

Nana I Na Loea Hula  
Kumu Hula: Ellen Castillo  
Interviewer: Lovina LePendur  
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*Ellen Ku'uleialohapoina'ole Pukaikapuaokalani Smith Castillo :*

When I decided to teach, I thought part of a name and Puka'ikapuaokalani.

My grandmother's mother who was a kapu dancer, ~~her~~ name was Puka'i and when I went to research about the name I found that the full name

Puka'i'okapuaokalani. I teach in Enchanted Lakes in Kailua. My youngest is <sup>8?</sup> two years-old to 75 -80 years-old. I teach Kahiko and Auana. I teach oli as well. I graduated in 1958 from Aunty Bella, but I taught with her

prior ~~to~~ that--about two years. I started to dance hula around nine years-old. *My first teacher was Aunty Bella Richards from nine years-old.* She used to teach at her home right in her yard. I learned auana with

Bella Richards, I only learned <sup>only</sup> ~~oli~~ basic kahiko like Kawika. I stayed about 15 years with Aunty Bella. Her style was different from others to me

because I went to other workshops and to me her style was different.

Aunty Bella had her moment ~~and~~ for teacher and her mother was into Kahiko. I

left Aunty Bella to branch out on my own. My kahiko comes from Aunty

Lani Kalama, for me I had a little hard time ~~x~~ <sup>to</sup> get acquainted to the

kahiko because I was very much into auana. I took chanting form Aunty

Lani. I also took workshops from George Holokai. I got a certificate from

Aunty Bella. After I already started my teaching she wanted to prove

myself. My first halau was in Kailua in 1959 or 1960. I was on my own. My joy is to see my students performed because when they are rehearsing it is work. But when they finally performed on stage--It is a joy to see the finished product. That makes the beauty of hula. It motivates you.

I had given certificate for being with her but not as teachers. I do plan to point out a student to be teacher. I try to tell my children to strive for their best to get into Hawaiiana the Language. I myself think it is such a great loss to have lost the language. My kupuna did not speak a word of English so we grew up speaking Hawaiian, and today I lost it, so my goal today is to try to bring it back alive. Hula has changes a great deal. But I think there is good and bad in it. It depends of the individual. Kahiko is the dance of old. I do not like ~~snails~~ <sup>smile</sup> in my kahiko--it is straight. <sup>Serious</sup> ~~Senior~~ kahiko is secret, religious compare to auana. I try to compose with a friend M. ahoe about my home--from Waiahole <sup>?</sup>. It speaks about my home in Maui. I love auana. I like kahiko, but for me it seems harder for me to teach kahiko. To me I am also still learning. I teach Tahitian, Maori, and I really got this from Aunty Bella. My master is Aunty Bella. I also look up to 'Iolani Luahine. I love to see workshops on chanting, language, in hula. Language gives you everything.