

I look at hula in a very traditional way, embracing our Hawaiian culture and our heritage.

I believe that the Kumu Hula of today need to express their creativity in a modern setting. I also believe that they need to remember and respect the past even though they may lack the understanding of Hawaiian thought patterns, because without tradition there is no strong foundation. When a Kumu begins to alter the mele or hula movements, the Kumu begins to lose what was once part of a tradition.

I began hula with Maiki Aiu Lake at age 25 when I was in search of a hula school for my three daughters so that they could learn not only the dance but also a part of their Hawaiian culture as well. This was the beginning of my love affair with hula and an association with Maiki which lasted 23 years.

There was a required discipline to belong to this halau. Maiki had a method of teaching her auana classes called "Descriptive or Interpretive Hula" that had to do with all of these senses...."everything you see, feel, taste, touch, and smell". She knew how to bring hula to life. A few of us were privileged in the early 1960's to learn the hula kahiko which was part of our repertoire for public performances.

I left my teacher in 1970 for a rest, but instead on the urging of a friend found myself with Hoakalei Kamau'u's halau. This would be of short term for Hoakalei told me two years later that I had to return to assist my teacher with the graduate 'Olapa/Ho'opa'a of 1972 who needed an additional year of training

to be completed as Kumu Hula. In the 60's no one questioned the kumu hula, you just obeyed and did as you were told. I returned in 1973 and remained with Maiki until her passing in 1984. I was told by my kumu to be a sponge and to absorb all that she had to share - which included among other things respect of elders, attitude, programming, costuming, and the weaving of leis.

I became her first kokua kumu in 1973 after receiving my status as kumu. During this interim I learned the three rituals for hula 'uniki: the Hu'elepo, the Midnight, and the 'Ailolo Ceremonies. I have performed these rituals for my students respectively as they graduated from 1985 through 1994.

I teach hula in my home in Kane'ohe, the site chosen by my kumu hula. My mission in hula has been accomplished and I have fulfilled the promise I made to Maiki on June 13, 1984, a few days before her passing, that I would open my school and pass on her tradition and mannerisms to include the rituals of 'uniki.

I believe that, the Hula Kahiko is the only way to reflect on our kupuna and that the "Hula Renaissance" we are still experiencing is a rediscovery of those deep roots.

"Without traditional ways we have no foundation for the hula kahiko...therefore a Kumu must work hard at preserving what was handed down from one generation to another".

KA HUAKA`I O KAMA

paukū`ekahi

O hānau ka honua, a mole ka honua.
O kolokolo ke a`a, ka weli o ka honua.
O lani weli ka honua, o lani`i`i.
O holo pū ka mole, o`u`ina ke a`a.
O hale ka pou lewa ka honua.
O pali nu`u ka honua, ākea ka honua,
O honua kū, o honua nolo ka honua,
O honua lewa, o honua pa`a ka honua,
Ka honua i lalo, i lalo nu`u ka honua.
O honua a Kea, nā Kea ka honua.
O honua a Papa, nā Papa ka honua.
`O ia ho`i, `o ka honua, hānanu ka honua.
O hānau ka moku a kupu,
A lau, a loa, a a`a, a mu`o, a liko.
Ka moku iā luna o Hawai`i.
`O Hawai`i nei nō ka moku.
He pūlewa ka`ālna, he naka Hawai`i,
E lewa wale ana nō i ka lani lewa,
Hanou mai e Wākea, pā hano ia.
Malie`ikea ka moku me ka honua,
Pa`a`ia lewa lani i ka lima`ākau o Wākea,
Pa`a Hawai`i, la`a Hawai`i, `ikea he moku.
O hānau ke ao, o hiki a`e.
O`ohi a`e ke ao, o hiki a`e.
O mokupawa ke ao, o hiki a`e.
O aka`ula ke ao, o hiki a`e.
O moakaka ke ao māla`e.
O memele ka`ōpua he la`i.
O`opua nui, uli ka`ōpua hiwahiwa,
O hiwahiwa ka`ōpua lani`ele,
`Ele`ele ka lani huhulu weo,
Lani`eka`eka hā`ele`ele,
Hākona, hākuma, hākumakuma,
`O ke ao nui mau he`e ua kāia.
E ho`owiliwili ana e hānau,
`O la ho`i, `o ke ao, hānau ke ao.

