

**TRANSCRIPT: Puluolo Naipo Park  
Oral History Interview - August 8, 2004**

<b>Ke ‘Ano Wikiō</b> (Type)	Oral History Interview
<b>Nā Helu Wikiō</b> (Tape #s)	HPS 0380 (pg. 2), HPS 0381 (pg. 29)
<b>Lā</b> (Date)	August 8, 2004
<b>Wahi</b> (Location)	Hau‘ula, Ko‘olauloa, O‘ahu
<b>Kanaka Nīnauele</b> (Interviewer(s))	Maile Loo
<b>Kanaka Ho‘opa‘a Mo‘olelo</b> (Videographer)	Gene Kois
<b>Nā hoa kipa</b> (Others present)	Pumehana Park



<p><b>Nā Loina Ho‘ohana</b> (Access &amp; Use)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>This Transcript is provided as a research tool; Each document represents one (1) multi-hour session</i></li> <li>➤ <i>HPS does not include Hawaiian diacritical markings in peoples’ names, mele titles, or commercial names/locations that do not historically use them (i.e. Halekulani Hotel)</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Information in brackets reflect physical movement, background sounds, censored content, clarifications, colloquialisms, and "sic" terms (words likely intended by the speaker)</i></li> <li>➤ <i>DISCLAIMER: Please be advised that this transcript may contain content of a mature nature that may not be suitable for youth</i></li> <li>➤ <i>When citing this resource, please use: “Hula Preservation Society”</i></li> <li>➤ <i>For questions regarding use of content contained herein, please contact <a href="mailto:archive@hulapreservation.org">archive@hulapreservation.org</a> or call (808) 247-9440</i></li> <li>➤ <i>We acknowledge there may still be corrections needed. If you find items of question (content, spelling, etc.), please take note and kindly contact us at <a href="mailto:archive@hulapreservation.org">archive@hulapreservation.org</a> We appreciate your kōkua!</i></li> </ul>
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**PULUELO NAIPO PARK**

**Tape #: HPS 0380 (MV513)**

**Date: August 8, 2004**

**Location: Hau'ula, Ko'olauloa, O'ahu**

**Subject: Oral History Interview**

**Interviewer(s): Maile Loo**

**Videographer: Gene Kois**

**Also present: Pumehana Park (daughter)**

[GENERAL CONVERSATION]

(01:25)

ML: So, Auntie; I started asking around about the—the recording. So, I got a email back uh, about—with some ideas of where to look for ... yeah. Basically, KCCN, they thought might have it in their archives, 'cause it's Hawaiian music. So, Harry B. Soria would probably be the person, yeah? And um ... also, uh, DeSoto Brown over at Bishop Museum, they said is knowledgeable about recordings.

PNP: Oh, that's good.

ML: Hawaiian recordings. So ... we'll see what we can find. [CHUCKLE] That would be so neat.

PNP: Did you get to—what is that...that person's name-- I'm trying to think of...he has an ar-archives store.

ML: Oh, at Bishop Museum? Or which archive?

PNP: Uh, I think ... he's right on the road-road, on the corner of Kohala. [INDISTINCT] you're going over into Kohala. I—I forgot his name.

ML: He's—he's in Kohala?

PNP: He's on the road.

ML: On the road. Hm ... did we talk about him before? I'm not sure who you're talking about. He has a store, you said?

PNP: Yes ... he has uh ... sort of an archives.

ML: Archives.

PNP: Kohala uh ... Kohala something.

ML: His—the—the archive name is Kohala? Okay.

PNP: It's right on the corner, before you go up to Hawi.

ML: Oh.

PNP: I mean, before you go up to ... uh, the ... main Kohala.

ML: Okay.

PNP: I forgot what his name was.

GENE KOIS: I think she did mention that last time.

ML: Okay.

GENE KOIS: The store; yeah.

ML: Okay.

PNP: And the wife looks haole.

ML: Okay.

PNP: He is like me. He is very much Hawaiian.

ML: Mm; okay. So ... okay; we'll see what we can find out. We're still ...

PNP: Yeah. Because he might have ...

ML: Yeah.

PNP: --quite a lot of info.

ML: Uh-huh. Okay.

PNP: The wife claims he did too, but I don't know.

ML: Okay.

PNP: Small haole thing.

ML: Okay. Well, we'll keep you posted.

PNP: Yeah.

ML: [CHUCKLE] See what we can come up with.

PNP: Okay.

ML: [CHUCKLE] So, I got the um, notes back from our last talk, and we just left off on this exciting story about your being a crane operator. [CHUCKLE] Your dad seeing you—or not knowing it was you; right? [CHUCKLE]

PNP: And-and they went in those days, Shop 02 were noted to be a top crane operators.

*(05:00)*

ML: Oh.

PNP: So, when ... uh, they got me on the five-ton first, I was going back and forth, but then I got bored. And I told my foreman, I called Ray Tehune [PHONETIC] and I said, Meet me down at the floor. He said, Okay, so he met me. He said, What is it? I'm getting bored.

ML: [CHUCKLE]

PNP: This crane operator take too long. I want to go over ... thirty-ton. He said, You cannot drive that, Yes, I can; try me.

ML: [CHUCKLE]

PNP: So, he put me up. Okay. Are you okay? So I went up there. [CHUCKLE] [COUGHING] And ... the top boss was Ellis. He was the top boss. So, I told him, I don't mind-mind. My— Ray Tehune, I'm gonna show that Mr. Ellis I can do it. He said, Don't be a show-off. I said, I'm not a show-off. [TELEPHONE RINGS] Okay. So, I go up there on the thirty-ton. I started picking up slabs for to load um, the um ... uh, the boats. And the way I was bringing it in, like nobody's business.

ML: [CHUCKLE]

PNP: All the people kept looking; Look, it's a woman who's driving that just like a man. And I finished that slab. And then, they called my father. You gotta come see this, this girl. So, he came, he watched, and he said, Who is she? We don't know who she is. But watch how she drive. He was amazed. When they finally [TELEPHONE RINGS] called me down, when I came down, I saw my father, I was so scared.

ML: [CHUCKLE] Scared?

PNP: I was scared.

ML: Oh; you were scared. Okay.

PNP: I thought he was gonna beat me. 'Cause those days, they beat their daughters. But I came down, and he said, It's you! What are you doing, driving that crane? [CHUCKLE]

ML: [CHUCKLE]

PNP: He said, Oh ... once a crane operator, always a crane operator.

ML: [CHUCKLE] So, he didn't mind? [CHUCKLE]

PNP: He scolded me when I got home. You look like a doggone man driving 'em.

ML: [CHUCKLE] Was he still working at Dillingham at that time? [CLEARS THROAT] Was he still working at Dillingham? Hm. This was during the war; right? How long did you stay in that job, then?

PNP: I don't know.

ML: Mm.

PNP: I quit right after that, because I was scared of him.

ML: Mm.

PNP: But I stayed ... three months, then I quit.

ML: Mm.

PNP: And then, I um ... went to work at the shop.

ML: Which shop is that?

PNP: Shop 11.

ML: Oh. That's still at Pearl Harbor?

PNP: Yeah. And I worked over there for... until I'm sick of the shop. Then I didn't want to work no more. I quit and went to work for administration. And then, I quit there. You see how I jumped around?

ML: [CHUCKLE] What did you do after that?

PNP: I went back to uh, business college.

*(10:00)*

ML: Oh. 'Cause you—this was after high school, but before you got married.

PNP: Yeah.

ML: Mm. So, were you still living with your mom and dad?

PNP: I was living with ... Sula Taylor. Her family took care of me.

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ML: Did you ever hear about other things in the family, or in Kohala that were unusual like that?

PNP: No; only the ones I'm telling you.

ML: What did that mean? Like, what was it a sign of, or ...

PNP: I think it's a sign of ... our family omen. I think so.

ML: You mean, so it's something bad--

PNP: No.

ML: --Or good?

PNP: It's good and bad.

ML: Hm. Hm.

PNP: Yeah. Uh, it was a learning experience for me. 'Til today, I sometimes I lie back and think about it. And find out that so much my children are missing.

ML: M-hm.

*(15:00)*

PNP: That I can—I want to tell them.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: But I got to leave it up to you.

ML: M-hm. We'll be here for them. Yeah.

PNP: Thank you.

ML: Oh, no; thank you.

PNP: And I'm sure they would like to hear it.

ML: Yeah. They will; they'll come. Don't worry. Was it something, you know, these stories, was it ... because you folks from ali'i family? Was that how it was viewed? Or ...

PNP: Well, yes and no. Because we were ali'i's, they found every little thing about ... the ali'i's. And uh ... Mama used to always tell us that uh, we have to accept ... uh, what the ali'i's hold for us. You see, we're all not perfect, even Kamehameha wasn't.

ML: Mm.

PNP: He was ... he was terrible too. And we have to accept it.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: So, whenever we talk about Kamehameha ... you gotta think about it, yeah ...

ML: M-hm; mm.

PNP: We don't want to keep it in our ...too much, although I talk about my legend.

