

(informant)

Olona

When I was a small boy I used to watch my mother prepare it. I never did it myself.

She stript off the bark and when she had all she needed she put them to soak for many days until the pulp could be worked loose from the fibers.

Then she scraped the pulp off with a mother-of-pearl shell. If the pulp was not all off she re-soaked the fibers overnight and then scraped off the pulp the next day until they were free of pulp and clean. This scraping was called "kahi."

I remember that she used the neck of a gourd shaped like a figure 8 to wind the cord she made on. She rubbed the fibers on her thighs, with the palm of her hand and always with an outward motion.