paukū`elua

O ke au ka pō, o ke au lipolipo,
O ka lipo, o ka lipolipo
Huli ka lani, huli ka honua.
`O Hoakalei ka hōkū, ka hōkū mā`ama`ama.
`O Hoakalei ke kukui,
Ke kukui mālamalama o kakahiaka.
Na wai lā kēia lehua?
`O ke ali`i `o Kalokohanahou.
I hānau nō Kaimū ma Puna,
I ka nalu kapu kai o Pele,
I ke one uli, i ke one uli loa.
`O Punahale i`ōla`a ka ēwe.
`O ke keiki pō lani kēia a`ohu i hānau`ia.
Ho`i`ia me ka`apapane i ke one.
I ke one o Kākuhihewa ma Kalokohanahou.
E kanu ana `o Kahakū i ka`apapane
A e pe`e ana i ka`ohu mai ka lani la.
`O ka lehua a kupu,
A lau, a loa, a a`a, a mu`o, a liko.
E ola neil

paukū`ekolu

Mai ka pi`ina lā i Ha`eha`e
A i ka mole pa`a o Lehua
Kū ka lehua i ka`ohu
I ka pae pōhaku.
O ke kahua hale hou.
Mai huli i kama`āina nō.
Na`u i kanu i ka māla hou.
Ke`ala onaona i ka`u maile
I ka malu kukui me ka liko lehua.
Na`u kēia, nāu kēnā, nā lākou kēlā.

paukū`ehā

Kū mākou ka lei pōki`i.
O ua ao nō weo i ka māla
A`ea`e lā ka mu`o lau lani
Ho`oulu i ka lani ola ka honua.
Ku kahala`i Kalokohanahou.
A kupu, a lau, a mu`o, a liko a mōhala.
Kaluhea ka maile nā lei o Kama.
Ka lehua lāua me ke kukui i luna lā ē.
Lū ka hua i ka makani Lei`ohu.
Ua kāuna a ka`au maila
Mehe laua a mano lā.
Lewa i uka a lewa i kai
No ka mole o ka lehua.
Ua`ike a ua noa.

paukū`elima

Kū ka lehua iki, Kū ka lehua nui
Kū ka lehua loa, Kū ka lehua poko
Kū Kūkahuehauaika`ohu, kūl
Kū ka no`eau iki, Kū ka no`eau nui
Kū ka no`eau loa, Kū ka no`eau poko
Kū Halau Hula Ka No`eau, kūl
Kū ka ua noe iki, Kū ka ua noe nui
Kū ka ua noe loa, Kū ka ua noe poko
Kū Uluwehikalikolehuaeikauano, kūl
Kū ka malu iki, Kū ka malu nui
Kū ka malu loa, Kū ka malu poko
Kū Kamaluolehua, kūl
Kū ka mamō iki, Kū ka mamō nui
Kū ka mamō loa, Kū ka mamō poko
Kū Kamamolikolehua, kūl
Kū ka`iu iki, Kū ka`iu nui
Kū ka`iu loa, Kū ka`iu poko
Kū Kalehuakiekieika`iu, kūl
Kū ke ala iki, Kū ke ala nui
Kū ke ala loa, Kū ke ala poko
Kū Kealalehua, Kūl
Kū ka`apapane iki, Kū ka`apapane nui
Kū ka`apapane loa, Kū ka`apapane poko
Kū Kalehua`apapaneoka`au, kūl
Kū pualei iki, Kū pualei nui
Kū pualei loa, Kū pualei poko