ML: What's that, Auntie? Try that one again.

PNP: I talk about him.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: At Kamehameha statue. I'm one of the royal family that spoke. And ... but can't help it, I gotta let the people know who I am.

ML: M-hm. And that's from the Naipo side; yeah? The Kamehameha connection.

PNP: Yeah.

ML: I was re—rereading some of the things we talked about and—before. Not the last time, but couple years ago, about how your dad was um, a young boy when he went with his dad, when the Queen was overthrown.

PNP: Oh, yeah. That was so s—you know he hated haole's until he died, you know. Because he's heard the Queen was overthrown. He was downstairs playing. But when he heard that, he cried and cried. And he told us the story. And I shared that with the kūpuna's.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: Yeah.

ML: So, he grew up with a lot of anger about that.

PNP: Yeah, very much. He hated haole's.

ML: Mm.

PNP: You have no right to hate people. Don't tell me; I don't ever want you folks to want haole's. I don't listen to this modern age now. We can't go back in the wild.

ML: Mm. So, you mentioned a number of times about your dad being—like hitting you and things like that. Was that common for other families, or do you feel that it was just your father had so much ... anger? What ...

PNP: Um—

ML: How do you see that now, when you look back? [CLEARS THROAT]

PNP: He wasn't uh, a just man. He's always looking for—you know, I find the Hawaiians, they love to live in common marriages. And whenever he did, I'd run to my mama. Because she was German. She wouldn't—she wouldn't let him do anything to me. So, she would beat him. My mama was a big lady, big German. She wouldn't let him touch us.

ML: Mm.

PNP: So, with Hawaiian style—

ML: M-hm.

PNP: If you—you let your husband, some Hawaiians let their husband go ahead, and that's common law.

ML: Mm.

PNP: Not my mom.

ML: Did she ever—or did your parents ever move back to Kohala when—after you folks were ... the kids were grown? Did they ever go back ... move back home?

(20:00)

PNP: Only me.

ML: Mm.

PNP: I went to see my grandfather.

ML: Mm.

PNP: And that's how I got to see the home. Right after that nobody cared.

ML: Mm.

PNP: Now, I don't know where my—my grandfather's Kuhio bed is at. I know my cousins ran away with it some place in the mainland.

ML: Mm.

PNP: [COUGHING]

ML: Wow. Oh; maybe we can get the water.

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ML: We'll get the water, Auntie. It should be ready now.

[GENERAL CONVERSATION]

PNP: Anyway; where were we?

ML: Oh, just talking about you going back to Kohala, seeing your grandfather's house. [CLEARS THROAT]

PNP: [INDISTINCT] I'm sad. The house is gone forever.

ML: This was the one that you would see your Tutu McDougal in the yard?

PNP: I miss her.

ML: Mm.

PNP: She's gone for good.

ML: Mm.

PNP: I—I can only see her beautiful hair, and she's dancing in the hula. Dancing the hula in the yard. I miss that.

ML: Mm.

PNP: I'll always remember her.

ML: Mm.

PNP: You know, memoirs.

ML: M-hm. When you were um ... growing up, you had a number of different teachers before Lokalia was your—

PNP: Oh, yeah.

ML: --your final one. But was it during that time, was it um ... the thing for a hula, young hula girl to have long black hair, like it seems to be now? It was like that too?

PNP: Yeah.

ML: So, did you wear your hair long when ...

PNP: Only 'til here.

ML: Hm?

PNP: Because it wouldn't grow.

ML: Oh.

PNP: I think I used to brush my hair to make me ... have long hair. But hard. [TELEPHONE RINGS]

ML: Yeah. [CHUCKLE] Mm. So—but for—for um, kids who were taking hula, they—that was the image—

PNP: Oh, yeah.

ML: Mm.

PNP: Long beautiful black hair.

[COUGHING]

PNP: And I—I wanted to have long black hair.

ML: M-hm. Hm.

PNP: Like yours.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: Long.

ML: Mm; just curious. 'Cause sometimes, we—I wonder if it's kind of a tourist thing, you know, that—to have the—

PNP: It could be.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: 'Cause those days, all long hair.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: Girls were ... were um, supposed to be hula dancer.

ML: 'Cause in the old pictures, the old drawings, you don't always—they don't always have long hair, you know, in the—

PNP: Short hair.

ML: From the 1800s; yeah. So, I was just curious, 'cause it's sort of an image. But I didn't know if ... you—what your thoughts were when you were younger.

PNP: Well, you know, truthfully, I was born with long black hair. And my hair fell... by pneumonia.

ML: Oh.

PNP: And when the pneumonia break out in plague ...

ML: Mm.

PNP: I lost everything. I was bald-headed 'til eleven years old.

ML: Wow. So, this was while you were in—still in Kohala, then? You were little?

PNP: No, no, no.

ML: Oh, you were here.

PNP: I—I came here at eleven.

ML: Oh.

PNP: And I was bald-headed.

*(25:00)*

ML: Oh, my gosh. Wow. So, how long before your hair came back? [CLEARS THROAT]

PNP: I think it was 1930-30, when President Roosevelt came. That's when I—

ML: I don't know.

PNP: --first saw the President.

ML: Oh. [CHUCKLE]

PNP: And Leilani Alama was the one who went to greet him.

ML: Oh, wow. So, you were there as a hula—for hula performance, or you were just there—

PNP: No, I was—

ML: --to watch?

PNP: To watch.

ML: Oh.

PNP: 'Cause my auntie was kumu hula.

ML: Oh; which auntie?

PNP: Naipo.

ML: Oh ...

PNP: She was married to ... what was his name ... uh ... her son used to play in a Hawaiian band.

ML: Mm.

PNP: Keao; Keao. I can't think of the name. She died, and her son was Apela. Apela was a hula dancer. People used to call him māhū.

ML: Oh.

PNP: Was the only son, she had as a dancer.

ML: Oh. So, how come you didn't take hula from her, if she was your auntie?

PNP: Well, because she was only training my cousin Apela.

ML: Mm.

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Did you have much family on O'ahu after you came here, from Kohala? Did you have a lot of family that came over? Mm. On your dad's side?

PNP: And my—

ML: And your mom.

PNP: --mom.

ML: Mm; mm. So, it wasn't just you folks coming over; you had family.

PNP: Hapa-Chinese.

ML: Hm?

PNP: They were hapa-Chinese.

ML: Oh. Hm.

PNP: Yeah. And that's where our Chinese come from.

ML: M-m. Hm.

PNP: I—I ... I remember those things.

ML: I didn't know um, [CLEARS THROAT] that Els—Elzadia was—is that your niece, then? Yeah. I went—she's my classmate from high school.

PNP: Oh.

ML: Yeah; Kana called me up yesterday and—

PNP: Oh, he did.

ML: --and all these connections, you know. [CHUCKLE]

PNP: I told him to be here.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: He said, I'll try, Auntie.

ML: Okay.

PNP: 'Cause he went home late last night.

ML: Oh, okay.

PNP: They were here.

ML: Oh ... so—

PNP: Lot of fun.

ML: Yeah; sounded like it when I called. [CHUCKLE] Sounded like a party going on over here. [CHUCKLE] So, we didn't really ever talk about—much about your brothers and sisters. And you had eight kids in your ... in your family? And I've only met, I think, one of them, your young—young sister, Leinaala.

PNP: Oh, yeah.

ML: I think she's the only one I met.

PNP: Keala died.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: My oldest brother died.

ML: What was his name?

PNP: Lopaka.

ML: Mm.

PNP: Uh ... my uh ... uh, how many did you say; eight?

ML: Yeah; I think so. That's what I had in my notes.

PNP: Okay; you're right. Um ... Lopaka, Keala um ... their children is still live.

ML: Oh. You were the oldest?

PNP: The oldest.

ML: Of all of them.

PNP: Of the girls.

ML: Oh, of the girls. Okay; so Lopaka was the oldest ...

PNP: Of the boys.

ML: Of the boys.

PNP: And uh ... uh, Keala was the youngest.

ML: Youngest ... girl? Boy? Keala?

**(30:00)**

PNP: Girl; she was the youngest ...

ML: Mm.

PNP: --of the eight.

ML: Oh.

PNP: Oh, no; Leinaala is.

ML: Oh, oh; okay.

PNP: Leinaala is still living.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: And then uh ... did I give you any more?

ML: Um, no; we have only four so far. You and Lopaka, Keala, and Leinaala.

PNP: Um ... yeah; I think that's all.

ML: There's ...

PNP: How many?

ML: How—there were three of you born in Kohala; right?

PNP: Yes.

ML: So, you, Lopaka, and who's the other one that was born in Kohala?

PNP: Keala.

ML: Oh, Keala; okay. And then, there were more that came when you moved to O'ahu?

PNP: Right.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: Leinaala, Kahulanui. He's a kahu.

ML: Oh.

PNP: For the Ekalesia Church in Kāne'ohe.

ML: Oh ...

PNP: And his wife, Eliza. Oh, I'm sorry; his wife ... they—they came to ... to sing for me last week.

ML: Oh; that's nice.

