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When I was 15 years old, my friend Nellie Wong told me she had heard of a lady in Kapahulu who was teaching the hula pahu named Lokalia Montgomery. My yearning to further my knowledge of the hula pahu and olapa and chanting, prompted me to break my piggy bank and take the \$14.00 which was alot of money in those days to Lokalia to pay for my lessons. I then began an education that was and is a very privileged part of my life.

I am especially grateful to my grandmother, Helen Pamaieulu Ha'o Correa, who exposed me to the hula at a very tender age. She also made me aware of the mannerisms of the Hula Kuahu- involving the restrictions and rituals- of the Hula Auwana- having no rituals and restrictions. My formal training began at age 7 years with Tutu Keaka Kanahele for the hula pahu and olapa, and Auntie Gertrude Makini for the hula auwana. I had my first uniki with them. At age 12, I studied with Harriet Kepelino Fernandez and that was a beautiful experience. I graduated with her (uniki) also. At age 15, I began my training and learning with Lokalia. In her dining room many beautiful Hawaiian ladies would gather to talk story, like Kawena Pukui, Malia Kau, Auntie Vicki I'i, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Lucas and many others. The dancing area was separated by a sliding door. One day I decided to be the teacher and started to pa the drum and chant and had the girls' dance. She returned sooner than I expected *There* and what she saw and heard started my training as a Ho'opa'a and chanter besides being a dancer. One night there was a chant I really needed to learn. I sat in my room and beat softly on the floor and chanted. I got carried away and chanted full voice, and my grandmother stood at the door. Up to that night no one in the household knew I was taking and learning the hula pahu. When she heard my story of my bank and Lokalia, my grandmother cried and told me of her father's prophecy. It stated that, though he had allowed his family to embrace Catholicism, and his wife and children had not been a part of his ancestor's culture, especially where the hula was concerned-- one day a descendant of their's would take an interest in the hula. That someone was me. At 16 years, my grandmother met Lokalia and purchased my pahu made by Timothy Montgomery, and which is still active with me today.

With Lokalia, everything was committed to memory. She taught and we listened. Her descriptions and translations were all intune with nature. In perparation for our uniki, Sally Wood Naluai was permitted to sleep at home because she was married. Myself, my cousin Maiki Aiu Lake, and Nellie Hookano Wong and two other girls spent the night with Lokalia. Our lastpractice was held at midnight. Our clothing was made by Lokalia and implements by Timothy Montgomery, her husband. The paina was held in her dining room and the performance in her patio.

I began to teach the hula in 1948, in the Parish hall of Blessed Sacrement Church in Pauoa as a means of adding to our livelihood. My husband, Charles A. Kalama Jr. and I were expecting the first of our eleven children. Through the years I have kept myself involved with the hula, but always my first obligation was to my family and husband. I consider myself a contemporary hula teacher. The word Kumu Hula I apply and reserve for my teachers and their teachers. I am a branch of Keaka Kanahele and Lokalia Montgomery for the hula pahu and alaapapa, and Gertrude Makini and Harriet Kepelino for the hula auwana. I am grateful to many others who shared their knowledge of the hula with me. To my Mama Hoakalei DeFries for her patience. To my language coordinator, Pilahi Paki for this thought that I share with other teachers "Be Creative, Remember and Respect the past but live for Today". The question that is repeatedly asked is "How do we know what is traditional"? To this question I say there would be no today and no tomorrow if there were no yesterdays. Therefore, because there are a few who live today and were taught by the Hula Masters of yesterday, "Have Faith and Belief and an open mind where they are Concerned".

Owau me ha'aha'a

Kaaiikam KEKAUILANI

Owau me ka ha'aha'a
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