

## **Sweet Leilani** (Flower Wreath From Heaven)

Words & Music by Harry Owens

Sweet Leilani, heavenly flower

Nature fashioned roses kissed with dew

And then she placed them in a bower

It was the start of you

Sweet Leilani, heavenly flower

Tropic skies are jealous as they shine

I think they're jealous of your blue eyes

Jealous because you're mine

Sweet Leilani, heavenly flower

I dreamed of paradise for two

You are my paradise completed

You are my dream come true

Sweet Leilani by Harry Owens was written Oct. 20, 1934, for his daughter when she was 1-day-old; the song flowed like a rippling stream and was completed in one hour. Recorded by Bing Crosby in 1935, it received the Oscar in 1938, for best song from the movie "Waikiki Wedding". Credited for helping revive the record industry during the depression, it was on the Hit Parade for 28 consecutive weeks. Taught to swim by the legendary Duke Kahanamoku, Baby Leilani's first hula teacher was Napua Wood, composer of Haleiwa Hula and grandmother of singer Amy Hanaialii Gilliom.