PNP: And he anointed me.

ML: Mm.

PNP: And he has a nice picture too.

ML: Oh.

PNP: Yeah; Ekalesia in Kāne‘ohe.

ML: Mm.

PNP: And ...

ML: Which is the one that um ... that um ... um ... had the recording of you? You said that brother—

PNP: Eliza--

ML: --died; yeah?

PNP: --The one that died.

ML: What was his name?

PNP: His name is Lopaka.

ML: Oh; that was Lopaka. And he’s the one married to Eliza. Okay.

PNP: She won’t give me his tape.

ML: Yeah; yeah. And they’re on the mainland, huh, you said?

PNP: Yes.

ML: Mm.

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PNP: So ... if you ever go to the mainland, you want to know, check on Haunani. Haunani is my niece.

ML: Okay.

PNP: And she married Samoan. So, I don’t know his name.

ML: Oh.

PNP: But she’s the only one I can ... trust that you might be ...

ML: Sh—

PNP: --be able to get info. Or the youngest, which is Pikini. We call her Pikini.

ML: Okay. There was a name you mentioned last time um, Makaiwa? Makaiwi?

PNP: Oh, that's the in-law. Makaiwi.

ML: Oh, Makaiwa. Okay.

PNP: No; iwi.

ML: Oh, iwi. Okay.

PNP: Those are the ... uh, ex ...

ML: Oh, okay.

PNP: They're not—they're not related to us.

ML: Oh, okay. Um, Pumehana just said Kathy's here, and she wanted to pray with you for a minute and give you the Eucharist.

PNP: Okay.

ML: Is that okay, we take a break so Kathy can come—

PNP: Okay.

ML: --sit with you? Okay.

[GENERAL CONVERSATION]

ML: So, let's see. We left off with you were um, living with Sue Lynn Taylor. Is that the right name? When you were ... after high school. Taylor?

PNP: Um ...

ML: Did I get that right?

PNP: Um ... her mother.

ML: Her mother?

PNP: Her mother was ... a kahuna—

ML: Oh.

PNP: --for the uh ... Kunawai Lane.

ML: For what?

PNP: Her mother—

ML: M-hm.

*(35:00)*

PNP: --was a kahuna for Kunawai Lane.

ML: Oh.

PNP: That's up in uh, Liliha Street.

ML: Okay.

PNP: And then, I didn't know that ... then came one night, where all the Hawaiians came up there. With spears, fire. And there was a Japanese uh, teahouse there. Well, we lived ... she and I lived in her mother's ... home. And her name was Sula...Taylor. And I asked her ... Is this your mother's home? She said, Yeah. She welcomed to me and my sister. My sister live in the back and I live in the front. The home was her sister. Sister is attractive, fair. But Sula is real Hawaiian. There was a difference—

ML: Hm.

PNP: --of the sisters. So, I questioned her; How come your sister so white and you're so Hawaiian looking? I don't know. My father and mother adopted me when I was a baby from the Maunakea family, who became very interesting. I said, Oh, I know a Maunakea. She said, Well, that's my real mother. I said, Oh.

ML: Hm.

PNP: So, I called my mom ... ask her who the Maunakea's were.

ML: Hm.

PNP: And she told me. Can I have some more water?

ML: Oh; sure.

[GENERAL CONVERSATION]

ML: So she—that's why she looked so different than her sister, 'cause she was hānai. Oh.

PNP: By the Taylors.

ML: Oh ...

PNP: But Mrs. Taylor ... she was like the witch of Kunawai Lane.

ML: So what did you see when you were there?

PNP: Well, the people told me don't look at her, she's always in the window.

ML: Mm.

PNP: And she look ghastly. I didn't see her; I wouldn't look at the window. I was too scared. A few years later, she died. But I really never got to ... focus on her. I was always afraid. Well, that auntie that I'm talking to you about ... lived right across of where Sula and I lived.

ML: Oh.

PNP: Right across [INDISTINCT].

ML: Hm.

PNP: This house to the next house. Well, then she called Sula over one day. And she asked, Who is that with you? She said, You know what? She's your niece. She said, What are you talking about, my niece? Do you know a Eva Mersburgh? She said, Yeah. Isn't she your cousin? She said, Yeah, that's my cousin. Well, that's her daughter. So, she wanted to see me. She's one of the Lindseys.

ML: Wow.

PNP: Very fair. And she was married to ... some Chinese guy Dim Tok [PHONETIC] or something.

ML: Mm.

PNP: I didn't know him.

ML: Hm.

(40:00)

PNP: Your mama came over. [TELEPHONE RINGS] And I asked her ... she said, Yeah, that's my cousin.

ML: Mm.

PNP: And that's when she introduced me to her.

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ML: How many children did you folks have by then? All eight, or ...

PNP: No, three.

ML: Only the three? The Kohala ones? Oh; gosh.

oooooooo

ML: M-hm. So he [Puluelo's father] stayed there for a long time? Mm. Did he play music much um, when he was working?

PNP: He was a singer.

ML: Did he play at night?

PNP: I think I said he sang with George Kainapau, uh, Reverend Keala. They were all singers.

ML: Mm.

PNP: And Lena Machado.

ML: Wow.

PNP: They opened the first Kress Store Downtown Honolulu.

ML: [CHUCKLE] You were telling us after you—um, he saw you on the crane, that you quit doing that job and went into other jobs. But you eventually went back to school; you went to Honolulu Business College. [TELEPHONE RINGS] And then—and then from there is when you—after you—you got married and went into hula. [TELEPHONE RINGS] Oh.

PNP: I-I [INDISTINCT] right after hula. Lokalia uh, Katie Nakaula, my aunt was the first kumu hula.

ML: Mm.

PNP: And the second was Lokalia.

ML: Hm. Um, your—Pumehana was just telling us that your dad's um ... middle name was Kahulanui. So, do you know anything—any background on that name? Like—

*(45:00)*

PNP: Famous dancer. He was.

ML: Your father?

PNP: He was a famous dancer. I'm—I'm talking about any kinda dance.

ML: Oh.

PNP: Not only hula. But he was also a famous ... a very knowledgeable entertainer.

ML: Hm. So, was—he was born with that name? Or was he given ...

PNP: Given.

ML: So, after he—when he got older, and they saw his talent?

PNP: Then he named his uh ... his second son Kahulanui.

ML: Mm.

PNP: That's the one that's a kahu today.

ML: Oh ... okay.

PNP: [CLEARS THROAT]

ML: That's a neat name. [CHUCKLE]

PNP: Great dancer.

ML: Yeah. Hm. Let's see; where did we ... did we miss anything as far as your um ... years after—or during the—oh, I know what I wanted to ask you. During the war, some um, what ... how did things change for you as far as the way you had to live? I mean, there was a—there was a curfew, right, for the people, and ... black curtains on windows before—can you talk about how things changed?

PNP: That was during wartime. Um ... they would—uh, we had to close our lights. And we go around flashlights, blackened flash. And I used to be naughty. Instead of going home after school ... go fool around Downtown. And then I find out I missed the bus. Then I have to run to the police station. Please take me home. Please take me home. Where'd you come from? I missed the bus. How come you missed the bus? I don't know. You was playing. I think so. Crying, I'm scared. But those days, I didn't trust policemen. They fool around all the girls. Terrible. And I begged them; Please take me home. I was so scared of them. They try, you know, they try with young girls. I used to run and hide in the bushes. What a life I went through.

ML: [CHUCKLE] So, that was like young Hawai'i boys, or military that was ...

PNP: They were Hawaiian.

ML: Oh.

PNP: Policemens. Period.

ML: You mean that you were—you were afraid of the policemen? Oh; I thought you were talking about the boys. Oh. Hm.

PNP: The policemen those days were ... they try to rape every girl they can.

ML: Mm.

PNP: And I was so young. [COUGHING]

ML: Mm.

[COUGHING CONTINUES]

ML: You want some more water? No; okay. Hm.

PNP: But you know, I always [INDISTINCT] I brought my girls up, and I tell them about all these ... unkind things. And I always tell them, You watch yourself. Never let a man take you for a ride.

ML: Mm.

PNP: Do things to you. Because remember, there is God, and He loves you, believe in Him and you trust—and you trust in Him. I always teach my girls the religious side of the Lord.

ML: Mm.

PNP: And right down to my grandchildren. They're special to me.

ML: M-hm. Mm.

PNP: The thing is I'm okay.

*(50:00)*

ML: M-hm. They probably couldn't believe all the things that you had to live through, growing up. Mm.

PNP: I didn't realize how ... how rotten some—some men can be. So, I always warned my girls. They might look handsome to you, they might look good. But they're only after one thing, and you have to believe it. Oh, Grandma. I said, I'm letting you know, you're so special to Grandma. I can't let anything happen to you. I'll teach you what is right and wrong out there. And they're grateful for it.

ML: Did you—did you have much um, contact with your grandparents after you moved from Kohala? Did they ever come down to see you or—

PNP: Only Tutu Man.

ML: Oh; Mersburgh? Oh.

PNP: Yeah; my grandmother already passed away.

