

# Hawaiian and Jewish Ceremony Outline (30 Minutes)

## **Ceremony Opens**

Procession (Entrance) – This can be designed in many ways. Michaela usually enters before the bride, following the ring bearer and the flower girl.

Michaela opens the ceremony with the conch shell and the Hawaiian chant of love as she takes her place. Once in place, music starts (if music is included), and the bride enters. If this is the first look, Michaela will let the groom know when to turn to see the bride.

Circling – The Bride circles the groom seven times or the bride three times, the groom three times, and then the couple walks together for the final (7<sup>th</sup>) circle.

The Greeting - The Hawaiian word for love is Aloha.

Acknowledgement of the presence of God -We are gathered here today in the sight of God.

Share the understanding of the Chuppah - The Chuppah (pronounced huh-puh) – Share the meaning \_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_ stand under the chuppah. Its covering is a symbol of the future they will build together in married life. It's accessible on all sides, ensuring their life and home will always be wide open and welcoming, filled with acts of love and hospitality to others. (only if you have a chuppah)

Prepare Rings for the Blessing

Ohe Hana Ihu - Ancient Hawaiian Flute - Sweet sound of the flute, a tranquil moment.

Hawaiian Koa Paddle - Used to bless the leis and the couple. Prepare for the journey.

Lei Exchange - In Hawaii, we exchange lei as a symbol of our love. (parents & children can be included here)

The Honi - Exchange of Ha and Mana, Ha

## **BLESSING IS COMPLETE**

The Vows - Repeat after me or prepare your vows.

Declaration of Intent/Consent: The "I Do's"

## The Ring Blessing & Ring Exchange

Kukui Ceremony - Unity Blessing (children can be included here)

Hawaiian Blessing – In Hawaiian and English

Closing Words - By Michaela

### **Proclamation - Closing**

Today, you have exchanged your leis, promises, rings, and love, and mana to each other.

The final act of this ceremony is the shattering of the glass. It's a custom with many interpretations. The fragility of the glass suggests how delicate human relationships are. The glass is broken to protect this marriage with an implied prayer: May your bond of love be as difficult to break as it would be to put back together these pieces of glass.

After \_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_ break the glass, I invite everyone to shout the Hebrew words meaning good luck and congratulations,

The couple stomps on a glass or a light bulb wrapped in a sachet or napkin.

We all shout "Mazel Tov"

### **Yihud**

In a day filled with chaos, the *yihud* — or "seclusion" — is a standout ritual that lets you focus on the day's true purpose: your new partnership. Immediately after the ceremony, the newlyweds retreat to a private spot or room for 15 minutes of personal time. Even 5 minutes if your guests are waiting to take photos. You can also ask that your photographer start family photos, and you'll join them shortly. So, no photos during the yihud.

I recommend the *yichud* because there aren't many opportunities to spend quality time together on a busy wedding day. It's also a chance to get a little something to eat and drink, which is also hard to make happen otherwise. Plan so your wedding coordinator can ensure your solitude and goodies are there for you. If nothing else, a bottle of water would be nice.

## **Sign Marriage License • Signing of the Ketubah**

### **Jewish Elements - The Order of Events - Add any of these to your ceremony.**

- The Chuppah.
- Circling.
- Kiddush and the First Cup of Wine.
- Ring Ceremony.
- The Seven Blessings (Sheva Brachot)
- Breaking of the Glass.
- Yichud.
- Signing of the Ketubah.