PILI GRASS

This seemingly insignificant native plant species is given reference in one of the Queen's most inspiring quotes defining Aloha.

"It is a razor's edge. It is the width of a blade of pili grass. To gain the kingdom of heaven is to hear what is not said, to see what cannot be seen, and to know the unknowable - that is Aloha."

-Queen Lili'uokalani

THE EMBRACE

There are two diagonal "strands" that "wrap" the central strand. These strands are designed to be an interpretation of arms holding an embrace or wrapping around the central strand. The Kumulipo strand is considered the past, the Kanaka strand our present, and the central strands represent our future. Given the mission of the Trust, all of the strands are pointed toward the heavens, upwards, and out into the space to give a sense of hope, light, and a brighter future.

MANU (BIRD)

HOKU (STARS)

(TARO PLANT)

I'A (FISH)

The central strands of "The Embrace" represent our future. The manu have seedlings in their clutch, which represent the children and the next generation.

PROGRESSIONS

From i'a (fish) to manu (birds), from manu to mea kolo (creeping/crawling creatures and insects), from mea kolo to kalo (taro), the next set of progressions in the Kumulipo (creation chant). Eventually, kanaka (mankind) is birthed after a series of progressions, all coming from the sea. Literally and poetically, Hawaiian roots originate from the sea.

KAIWI NUI YOON

Created by Honolulu artist, Kaiwi Nui Yoon, the artwork's design motif is intended to reflect the queen's love for the people of her kingdom and the values she wished to instill in them. Yoon, who is of Hawaiian ancestry, is a graduate of Kamehameha Schools and earned a bachelor's degree in Architecture from the University of Hawai'i at Monoa.

FIRST DISCOVERY FROM

Kanaka maoli were the first to discover Hawai'i. After crossing the Pacific, they populated Hawai'i and lived symbiotically with Hawai'i. As a result of this shared relationship, Hawaiians well understood the nature and order to the environment, creating the Kumulipo (creation chant). This chant is divided into many parts, each part contributing to the next.

FROM HAWAIKI

Early settlers came from Hawaiki to Hawai'i and navigated thousands of miles of open ocean without the use of instruments. With intimate knowledge of the wind, rain, stars, and ocean, early explorers were pioneers in crossing the Pacific in search of land to settle.

THE EMBRACE PILI GRASS KANAKA (MANKIND) MEA KOLO (CREEPING/CRAWLING CREATURES AND INSECTS)

HOKU (STARS) I'A (FISH)

The stars serve as reference points as to where we are and where we are headed.

The stars serve as reference points as to where we are next in the progression within the Kumulipo. First staple. I'a served as companion, guardian and sustenance for both long distance travelers and

early settlers.

WANA (SEA URCHIN)

One of the first creatures to be mentioned in the Kumulipo. Out of the sea do we all evolve.

WANA (SEA URCHIN)