ML: Oh. Hm.

PNP: Yeah.

ML: What about on your dad's side?

PNP: They all died.

ML: Mm. I remember you talk—telling me about how your dad spoke different kinds of Hawaiian um, dialect.

PNP: Four different kind.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: So sharp, that guy. People used to call on him to get the Hawaiian language. Only trouble is, I—I ... kinda disappointed in him. 'Cause he didn't share with Bishop Museum.

ML: Mm.

PNP: But the reason for that is, that they didn't even want to give him a penny for it. Papa, that's our—you know, that's our tongue, our native tongue. Ah, never mind; they only trying to make money out of me.

ML: [CHUCKLE]

PNP: Go with Pukui. No.

ML: Mm.

PNP: Stubborn man.

ML: Mm.

PNP: That's my father.

ML: Mm. That side, he was—your dad was pure Hawaiian? Mm. So, Naipo is—there's no markings on that ... name? Is it na-ipo, or is it ...

PNP: Na-ipo.

ML: Na-ipo; okay. Mm.

PNP: He doesn't like it, but ... Pukui said there is a 'okina there.

ML: Oh, before the ipo?

PNP: Uh-huh; there is an 'okina—

ML: M-hm.

PNP: --before the ipo.

ML: Oh; so, what does it mean, then, with the 'okina? Hm.

PNP: I guess it meant something.

ML: Yeah. Uncle George is Naope, with the 'okina.

PNP: With the 'okina; yeah.

ML: Yeah. Na-ipo.

PNP: But he did mention that Uncle George Naope is a relation to him.

ML: Oh ...

PNP: He mentioned that the father ... an—and—and ... my dad are first cousins.

ML: Mm.

PNP: I didn't know that.

ML: Hm. Wow.

PNP: Yeah.

ML: His father's name was Harry, right?

PNP: Who?

ML: Harry Naope; Uncle George's—

PNP: I don't know.

ML: --father. Yeah.

PNP: That, my—my father knows.

ML: Oh, wow.

PNP: He said that they were ... family.

ML: Oh. 'Cause he mentioned to us that his um ... his uh ... family was—were ladies-in-waiting when the Queen would come to the Big Island from uh, Ho'okena—no, was it Ho'okena? Uh, maybe Ho'okena.

PNP: Kona; not Kona?

ML: No; was down the other side. Yeah. Oh.

PNP: And that's funny, because my grand-auntie ... was ... was the Queen's lady-in-waiting.

ML: M-hm; mm. Wow.

PNP: And uh, we're connected, somehow.

*(55:00)*

ML: When you were in Kohala those years, did you ever witness an ali'i coming to Kohala?

PNP: Oh, yeah; when I was a young girl. They dressed me royally.

ML: Hm.

PNP: 'Cause I was with the Royal House. And whenever they said, The Queen coming, the Queen coming over or the prince, Prince Kuhio, all the mothers rush us in the house, bathe us quickly, dress us up, and then we standing by the door, greeting them.

ML: Wow.

PNP: Yeah.

ML: Do you remember who it was?

PNP: Prince Kuhio, I remember—

PUMEHANA: Kuhio.

ML: Oh; oh, Kuhio. Okay.

PNP: I remember him. And I remember Queen Liliuokalani coming one time, that I witnessed her.

ML: Mm.

PNP: And she was a grand lady. Really grand.

ML: Hm.

PNP: I used to look at my mama from the side eye. She went make sshh with me.

ML: [CHUCKLE] She doesn't want you to do anything. [CHUCKLE]

PNP: She make sure no ssshhh.

UTT

ML: Where would they stay when they would come to Kohala?

PNP: They have their own rooms.

UTT

PNP: My grandfather had such a beautiful home. So, they all had rooms. All glassed. Glass ... bedroom. Rich, rich, rich.

ML: [CHUCKLE]

PNP: They take off their emerald gowns. Oh, I used to go touch it.

ML: [CHUCKLE] So, your—was—how did your grandfather ... become wealthy, the Mersburgh?

PNP: The Bells were.

ML: Oh, so it was from marriage? Oh, okay. I thought maybe he had ... been a businessman or something. Oh.

PNP: He's from Germany.

ML: From marriage. Oh.

PNP: My mom—my grandmother was ... the wealthy one.

ML: Mm.

PNP: The Bells.

ML: Oh. Hm.

[GENERAL CONVERSATION]

[END]

**PULUELO NAIPO PARK**

**Tape #: HPS 0381 (MV514)**

**Date: August 8, 2004**

**Location: Hau'ula, Ko'olauloa, O'ahu**

**Subject: Oral History Interview**

**Interviewer(s): Maile Loo**

**Videographer: Gene Kois**

**Also present: Pumehana Park (daughter)**

[GENERAL CONVERSATION]

*(00:44)*

PNP: Drive me up the wall.

ML: [CHUCKLE]

PNP: He gets up so early. Then he talk, talk, talk, talk.

ML: [CHUCKLE]

PNP: Why are you talking so much?

ML: [CHUCKLE]

PNP: Ah, these kids. I said, No, leave them alone, let them sleep.

ML: [CHUCKLE]

PNP: Gee, we wake 'em up all the hours of the night.

ML: [CHUCKLE]

PNP: And then you get up ... you wake 'em up more early.

ML: [CHUCKLE]

PNP: Poor things.

ML: [CHUCKLE]

PNP: You know, I ...

ML: [CHUCKLE]

PNP: I feel sorry for them.

ML: Yeah. [CHUCKLE] He has his—he has mi—his mind made up. Hopefully, we can convince him to wait a little while on the ... drilling.

PNP: He can wait.

ML: [CHUCKLE] Okay. [CLEARS THROAT] [CHUCKLE]

GENE KOIS: We're all set.

ML: We're okay?

GENE KOIS: Yup.

ML: Okay. [CHUCKLE] Aah ... um ... you were talking with us about when you recorded th—your song the last time, and y—you were called Alice at the time; Alice Naipo. So ... what—uh, when you were in Kohala, what'd you go by Puluelo? Was it—did that change because you went to O'ahu, came to O'ahu, or ... why did you use your English name?

PNP: I was always called Puluelo by the family back home and over here. Never was I called Alice.

ML: Mm.

PNP: Until I went in school. Then they started calling me—I couldn't even answer, because ... I wondered who they were calling. [CHUCKLE] Crazy.

ML: So, did they make you use your English name?

PNP: St. Anthony.

UTT

ML: Did—what did you feel about that?

PNP: I didn't like it, 'cause I was used to Puuelo at home and school. Went to Catholic; calling me Alice. Who the heck they calling?

ML: [CHUCKLE]

PNP: I'm waving. I'm waving. Is somebody calling me?

ML: [CHUCKLE]

PNP: Is your name Alice? No.

ML: [CHUCKLE]

PNP: Yeah, I think your name is Alice. [INDISTINCT]

ML: [CHUCKLE]

PNP: Was hard for me then- pick up a different name.

ML: Who wa—was somebody named Alice in your family? Is that why you got that name?

PNP: My grandmother.

ML: Mm. So, was it—I'm trying to—I'm wondering what it was like for you as a Hawaiian coming to ... a different place, you know, like O'ahu. I mean, did you feel ... there was any discrimination against you, or ... prejudice that you ... experienced?

PNP: I just didn't like the name.

ML: Mm.

PNP: I thought, Why were they calling me Alice? Then I asked my mom. She said, Just use the name. No need worry. I go, What an ugly name, whose name is that? It's your grandma's name. My grandma's?

*(05:00)*

What grandma? Her name was Alice Bell.

ML: Hm.

PNP: And then that's how I found out about my grandma.

ML: Mm.

cf

PNP: Crazy; huh?

ML: [CHUCKLE]

PNP: And then, when I met your auntie [sic mother], I said, Oh, she get a haole name too, Nona Beamer.

ML: [CHUCKLE]

PNP: Real crazy. I went home, told my mama, Do you know a Nona Beamer? She said, I know the Beamers from Hilo. I said, Oh ... well, this one is Nona Beamer. And I was going on, talking about Johnny Lum Ho. How I went to the competition, and how he s—swore a bad word to your mom.

ML: Hm.

PNP: I said, That damn Pākē, he got no respect.

ML: [CHUCKLE]

PNP: And my mama said, You stay out of it. I said, No, I felt like punching his darn face.

ML: [CHUCKLE]

PNP: How dare he talk to a teacher that way. She said, You just stay out of it, you troublemaker.

ML: [CHUCKLE]

PNP: Uh-huh.

ML: [CHUCKLE]

PNP: My mom, she's always trying to ...

ML: [CHUCKLE]

PNP: --listen to me, but she gets so upset.

ML: [CHUCKLE]

PNP: 'Cause I used to be one fighter, always ... fighting around the corners. [CHUCKLE]

ML: [CHUCKLE] You had a lot of spunk in you. [CHUCKLE] You still do. [CHUCKLE] So, you didn't have any kind of um, bad um, sort of experiences with people who looked down on you because you were Hawaiian, or ... we've heard—we've heard stories about—from that time, and ... just wondering if you had to go through any of that.

