above) and pretend to pull in fish together. Emphasize the importance of working as a team. Alternate having everyone pull at the same time or have one line pull first and then the other line.

Fun Fact: The state fish of Hawai'i is the reef triggerfish or the **humuhumunukunukuāpua'a** which roughly means the fish with "a snout like a pig" (wehewehe.org).

"Hukilau" by Jack Owens (1948)

Oh we're going to a hukilau
A huki huki huki huki hukilau
Everybody loves the hukilau
Where the **laulau** is the **kaukau** at the luau
We throw our nets out into the sea
And all the '**ama'ama** come a swimming to me
Oh, we're going to a hukilau
A huki huki huki hukilau

What a beautiful day for fishing
That old Hawaiian way
Where the hukilau nets are swishing
Down in old Laie bay

A huki huki huki huki hukilau
Everybody loves the hukilau
Where the laulau is the kaukau at the luau
We throw our nets out into the sea
And all the '**ama'ama** come a swimming to me
Oh, we're going to a hukilau
A huki huki huki hukilau

<http://www.huapala.org/Hukilau.html>

Hawaiian Words:

- *laulau- traditional Hawaiian dish with pork or fish wrapped in a leaf
- *kaukau- food
- *'ama'ama – fish (mullet)