

## In Praise of the Pikake Lei

By Megan Finley

Megan Finley recently was married on the beach in Maui. She lives in Los Angeles, CA and is a struggling photographer, her husband a struggling sound engineer/shark attack victim and they will soon leave all this struggle behind and move to Maui!

The only flowers we ordered for our wedding were our leis. Aaron wore the traditional maile lei and I wore a pikake lei of several strands of different lengths and I couldn't be happier with my choice.

The pikake is from the jasmine family and is made of tiny white ball-like flowers which emit a sweet & strong fragrance. Hawaiian Princess Kaiulani named the flower "pikake" after the beautiful peacocks who roamed her Waikiki gardens.

I fell in love with the pikake lei when it saw how unique this lei looked on brides, some brides wore them really long, like down to their knees or below, some wore them short around their chest. And some opted for all different lengths like I did. To me, it had a really hippy/bohemian look that I liked. Plus it smelled amazing and they held up all night.

The only problem with these leis is that they're seasonable and not always available so check with your florist to see if they're in season during the time of your wedding and then order like 6 of them because the more you have the cooler it looks!!!