

Bella Richards

My mother ~~had~~ was the most important influence on me because she was family. But Auntie Edith ^{mother, Mary,} gave me a lot. She was a very short woman. I learned a lot at 14 because you got a licking if you forgot anything. There was no such thing as child abuse back then. There was limbering ^{up} exercises when I trained. We would ~~lie~~ ^{put} on the floor and the kumu would stand on our legs. I tell my students if ~~to~~ A could take it then, they can take it now. We also had to stand in the doorway with our hand outstretched and ami to the floor. This was all to make our bodies flexible enough to dance the way our kumu expected us to dance. Outside of my mother she is

The kumu I am most fond of. What I remember most about my teaching career is that the Hawaiians didn't write things down when I explained it to them on the board. In my time we were trained to remember everything. Today's Hawaiians carry on that tradition but without the disciplined training that we were given.