

## Haku Lei Making – A Hawaiian Crown of Flowers

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A haku lei, or lei po’o is a lei made for the head (haku literally means “to braid”). The tradition of making and giving lei stems from ancient Hawaii, where lei were used for ceremonial purposes, as adornment, and to signify rank).

Nowadays, wearing a haku lei is a symbol of Aloha – it can be worn on special occasions such as graduations, birthdays, wedding anniversaries, honoring, or welcoming a friend.

The Haku lei reminds me of God’s agape love. The beautiful crown of flowers represents people living in a community bonded with unselfish love by being a good example to others.

### Supplies List:

- Flowers, you can use any flowers listed here: Mums, bougainvillea, mini roses, carnation,
- Greeneries: ferns, eucalyptus, baby breaths
- Raffia
- Bowl
- Scissors
- Water

### Instructions:

1. Grab a bowl and fill with water (half full)



2. Grab a few strands of raffia and soak in bowl filled with water. Set bowl aside.



3. Grab more strands of raffia and tie at end (see photo), separate the strands into three sections and start braiding the raffia. Halfway through braiding measure the crown of your head. Once finished with the braiding, tie a knot at the end. Leave about 2 inches on each end of the raffia – the excess raffia can be used to tie the haku.



4. Separate your greens and flowers.



5. Start separating the greens and leave a stem (1 ½ inch) for each green.



6. Separate the flowers and leave a stem (1 ½ inch) to be used when wrapping into the raffia.

7. Grab a string of wet raffia and tie into the braided raffia 5 inches away from the end. Take a leaf or two and wrap around the raffia using the wet raffia tightly. Take a flower and do the same process. Alternate wrapping the greenery, flower, and baby's breath around the braided raffia. When you come across at the end of the wet raffia, grab another one and tie it to the end and continue wrapping the flowers.



8. When you are done wrapping the flowers tie the two ends together and you are finished.  
Enjoy your Haku Lei!

