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Kuahu is not an image, term or understanding I was consciously born into. The development of kuahu for me has been a long term process and will continue. With the introduction to the practices and genealogy that are now my hula life, at my current maturity, hula for me can only exist with our kuahu present.

To begin with the kuahu is to know that it is a nurtured understanding, a relationship that will build and mature over time, much like our forests. It is not stagnant. It is evolving, always reminding me that we are creatures of infinite potential and an ever changing ability to reach a place of new awareness.

Kuahu is the functioning basis of my hula training. It is a portal and a reminder of the environmental kinship ever present in my life. The physical manifestation and reconstruction of the external environment inside hālau is a representation of the internal process of balance within myself. This process does not begin and end in hālau, it is a way of life, of thinking, acting and responding. Being able to understand and share this relationship is a form of leadership that has never been clearly defined and explained but it is a journey that will continue and flourish.

Breaching a general understanding of the kuahu requires being open to the process and to the growth that will occur. An awareness of our environment and my own self-awareness was a point of inspiration to enter into a heightened experience of hula. With my intentional commitment to the process I also made the conscious acknowledgement that the environment and I are intimately connected. A connection rounded out at the end of each day with a reminder that this connection is always directed with a larger purpose as we are of the same celestial stardust that brought life to not only to our ancestors, but all ancestors of the environment we live in.

All this connectivity is at a loss if the presence of my experiences and training do not hold a flame of passion or meaning, a perspective of function and kinship beyond awareness. It comes back to the my personal, internal connections that make sense and the foundations that have been built to withstand the time, trials, and sacrifice required for growth. These connections need to function independently of a group but at the same time be strengthened by a group's consciousness. Just as the forest is grown from strong individual plants each with a function and the capability of adaptation, so too do our relationships develop within hula and our own personal connections to the kuahu.

Hula under the guidance of kuahu is a reflection of function, connection, and an active participation of life in the environment we live. An intrinsic dependency on the environment is at the core of our existence. This relationship does not end in dependency but can expand to a coexistence and at the pinnacle of its development will form a functioning relationship.

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Hula as a transformative process: Glimpses into Unuolehua

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