



## District Court of New Zealand | Te Kōti-ā-Rohe o Aotearoa Te Ao Mārama Karakia

**Composer/Kaitito:** Heemi Taumaunu et al

**Purpose/Kaupapa:** He Karakia Tīmatanga, Whakakapi rānei (Opening or Closing Chant)

The word “karakia” loosely translates as a ritualistic chant or traditional prayer. The Te Ao Mārama karakia was composed in the form of a traditional chant. It combines traditional karakia and whakatauki (proverbial sayings) with an emphasis on the modern-day justice system. The purpose of this karakia is to collectively focus concentration on the task at hand and it would be appropriate for it to be recited at the beginning and end of a meeting or court sitting. This karakia was composed by the Chief District Court Judge Heemi Taumaunu in a collaborative effort with others involved in the Te Ao Mārama kaupapa.

Wahaia te pae tawhiti	Pursue the distant horizon
Kia whakatata mai ra e	And bring it closer
E ko te pae tata,	As for the near horizon
Whakamaua kia tina!	Secure it and holdfast!
E te waka o te ture	Oh the canoe of the law!
E haere ana koe ki hea?	What is your intended destination?
Haere koe ki tua,	Venture forth and beyond,
Haere koe ki waho	Past the distant horizon
Haere koe ki te rangi e tū nei	Proceed into the present day
Tīhei mauriora ki te whai ao	Behold it is the living world
Tīhei mauri ora ki te ao mārama	Behold it is the world of light
Haumi e, hui e, tāiki e!	We are united in purpose.

Sound clip: [Karakia - YouTube](#)