

Adeline lee

My dad taught me that you can be raised in the Western ^{the} style but still remain a Hawaiian. My father Thomas Maunapu Lee ~~was~~ ^{one to} ~~then~~ educated all of us in the Hawaiian way of living. I come from a family of 13 and we would accompany my father as he traveled throughout the community lecturing on the Haw'n Culture. I don't think I had any other recreation. I just knew that we had to accompany my father on his trips.

My father was a very strong Catholic so when it came time for school we were sent to Catholic private schools. In class we were told never to speak Hawaiian but when we arrived home the Hawaiian language was spoken fluently and constantly.

We were taught to sing and play instruments and we began to learn hula from our ohana. My first kumu was my aunt Mrs. Baker. Family members would come and train us share with us any knowledge and training they had and that is how we were taught.

There would be Hawi'a Culture classes that were rotated around neighborhood schools like the old Lihaliho School & Liliuokalani School and my father made us attend all of these classes.

~~My father had accompanied Dr Kenneth Emory to Mevii~~ My father ~~saw~~ knew that he was only one man so he tried to use his children to carry on the knowledge of the culture. At that time I didn't appreciate the discipline in my life. I never knew what it meant to have friends because I was always conversing with adults. Today I am so grateful that he didn't let us run wild. You need to have discipline in your personal life and that is the price a real kumu hula has to pay.

The best thing about my life today is that I am able to pass on my knowledge to an alaka'i. The knowledge & tradition of the culture was given to me only to give out. How will people learn about and respect the culture if no one tells them about it? The responsibility of the kumu hula becomes then to choose someone who will be faithful to what is being passed down.