PNP: [INDISTINCT] the events I told you about.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: I have to ... sometimes think.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: Doesn't always—

ML: M-hm.

PNP: [COUGHING] Doesn't always come to me.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: But when it does, it does.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: Then I think about it.

ML: Yeah; okay. Mm. It seems like it was a difficult time in many ways to be Hawaiian, or—you know, and you were involved in hula and things, you know. So ...

PNP: Yeah. And I really loved being in hula.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: I worked so hard on it.

ML: Mm.

PNP: And I believe if I got out of this bed, I would still be working hard at it.

ML: Mm; m-hm.

PNP: That was my love and my joy.

ML: M-hm. Auntie, you mentioned a few weeks ago, you and Auntie Joanie had some plans.

PNP: Yes.

ML: Can you tell us about that?

PNP: Try, try for a concert.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: Yeah; I was hoping she would be able to help me, talk with the Kumu. And-and run-we run a draft production. See what we can come up with. They had my hālau, her hālau ... my kumu hula's hālau.

ML: And yet the idea was to honor your kumu?

PNP: Honor all our kumu's.

ML: Mm.

PNP: And let them know who they are. I—I thought that was ... the best thing I could leave back. Yeah.

ML: Were you the last one that Auntie Lokalia graduated officially, or ... no?

PNP: I think it was um ... what's her name, Linda Dela Cruz.

ML: Oh.

PNP: I think.

ML: Mm. But you and Auntie Joanie were around the same time? Did she take private also?

PNP: Yes.

ML: Hm.

*(10:00)*

PNP: I went to her uh, 'ūniki.

ML: Mm. Were you done already? Or still studying?

PNP: No; I was still studying.

ML: Mm.

PNP: 'Cause Lokalia wanted me to see what she ... what she did.

ML: Mm, mm, mm.

PNP: Very interesting.

ML: Where was that held?

PNP: In Kalihi. Uh ... or was it uh ... um ... La Hula, La Hula Rhumba. That was long time ago.

ML: Mm.

PNP: This place called La Hula Rhumba. So, I think I saw her first 'ūniki, Lokalia and I went.

ML: Mm.

PNP: So cute. She had all her little babies.

ML: Mm.

PNP: And I enjoyed it.

ML: Mm. Um ... Auntie Joanie has Kohala roots too, right?

PNP: Yeah.

ML: Did—

PNP: Yeah, the Lindseys.

ML: And did you know her ... up in Kohala? Or just from hula?

PNP: No; no. Uh ... I knew her when she was in hula, but not that well, you know. But when I heard the name Lindsey, I go, Oh, that's my family. So I kinda look at her a long time. Then I went to her auntie's hālau, Caroline. And that's how I found ...

ML: Mm.

PNP: --that we were 'ohana.

ML: Yeah. Hm.

PNP: Small world.

ML: Yeah. [CHUCKLE] So, you folks were thinking of gathering all the kumu that came from Auntie Lokalia.

PNP: Yeah.

ML: That are around now.

PNP: Around us.

ML: And just doing a tribute—

PNP: A tribute—

ML: --to her.

PNP: --to her.

ML: Oh.

PNP: With your help.

ML: Oh, yeah; yeah. That's why we just want to find out what your—what you folks want to do. That's why ... we were gonna talk about it today with her here, you know. But when—she hopefully can come the next time. Yeah. 'Cause she was so disappointed.

PNP: [INDISTINCT]

ML: Yeah.

PNP: I understand.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: But we will put that together.

ML: Yeah; yeah. So, we just want to find out what we can do.

PNP: I told her, I said, Get Maile.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: Since she's been working with me.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: And we'll all work together.

ML: Oh, yeah.

PNP: Make this a big production.

ML: Good; good.

PNP: Yeah. Wouldn't that be fun?

ML: Oh, yeah; be really nice. What kind of things—I mean, from your kumu, do you have pictures of you with her, or um ... things that belonged to her? Do you have things that she gave you?

PNP: I have—I have all kinds, from my kumu. Uh ... [PERSON 1]; you remember [PERSON 1]?

ML: M-hm.

PNP: The uncle. He gave me a temple drum.

ML: Oh.

PNP: And uh, I have many memoirs from different kumu's. So, I'd like to put that on stage.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: That would be beautiful.

ML: So, these are all things that um ... belonged to her, that you've been given over the years from other people? Where is your temple drum right now?

PNP: It's in school.

ML: Okay; at Kainalu?

PNP: I told my sons ... if they can, pick up all my ... Hawaiiana things.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: Take it over Leimomi's.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: And uh, have Leimomi go through it ...

ML: M-hm.

PNP: Distribute it. Uh ... and then get Pumehana to go in there and—because Pumehana studied with me.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: From beginning, so she knows everything.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: I told her, you go look through Mama's things and set it all up, the ones that need to repair. Will be this fireman ... forgot his name. Al, or something.

*(15:00)*

He's gonna repair all the ... the ipu's and whatnot. He does a good job.

ML: Oh, good.

PNP: In fact, he did my uh ... my kalua pig for ... the 'ūniki.

ML: Mm.

PNP: He's willing to do it.

ML: Okay.

PNP: You folks can call on him too.

ML: Yeah. So, Auntie Joanie knows him?

PNP: Yes; I introduced her.

ML: Okay. Okay. There was a nice article about Leimomi. Did you see it in the Windward paper?

PNP: Oh, yeah.

ML: You saw that? Yeah.

PNP: Leimomi—wait, wait. No.

ML: No? It came out last week? Oh, no, I was gone last week; the week before in the MidWeek. Just like the article about Hula Preservation Society. You know, the Windward ... section. There was a nice article about Leimomi and her hālau.

PNP: Oh, really?

ML: Yeah. Uh, I should have brought it. I—I thought you might have had it already. But I'll—I'll bring it for you.

PNP: Oh—

ML: Yeah.

PNP: --I would like to see it.

ML: It's nice; has her picture and talks about what her philosophy is with the hālau, and how to join, and things like that.

PNP: Oh, that's nice.

ML: Yeah.

PNP: She's going along pretty good.

ML: I think so; yeah. It's in Kāne'ohē. I think it was Aneka Road; something like that. Yeah. Okay; I'll give—I'll bring it the next time.

PNP: Okay.

ML: Yeah. It was a nice article.

PNP: Oh—

ML: Yeah.

PNP: --I'm happy.

ML: It mentions you, of course. [CHUCKLE]

PNP: Of course.

ML: Of course. [CHUCKLE] Oh.

PNP: Well, thank you for sharing.

ML: Oh, no; no problem. Yeah. Um ... I wonder if—you know, you mentioned Pumehana being, you know, with you. And you—she's one of your—your 'ūniki graduates. Do you think we might have her sit with you, and we could talk to both of you?

PNP: Sure.

ML: You think she might do that? I don't know where she went, but ...

PNP: [INDISTINCT]

ML: [CHUCKLE]

FEMALE: Pumehana?

ML: Yeah.

FEMALE: Yeah.

ML: 'Cause we never had a chance to ...

PNP: Sit—

ML: --kinda sit with the both of you. Yeah.

[INDISTINCT CONVERSATION/LAUGHTER]

ML: She said she gets stage fright. Do you buy that one? [CHUCKLE]

PUMEHANA: You better prep me, what am I talking about? [CHUCKLE]

ML: Well, she just—we've been talking about um ... uh, well, her time with her kumu. And then, she was talking about you being with—you know—

PUMEHANA: Uh-huh.

ML: --one of her—well, her only child that she 'ūniki'd, and being with her from the beginning.

PUMEHANA: No; Puamana is 'ūniki too.

ML: Oh. Oh, okay. Well, you're here. [CHUCKLE] So—

PUMEHANA: Can you come back on Wednesday? No. [CHUCKLE]

ML: Do you mind? If sit, and we can talk story about that a little bit?

PUMEHANA: What are you gonna ask me, first?

ML: I don't know.

PUMEHANA: [CHUCKLE] So I can think.

ML: We just going talk. [CHUCKLE] There's no wrong answers.

PUMEHANA: 'Cause I usually go blank. [CHUCKLE]

ML: Oh, no, no. You guys make a good team. [CHUCKLE] You can help each other. [CHUCKLE]

PUMEHANA: Hi, Mommy, how we doing? You all right? Okay.

PNP: [INDISTINCT]

PUMEHANA: I'll sit here. [CHUCKLE]

[GENERAL CONVERSATION]

ML: How long has she been away?

PNP: Three years.

ML: Wow. That's a long time.

PNP: Yeah. But she make good money.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: And the money don't mean anything to her.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: She says, Your health is more important.

ML: M-hm.

PNP: So ...

ML: So, tomorrow is the big day. Good.

PNP: Tomorrow is a big day.

ML: Right. [CHUCKLE]

PNP: What's today?

ML: Monday; the twel—

PNP: Oh.

ML: No, what is today; the 9<sup>th</sup>?

PUMEHANA: Okay; five minutes.

