



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 if the circumstances are right it would be appropriate to recite it at the beginning and end of a meeting. This karakia was composed by Chief District Court Judge Heemi Taumaunu in a collaborative effort with others involved in the Te Ao Mārama kaupapa.

Whaia te pae tawhiti

Pursue the distant horizon

Kia whakatata mai rā 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

Tihei mauri ora ki te whaiao

Behold it is the living world

Tihei mauri ora ki te ao mārama

Behold it is the world of light

Whano, whana, haramai te toki

Proceed and bring forth the adze

Haumi e, hui e, tāiki e!

We are united in purpose.