



## EDITH KANAKA'OLE FOUNDATION

*Liko ka liko i ka ua.*

March 16, 1995

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Our hula tradition comes from our maternal grandmother. Mary Ahiena Kanaele Fujii, was born in the early 1880's, her birth was special because she was taken to Kaipalaoa for her piko to be cut, then she was taken to Puna to be raised in a cave. At three she went to stay with her kumu Kaholowaa in Makuu along with her two cousins they lived hula kapu until uniki. She was given at birth so that her rank would not be that of an aipuupuu, a kitchen slave in the ruling family's house. Hanai'd by her granduncles Keleko and Kapeliela who were well known laau lapaau and laau kahea. Tutu Mary's was placed with the kapu uha, her loins were not to be soiled for any reason. Uniki came in five years but the kapu was for a life time. Her teaching was subliminal, when she was asleep her kumu would come into her dream and teach her the hula. In the morning she would dance all that she was taught in her dream. This kind of grooming prepared her for the household of Queen Emma and her relatives. She continued to teach and learn from other masters. She married at fifteen had thirteen children from Kanaele. All her children were either raised by her granduncles or hanai. She continued to teach hula and dance by this time she was closely associated with Akoni Mika. She traveled with Akoni to Lalani Village and Bishop museum. This was about my mother's time. Mom started hula at six there was people like Napua Stevens and the





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the Beamer girls in her papa hula. A term was given to the type of hula she was in, hula auwana this where there is still a kuahu and they did go thru kuhi puaa and ailolo. They did have a sacred pa'u for the ailolo event but they were not tied to the kapu of the kuahu. When it was our turn Tutu Fujii as everyone liked to call her was still teaching but the halau was taken over by my oldest female first cousin Mary Keahilihau. Cousin took the older students and Tutu took the new students. My grandmother taught with the puili in hand ready to hili the hand feet or kikala. And that was the fond memories. When I first started Tutu would bring in the older women students to massage our legs arms fingers and the killer step on our uha's. We were taught how to care for bruises and sprains. About this time my cousin moved to the mainland so it was decided that my mom would take care of the halau.

So mahalo for asking cause I could go on..One thing I do know and that is I'm fortunate to know both my grandmothers, they were both opposites but one thing was common they both refuse to speak English.

Aloha

*Nezumi*

*Please pass on to Courtney, I am so sorry this is late but I rewrote what you sent and I think it answers all the questions*