ML: Five minutes? [CHUCKLE] Five minutes? [CHUCKLE] We can't possibly cover anything in five minutes.  
[CHUCKLE]

[GENERAL CONVERSATION]

(20:00)

ML: So, we're talking hula, of course.

PUMEHANA: You can come right here.

ML: [CHUCKLE]

PUMEHANA: [CHUCKLE]

ML: I don't have a mic on. [CHUCKLE] We have a lot on camera.

PUMEHANA: Okay.

ML: I don't have a mic. No. [CHUCKLE] So, I just wanted to know like, when you started with—with your mom. How old were you, what do you remember?

PUMEHANA: How old was I? Was I two? Probably two. And it was here; that was my first lesson, downstairs. And uh ... she—she kinda positioned my hands, you know, through the hula motion. I can't do the motion, 'cause I have this in my hand. But anyway, um, and she told me to—to make my fingers brush against the thumb, and out. So, I did this. So, she said, No, not spider fingers. She said, Very graceful, and then brush your fingers against your—your thumb, and out. So, it took me ... ten—ten, fifteen years to get that right. [CHUCKLE] But that was my first lesson. I remember that.

ML: Wow.

PUMEHANA: Yeah.

ML: Was it just you, or your sisters and—

PUMEHANA: It was just me. Uh, all I remember is just me and Mom. I think it was nap time.

ML: [CHUCKLE]

PUMEHANA: Yeah; she made me do that to make me go to sleep; right?

ML: [CHUCKLE]

PUMEHANA: Yeah. But that was my first lesson.

ML: Mm.

PUMEHANA: And then we all—my sisters and I, and even my brothers grew up, 'cause she—she would make us come to hula, and—and do all the—the keiki hula dances. Like ... Puka Puka Pants, and Ala Moana Annie, and uh, Pupu Hinuhinu. And ... um, That's the Hawaiian In Me, Red Opu. I can just go right down the line.

ML: [CHUCKLE] Keep going.

PUMEHANA: Yeah; yeah.

ML: [CHUCKLE]

PUMEHANA: On, and on, and on. In fact, um, when she was teaching us, at that time, you didn't write anything down. Yeah; so we n—I don't have notebooks from that. I think when I started to go high school, and then they enforced taking notes and all this. That's when we started to actually document stuff, you know. And—but before that, everything you just had to retain it in memory. So, a lot of songs, you know, when—when different musicians ask for, Do you know the words for this? It comes from here. I can just write the whole—all the words down. You know, it might be one word off or two, but ... but pretty much, that's how it was. And that's how she learned too. So, a lot of her um, teachings is—is from memory.

ML: M-hm.

PUMEHANA: Yeah.

ML: 'Cause you weren't allowed to write or—

PUMEHANA: Yeah; they weren't allowed.

ML: --use tape recorders.

PUMEHANA: Some—some teachers didn't allow that. So, they had to remember it. Some teachers did. Like I think Lokalia ... yeah, had her write down several things, like the motions, the meaning, and stuff. So, she has a few records of that. But most of the time, there was no ... no written instruction. Yeah.

ML: So, you were—

[GENERAL CONVERSATION]

ML: Um ... what was I gonna ask? Oh. 'Cause you were—so, you were the younger of the kids, so—

PUMEHANA: Uh-huh.

ML: So you—

PUMEHANA: Youngest daughter.

ML: Yeah. So, you um ... growing up, you must have seen a lot of hula, then, at home?

PUMEHANA: Um, yeah, pretty—

ML: Because of your—

PUMEHANA: --much. 'Cause all of us danced hula. Uh, except for Russell, the fisherman. I don't think I ever seen him dance. Maybe once. Yeah.

ML: [CHUCKLE]

PUMEHANA: But—but the rest of wa—was involved in hula, uh, boys as well as girls. And I think—um, I think during the ... the high school years, then everybody kinda, you know, went their own little ways, sports, or what have you. But I pretty much stayed with the hula, 'cause I enjoyed it. And then, I went—I attended Kamehameha, which you know, was more reinforcement in ... hula and Hawaiian studies. So ...

ML: M-hm.

PUMEHANA: --yeah; I pretty much stayed with it. And then, I got the privilege to also learn different dances. In fact, your mom was there at the time, and she shared a lot of things with us. And uh, Leinaala Kalama Heine, um, I got a chance to dance with her in Song Contest, and Bobby Cazimero. So, yeah. So, I had a wide variety of little teachers here and there.

ML: Mm.

PUMEHANA: Yeah; not—not studying under them, solely them, but able to be open to different styles of dance too.  
Which was—

ML: Yeah.

PUMEHANA: --really nice for me. Yeah.

ML: Oh. So, when—when you—what do you remember about seeing your mom dance when you were a kid?

(25:00)

PUMEHANA: Oh, let's see. Actually, she'd usually be behind the pahu. But [CLAPS], get on the floor, do this, do that. You know. But the song that I remember her dancing was Ka Pua Ka Ilima. That was one of her favorite songs that she liked to dance. Um ... and some of the—the—the naughty hulas. You know, she'd dance those. Like uh ... Papalina Lahilahi, and ... and some of those. Yeah. But most of the time, she'd be instructing us and telling us how to dance.

ML: Like you had your own little hālau with the family; yeah?

PUMEHANA: Yeah; yeah.

ML: With so many kids—

PUMEHANA: And then—and then—

ML: --you can—

PUMEHANA: --it extended to many other students coming in and out. And in turn, they became like family to us, too.  
Yeah; yeah.

ML: So, you grew up here at this house?

PUMEHANA: Grew up here, then we moved to Kailua because it was closer to all of the work and schools and everything. So um, that's when Mom began her hula studio in Kailua.

ML: Mm.

PUMEHANA: Yeah. Um, official studio—

ML: And that was at—

PUMEHANA: --yeah; at Kailua.

ML: --the house?

PUMEHANA: Yes.

ML: 'Cause I think—

PUMEHANA: Within the home.

ML: --we met with her a couple of—

PUMEHANA: Yeah.

ML: --times at the house.

PUMEHANA: Yeah.

ML: Yeah.

PUMEHANA: That was it. Yeah; that was the first studio; yeah.

ML: Oh, neat.

PUMEHANA: Yeah.

ML: Hm. So, what did you think about all this as a kid growing up, surrounded by hula, and your mom being a kumu?

PUMEHANA: It was like everyday life. You know. And those that didn't want to participate eventually in the hula got to go to the other end of the house to watch TV, and do their own thing. Yeah. So, the hālau was like separate, uh, separate area. But that's—that was Mom's favorite place to be.

ML: [CHUCKLE]

PUMEHANA: Yeah; in—in the hālau.

ML: Oh ...

PUMEHANA: Yeah. It was her—her one main desire, was hula.

ML: Yeah.

PUMEHANA: Yeah. Family was important, but hula was really important too, so ... yeah.

ML: 'Cause, I mean, she's talked with us over the years about how she really pushed to become kumu for you folks.

PUMEHANA: M-hm.

ML: You know, so she could teach you and—

PUMEHANA: Uh-huh.

ML: --and just have ... yeah, have that grounding.

PUMEHANA: Yeah. Actually, um, her and Auntie Lani, Kekauilani Kalama, which they're like bosom pa—buddies, pals, and ... they love to escape together without her telling her fam—their families, right, where they went. The two kīhelei's going all over the place. But they um ... before I was—I graduated from high school, then I went to uh, Windward Community College and to University of Hawaii, and then I got my BA in uh, Hawaiian Studies. So, after that, uh, I fulfilled my dad's desire of graduating from college, so then um, I was getting married, right? So, her—uh, my mom and Auntie Kekauilani talked about, Oh, we gotta graduate her, we gotta graduate her before she gets married, so she can have the Park name. So, they both um, put me under this like, strict, you know—

ML: [CHUCKLE]

PUMEHANA: --program. Okay; you gotta learn this, this, this, this, this. So, it was like, I don't know how many numbers I had to learn in—in a short period of time. Was only like two months.

PNP: [COUGHING]

PUMEHANA: Although I had learned like the core, you know, dances that I needed to learn to become a teacher, but they both graduated me. We went to Kaua'i, to Hā'ena, yeah, and had my private ceremony with them. And um, after that, then we came back to Honolulu and had a public ceremony.

ML: Mm.

PUMEHANA: Yeah; at Castle High School auditorium.

PNP: [COUGHING]

PUMEHANA: I think was 1984 or '85. Something like that; yeah.

ML: Wow.

PUMEHANA: Yeah.

ML: So, that was—'cause we went to—to Kē'ē with her two years ago.

PUMEHANA: Uh-huh.

ML: With Malia and Leimomi too.

PUMEHANA: Right.

ML: But it was just you—

PUMEHANA: Uh-huh.

ML: --that time.

PUMEHANA: Yeah.

ML: Wow. And other—

PUMEHANA: Yeah.

ML: --members of the hālau, or just you and your mom and Auntie Lani?

PUMEHANA: I think it was just us. Was Auntie Lani, Mom, myself ... and Pua um, Pua Wong, Kahiliopua Wong.  
Yeah. Yeah.

