



U. S. E. D. Suckers ev-'ry day. Fif-ty cents an ho-ur. Four bucks a day.



U. S. E. D. Suckers ev-'ry day. They make you whis-tle for your mon-ey.

When the war started the song gained currency. New verses were composed and sung at beach parties, drinking parties, *luaus*—wherever people got together. One informant described their popularity thus: “‘Lei Ana Ika,’ as far as I know, had no set or one singer or writer. It was more like a folksong. At every party someone would start the first verse and then each person in turn would add a verse—maybe a new one he had thought up, or an old one. The verses usually fit in with the party, or something new that had happened in the war effort, or change in politics.”⁵

In the following, which are typical of verses that emerged during the war years, (2) is a protest against the blackout. (“Lau Yee Chai’s” refers to a popular restaurant in Honolulu; “Lei ana ika” is apparently a nonsense phrase used to keep the meter.) Verse (3) has reference to the barbed wire on the beaches. (Makapuu is a beach on Oahu; the phrase “Awe na hoi” is an expression of pain.)

(2) Before time

At night you could go out.
Go Lau Yee Chai’s
And really get about.
Now to make hay
You got to make it in the day.
Lei ana ika, the blackout!

(3) Body surfing at Makapuu

Used to be very fine.
You don a pair of trunks
And plunge into the foaming brine.
You catch a rolling swell
Then you let out a yell,
“Awe na hoi! Barbed wire!”

Verse (4) notes a sentiment concerning the quartering of large numbers of Caucasian troops on the island of Hawaii, while (5) ridicules the spy scare. (“Baby donkey” is slang for half caste.)

(4) The marines landed

In Kailua Bay.
The girls go crazy
About what they say.
Nine months later
They feel the pain,
Lei ana ika, baby donkey.

(5) Took my girl

For a buggy ride.
The moon was shining
Up so bright.
Step on the gas;
The jalopy fell apart.
Lei ana ika, sabotage.

Verse (6) satirizes tire rationing; verses (7) and (8) are two of several which comment on the traffic situation in downtown Honolulu during the war. (“Mauka” and “makai” are opposite directions; the line “Make pia the eye” refers to going blind; “Holo holo” means to ride; H.R.T. stands for Honolulu Rapid Transit.)

(6) I went down town

To buy a car.
I went down town
To buy a Ford V8.

I step on the gas,

Four tires flat.
Lei ana ika, tire ration.