O’Brien is Tryin’ to Learn to Talk Hawaiian
by Rennie Cormack and Al Dubin (1916)

Chorus 1:
C . . . |F . . . |C ' . . . | . . . | . . . 
Pat O’ Bri-en, af--ter buy-in’ a ticket for the Sand-wich Isles----
 . |G7 . . . | . . . |C . . . | . . . | . . . | . . . 
His face all full of smiles, and aft--er many-y trials----
C . . . |F . . . |C ' . . . | . . . | . . . 
Pad-dy land-ed, then me-an--dered where the hula maid-en's sway----
Oh, he met a hul--la danc-er down be--side Ha--wai--i Bay--------
(Slow) She won his heart a-----way-------- and I heard the oth----er day--------
Chorus 1: O’--- Bri-en, is try-in’, to learn-- to talk-- Ha-wai-ian to
his Hon-- o-- u---- lu--- Lu---------
He’s sigh-in’, and cry-in’, and all-- the time he’s try--in’
just to say-- “I-- love-- you-- true----”
With his “ar-rah ya-ka hu-la be-gor-rah hick--i du-la”
and his I-----rish-- “ji-- ji-- boo------
Sure, O’ Bri-en, is try-in’, to learn to talk Ha-wai-ian
to his Hon-- o-- lu--- lu-- Lu---------

C . . . |F . . . |C ' . . . | . . . | . . . 
Pad-dy’s yearn-in’ to be learn-in’ to play the uku-le-le too----
 . |G7 . . . | . . . |C . . . | . . . | . . . 
For his Hon-o--- lu- Lu------, like all Ha--wai--ians do------
C . . . |F . . . |C ' . . . | . . . | . . . 
Pad-dy’s danc-er does-n’t an-swer when he starts to talk and shout
For when Pad-dy talks Ha--wai--ian no one knows what it’s a---bout.
(Slow) If his wife on----ly knew-----, he’d be in an I------rish stew------
Chorus 2: O’--- Bri-en, is try-in’, to learn--to talk--Ha-wai-ian to

his Hon-- o-- u---- lu-- Lu------

He’s sigh-in’, and ly-- in’, in I--rish and Ha-wai-ian,

to his wife-- and-- Lu-- Lu--, too-------

While he writes a lot of blar-ney to Ka-tie in Kil- ar-ny,

and she thinks-- that-- he-- is-- true-------

Sure, O’ Bri-en, is try--in’, to learn to talk Ha-wai-ian

to his Hon-- o-- lu--- lu-- Lu------

C . . . | F . . . '| C ' . . . . . .  
Pad-dy likes Ha-wai-ian mu-sic be-cause it’s such a nov--el----ty-------

He thinks the har-mon--y is sweet as it can be.

C . . . | F . . . | C . . . . . .  
If he tries to, he’ll get wise to all the mel-o-dies he’s heard-----,

and he knows some tunes al--read-y but he does-n’t know a word-----

(Slow) Ha-wai-ian’s hard to get---------------- with an l-----rish al----pha----bet--------

Chorus 3: O’--- Bri-en, is try-in’, to learn-- to talk--Ha-wai-ian to

his Hon-- o---- u----- lu---- Lu------

He won Brid-get, Kate and Ma-ry by sing-ing Tip-er-ar--y”

and he’ll win-- his-- Lu-- Lu-- too-------

For O’ Bri-en, is try--in’, to learn to talk Ha-wai-ian

to his Hon-- o-- lu--- lu-- Lu------

San Jose Ukulele Club
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