ML: Wow.

PUMEHANA: Yeah; so that was special for me. Yeah. And I was the first graduating student from her. Then came ... I think Puamana next, and then later ... I don't know if it was Auntie—was it Auntie Leinaala next, Ma?

ML: Who's this?

PUMEHANA: No; was Alexis? Alexis, then Auntie Leinaala. Then Malia and Leimomi. Yeah.

ML: Wow.

PUMEHANA: Yeah.

ML: Hm. So you're the very first. [CHUCKLE]

PUMEHANA: I think so. [CHUCKLE] Not—not by choice.

ML: [CHUCKLE]

PUMEHANA: They chose that. [CHUCKLE]

ML: Well, that's how—

PUMEHANA: Yeah.

ML: --it works; right?

PUMEHANA: Yeah. [CHUCKLE] Yeah. So, I guess I'm sort of the kahu for—for all the—the new teachers. Yeah. So, I told her that too, that although I'm not actively teaching because of my job now, yeah, I said, I'd be there for them, you know, whatever they needed help with, 'cause I still—even though I haven't practiced it, you know, actively, it's still retained.

(30:00)

ML: M-hm.

PUMEHANA: Yeah. Yeah; so ...

ML: Yeah. I—I remember your part in Leimomi and Malia's. I mean, or—

PUMEHANA: Yeah.

ML: --and all the things surrounding that, it was—you were just—

PUMEHANA: Yeah.

ML: --right there and... overseeing ...

PUMEHANA: And Mom likes to put me to the test. Okay; next week. What? [CHUCKLE]

ML: [CHUCKLE]

PUMEHANA: So, I have to pull out my computer real quick. [CHUCKLE] Yeah.

ML: She knows you're up for it. [CHUCKLE]

PUMEHANA: [CHUCKLE]

ML: She trained you well, right?

PUMEHANA: Yeah; she's—yeah, she's testing me. [CHUCKLE]

ML: Ah ... that's her job, right? [CHUCKLE]

PUMEHANA: Yeah. [CHUCKLE]

ML: Oh, neat. So, what was your hō'ike like, then, at Castle, you said?

PUMEHANA: Yeah; it was at Castle High School. Um, we had all the hālau there, all the different age groups. And that's what's special, I guess, about Mom's. She had—she was one of the first, I think, that didn't just teach one certain age group. It was from the kūpuna, to the mākua, then the young adults, teenagers, and the babies. She just—she works well with any group. Yeah. Age group.

ML: So, that wasn't something you saw in other hālau? That was ...

PUMEHANA: At the time—well, Mom was, I think, one of the first that—that started with all age groups. They—usually, it was just like one age group; yeah?

ML: Hm.

PUMEHANA: You'd see, like the adults, yeah.

ML: Hm.

PUMEHANA: And then, I think eventually, hālau kinda picked that up and went with different age groups. Yeah.

ML: Oh.

PUMEHANA: But I—I remember that Mom was like one of the first to actually teach everyone.

ML: Hm.

PUMEHANA: Yeah. Yeah.

ML: And this was through the Kailua ... house, the studio—

PUMEHANA: Uh-huh.

ML: --in Kailua?

PUMEHANA: Uh-huh; in Kailua. Yeah.

ML: Hm.

PUMEHANA: And then, eventually, she got into the kūpuna program.

ML: Right.

PUMEHANA: Yeah. Yeah; but she's also teach um, different songs for church too.

ML: Wow.

PUMEHANA: Yeah; for performances there. But um ... back to the—the hō'ike at Castle. Um, yeah, it was all of the students, we had, I think, guest artists too, like um, Marlene Sai and Jerry Santos, Haunani Apoliona, Jay Larrin. Um, Bobby Cazimero and Wayne Chang came also, 'cause they—

ML: Wow.

PUMEHANA: --were a part of my high school hula years. Yeah.

ML: Oh, neat.

PUMEHANA: Yeah; so it was—it was really nice, and had a lot of special guests Mom invited too.

ML: M-hm.

PUMEHANA: Yeah; at that time.

ML: Wow.

PUMEHANA: Yeah.

ML: And y—that was what year, again?

PUMEHANA: I think it was '84.

ML: Okay.

PUMEHANA: Yeah; 'cause I got married '85, so about '84.

ML: Mm.

PUMEHANA: Yeah.

ML: Wow. That's twenty years ago. [CHUCKLE]

PUMEHANA: Oh, gosh.

ML: [CHUCKLE]

PUMEHANA: How old would that make me? No.

ML: It doesn't matter.[CHUCKLE]

PUMEHANA: [CHUCKLE] Yeah.

ML: So, what was your first performance you remember doing with your mom as a kid?

PUMEHANA: As a child. Well, I don't recall the very first one, but I recall dancing Kaleponi Hula at Lanakila Church. The old Lanakila Church in Kaimuki.

ML: Oh ...

PUMEHANA: With my high-heel shoes, my little petticoat thing, and my pāpale, and my scarf.

ML: [CHUCKLE]

PUMEHANA: And my high-heels that didn't quite fit.

ML: [CHUCKLE]

PUMEHANA: [CHUCKLE] It's tricky, you know, trying to pick up your feet with shoes that are slipping off—

ML: Slipping off.

PUMEHANA: --your heels. Yes.

ML: [CHUCKLE]

PUMEHANA: But that's—I think that was the first number I remember. And then, Kilauea, the chant that Auntie Alice Namakelua and—

ML: Right.

PUMEHANA: --um, Auntie Kawena Pukui wrote.

ML: M-hm.

PUMEHANA: I remember that; it was a hula noho. And that's how she taught her hula noho, and um, hula kuhi lima, yeah, with the hands.

ML: M-hm; m-hm.

PUMEHANA: Yeah. Yeah.

ML: So, having been around, you know, from—learning from the age of two to now, how have you seen—like what are your thoughts about your mom’s sort of career as a kumu?

PUMEHANA: As a kumu?

ML: Just what ...

PUMEHANA: She’s—she’s put in a lot of years, taught a lot of people. But the one thing that ... I think a lot of them share is there—is such a warmth that comes from her, and lots of love that comes through. Yeah.

ML: Mm.

PUMEHANA: Yeah, Mommy; are you up?

[CHUCKLE]

ML: We’re tiring her out today. Talking, talking, talking.

PUMEHANA: Yeah.

ML: [CHUCKLE]

PUMEHANA: Well, that’s—and that’s—that’s just the love that, you know, she shares, and ... and—and my mom loves to talk story when she teaches. But you know, the students never complain. They’re just like, in awe of her. You know, even down to—I don’t know if you were able to read, but um, the sixth-graders from Kainalu Elementary wrote her. ‘Cause she was supposed to be honored for May Day, but she was sick. Yeah; so they—they—there’s ... a lot of different pictures and stuff, and they said, We want you to come back, ‘cause we just loved hearing your stories, and you know, you’re such an inspiration to us. And ... and I think that’s her joy.

ML: M-hm.

(35:00)

PUMEHANA: Yeah. Especially the children.

ML: M-hm.

PUMEHANA: Loves to teach kids.

ML: Mm.

PUMEHANA: Just like your mom.

ML: Oh, yeah.

PUMEHANA: Yeah.

ML: That was—

PUMEHANA: Loves children.

ML: --her passion. Yeah.

PUMEHANA: Yeah. Yeah.

ML: And there's something so special about them. You know, their—they com—like they're from a different time, you know.

PUMEHANA: Yeah.

ML: Time and place.

PUMEHANA: Yeah; yeah. An—and you know, with today's society, everything is so fast-paced. You know—

ML: Yeah.

PUMEHANA: --you gotta get ta-da,ta-da. But with them, you sit down, it's like there's no clock.

ML: Yeah.

PUMEHANA: You know, they can go on and on, and you can just listen to them for days—

ML: Mm.

PUMEHANA: --without getting bored or ... yeah. So, that's what's different, I think, about today. Everything is, there's a time.

ML: M-hm.

PUMEHANA: Time frame; yeah.

ML: Hm. It's neat. Yeah; she's—I mean, what—what is she at, fifty-two years now?

PUMEHANA: Yeah, about.

ML: That she's been teaching. Yeah.

PUMEHANA: Yeah; has it been that—yeah.

ML: 'Cause—

PUMEHANA: About fifty.

ML: --fifty, I think, was when we went to Kaua'i.

PUMEHANA: Right.

ML: Yeah.

PUMEHANA: That's right.

ML: 2002.

PUMEHANA: That's right.

ML: Wow.

PUMEHANA: Yeah.

ML: Well, we're just so um, lucky to have been able to spend time with her. You know.

PUMEHANA: Yeah.

ML: Talking about hula for the last few years.

PUMEHANA: Yeah. And we're privileged that you're here to do this. Because with some of my brothers and sisters living away, and we don't often get to sit down and spend the time to talk, so ... thank you for doing this.

ML: Oh, no. Yeah; well, that's what she's always said from the beginning is, it's—

PUMEHANA: Yeah.

ML: --it's for her family.

PUMEHANA: Yeah.

