

Teaching the hula allowed me to take another alternative that let me spend more time with my children. This along with several people in the community telling me to start teaching the hula because we needed a good hula teacher out here.

When I want to go study with Auntie Maiki the farthest thing from my mind was that I would become a hula teacher. When Auntie Maiki opened up her hula classes I went into it because I wanted to learn hula kahiko. I later found out that the class was to train kumu. I didn't know that that's what everyone was there for.

Hula kahiko is the ancient style of dancing. It is not done to musical instruments. I think in the last five years hula kahiko has really enjoyed a gigantic surge. I think the interest in it remain strong but it will level off. There are so many people that are interested in it now. There are a lot of people who are almost living it. They haven't gone back to the old practices of learning the hula and living in the hula but the hula has become a big part of a lot of people's lives. A lot of daily philosophy can be taken from the hula.



I think the hula awareness will become much more serious. I think it will become more structured and hopefully the shows in Waikiki will become more authentic. Hopefully they won't cater to only commercial needs & the impulse to make everything so flamboyant.

I think the greatest sacrifice is the family. I try to get my children involved with what I'm doing.

Whether the sacrifice has been worth it is a tough question. The reason the family is sacrificed is that the halau members become part of the family. Whenever personal problems arise I have to give time to everyone, even if they are not my immediate family. I think it's worth it because when I explain the situation to my kids they can understand it and I think it makes them better people. The reward you get from the students ~~make~~ is the benefit.

I think the greatest service I give is to offer a place for people, mostly women, to come to as an outlet from their families and their regular lives.

Hula gives the Hawaiian people a sense of belonging.



I think it's best to keep an open mind. Don't put down someone because you think you know it all. You have to keep an open mind about people who want to be in hula, about people who want to be in hula, about other hula, about diff. styles. Not to be closed. So many times I hear other people putting down another style. In the hula there are so many different styles of dancing, so many lines of knowledge who's to say what is right or wrong, we don't know. I don't think there was ever one style, I don't think there was ever one right or wrong.

The greatest change in the hula has been the respect it has from the community now. There are more people studying the hula today.

The style of dancing has changed because there are so many of us that don't speak the language and don't understand the poetry.

So rather than the word becoming important it is now the emotion of the dance. Today people are only interested & caught up in the emotion of the dance. I don't look upon this as negative. It's just a shift that has happened.