ML: It's for the hula community too, but—

PUMEHANA: Right.

ML: --it's really for you folks primarily. So—

PUMEHANA: Yeah. Well, thank you.

ML: Oh, no; no. It's always—it's always fun to talk with Auntie.

PUMEHANA: Yeah.

ML: It's so interesting. Just—

PUMEHANA: Yeah.

ML: [CHUCKLE]

PUMEHANA: Don't snore, now. [CHUCKLE]

ML: [CHUCKLE] Maybe we should give her a rest.

PUMEHANA: [CHUCKLE]

ML: Well, she's taking one now. [CHUCKLE]

PUMEHANA: Yeah.

ML: Nap time. [CHUCKLE]

PUMEHANA: Yeah. But you know, this lady's very strong spirit.

UTT

PUMEHANA: Very strong spirit. You know, with—with all the stuff going on medically with her body, it's—it's her faith and spirit. Very strong.

UTT

PUMEHANA: Yeah.

ML: Mm.

PUMEHANA: And she's still gracious, even with all her little aches and pains; still very gracious.

ML: Oh, yeah.

PUMEHANA: Yeah.

ML: Yeah. It's something that just prevails.

PUMEHANA: M-hm.

ML: M-hm.

PUMEHANA: Yeah.

ML: I notice that with my mom, too.

PUMEHANA: Yeah.

ML: The body no—not always cooperating, but—

PUMEHANA: Yeah.

ML: --the spirit is always with them.

PUMEHANA: She'll tell you nicely—

ML: [CHUCKLE] Oh, yeah.

PUMEHANA: --when to be quiet. [CHUCKLE]

ML: [CHUCKLE] Yeah. [CHUCKLE]

PUMEHANA: Or, That's enough. [CHUCKLE]

ML: [CHUCKLE] Oh, gosh.

PUMEHANA: Uh-huh.

ML: Well ... yeah. We'll keep ... we'll come back with Auntie Joanie.

PUMEHANA: Oh, yeah; yeah.

ML: Yeah. She was—

PUMEHANA: She was looking forward to that. She goes—

ML: Yeah.

PUMEHANA: --Oh, my hula sister is coming.

ML: Yeah.

PUMEHANA: I said, Oh, good.

UTT

ML: 'Cause we wanted to—

PUMEHANA: So, I got her all um—

ML: Yeah.

PUMEHANA: All prepped up. But—

ML: I noticed her—

PUMEHANA: An—and the—

ML: --lovely nails. [CHUCKLE]

PUMEHANA: Yes. In fact—

FEMALE: [INDISTINCT]

PUMEHANA: --my brother's friend, who came last time with—with Cathy—

ML: Yeah; I remember her.

PUMEHANA: Yeah; had come along, and I had—um, her dad, I think, passed away.

ML: Oh, yeah, right.

PUMEHANA: The day—not too long ago. And it was funny how the thing wor—worked out, but I was the counselor that helped that family.

ML: Oh.

PUMEHANA: And then she came here, she goes ... she goes, How are you related?

ML: [CHUCKLE]

PUMEHANA: I go, Russ is my brother. She goes, Oh, my gosh. But that's—that's how—

ML: Small world.

PUMEHANA: Yeah; yeah. So, she wanted to do that for Mom.

ML: I know; It looks nice.

PUMEHANA: Yeah.

ML: [CHUCKLE]

PUMEHANA: So, Mom felt very good, and she had a lomi lomi on her feet.

ML: Oh, good; good.

PUMEHANA: So, she had a lovely day yesterday. And today, too.

ML: Yeah.

PUMEHANA: And today, too. Yeah?

ML: [CHUCKLE]

PUMEHANA: Yeah? See? Nodding. [CHUCKLE] Her eyes may be closed, but she's listening.

ML: Oh, yeah. [CHUCKLE] Smile. [CHUCKLE] No, 'cause um, I was asking her a little bit about um, what her thoughts were about this event, and—

PUMEHANA: M-hm.

ML: Just so, you know, we can know and help out in whatever way. So—

PUMEHANA: Oh.

ML: --maybe when Auntie Joanie ... if we can come back—

PUMEHANA: Yeah.

ML: --with her next time. And—

PUMEHANA: Oh, of course.

ML: --talk more about it.

PUMEHANA: Uh-huh.

ML: 'Cause it sounds like a wonderful idea to pay tribute to their kumu and—

PUMEHANA: Oh, yes.

ML: --you know, say mahalo and—

PUMEHANA: Yes.

ML: --all that. So—

PUMEHANA: Definitely; yes.

ML: --just want to know what her wishes are, too.

PUMEHANA: Uh-huh.

ML: How—how to go about, you know, helping. So—

PUMEHANA: Right.

ML: Yeah.

PUMEHANA: Uh-huh; okay.

ML: So hopefully, she can come the next time.

PUMEHANA: Oh, that would be good. Yeah.

ML: Do you know if—I know Auntie Joanie has to leave on a—I'll be gone next week again, unfortunately. And then, Auntie Joanie leaves the following week. So, we're thinking about—

PUMEHANA: Mm.

ML: --Sunday, the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Do you know if that—

PUMEHANA: Okay.

ML: --would be okay?

PUMEHANA: Oh, yeah. That's fine.

ML: [INDISTINCT]

PUMEHANA: U—usually the morning time is good.

ML: Okay.

PUMEHANA: Because all the family will start coming and visiting. She gets all of the bulk of her—

ML: On Sundays.

PUMEHANA: --visitors after twelve on Sunday.

ML: Oh, okay. So, come—

PUMEHANA: Yeah.

ML: --in the mornings.

PUMEHANA: Yeah; morning is—

ML: Okay.

PUMEHANA: --good.

ML: Yeah; 'cause Auntie—

PUMEHANA: Yeah.

ML: --Joanie leaves for Vegas the next day anyway, so she probably would—

PUMEHANA: Oh, yeah. So, that would be good—

ML: --best to come in the morning.

PUMEHANA: --for her too; yeah? Okay.

ML: Yeah; I wanted to—

PUMEHANA: Sounds good.

ML: I really wanted to have them together, just to share their—

PUMEHANA: Yeah.

ML: --vision, you know, and—

PUMEHANA: Yeah.

*(40:00)*

ML: And then you know, then we know what to do. You know. [CHUCKLE]

PUMEHANA: And it would be nice to see her too. Yeah.

ML: Yeah; yeah.

PUMEHANA: The last time we saw her was at that—at He‘eia.

ML: Oh, really?

PUMEHANA: Yeah?

UTT

ML: Oh, my gosh.

PUMEHANA: Last time I saw her. I don't know—

ML: Oh.

PUMEHANA: --if Mom saw her after that.

ML: Well, actually, yeah; they were both together last year. Twice, we did a—the public—

PUMEHANA: Oh, okay.

ML: --discussions, and they were—

PUMEHANA: Okay.

ML: --both on.

PUMEHANA: Oh; okay. Okay.

ML: They were so good.

PUMEHANA: Yeah.

ML: They were so good. Yeah. [CHUCKLE]

PUMEHANA: And I'm glad she got the opportunity to do that too, yeah?

ML: Oh, yeah. She was on all of our ... our s—

PUMEHANA: Oh, is that right?

ML: Yeah. The first three we had was—

PUMEHANA: Oh, that's right; Big Island.

ML: Yes; and then two last year.

PUMEHANA: Yeah; I remember Bishop Museum.

ML: And then—

PUMEHANA: Yeah.

ML: --the conference in Waikīkī. She was there. She—

PUMEHANA: Ah ...

ML: --played her 'ukulele and sang.

PUMEHANA: Ah ...

ML: Auntie Joanie danced, and ...

[CHUCKLE]

ML: It was real nice.

PUMEHANA: How wonderful.

ML: So, we have that all on tape.

PUMEHANA: Really?

ML: Yeah.

PUMEHANA: Oh, she sang, and Auntie Joanie danced?

ML: Yeah; they were singing um, Paoakalani.

PUMEHANA: Oh; neat.

ML: Yeah; it was really nice. And then, Aloha Oe at the end, Auntie Joanie does her—her narration. You know.

PUMEHANA: Uh-huh.

ML: It's like we practiced it or something. You know.

PUMEHANA: Oh, terrific.

ML: [INDISTINCT]

PUMEHANA: Oh, I must see that—

ML: --all together. [CHUCKLE]

PUMEHANA: --one day.

ML: Yeah.

PUMEHANA: I didn't get to go to that one.

ML: It was wonderful.

PUMEHANA: Yeah.

ML: We have it all on video, and transcribed too.

PUMEHANA: M-hm.

ML: So ... yeah.

PUMEHANA: Oh ...

ML: Okay; so we'll try to come out maybe on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

PUMEHANA: Okay.

ML: In the morning.

PUMEHANA: Okay.

ML: Just so they can talk a bit about ... what they want to—

PUMEHANA: Okay.

ML: --see happen. Okay.

PUMEHANA: Yeah.

ML: Oh, good.

PUMEHANA: Okay.

ML: Thank you so much.

[GENERAL CONVERSATION]

[END]