

War

Moolelo no ko Hawaii
Oihana Kahuna
Hoku o Hawaii
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Spear throwing was an art practiced for war. This was done in preparation for attack and defense but it was not taught in country places, only in the courts of chiefs. Very few country men were trained in spear fighting. The spear throwers were adept and skillful and one who was trained in the art could face a shower of spears hurled at him. If twenty spears were hurled at once, not one of the spears parried off by his one spear would touch him. There are two things that one was trained in in this art, to be quick in dodging and to be skillful in hurling spears. The skilled hurler could not gain the victory over the good dodger. If a man was good at dodging spears then there would be great shouts of admiration for him. The knowledge of spear throwing and spear dodging should both be learned by a person.

There were signs in spear throwing that were observed by the kahunas. One was not taught the art of spear throwing if there were signs of accidents and trouble to come nor could one go to battle with spears without completing his course. He must first graduate, then he might go. If the signs at the graduation were unlucky, there was no use in going.

Signs at the Graduation Ceremony

In training in the art of spear throwing it was well to observe the signs at the graduation. If the offering was a pig, then the teacher of spear throwing examined the pig after it was cooked. Then when he saw that the pig cooked for the graduation ceremony was good, then he said, "The ceremony is a success." The fine appearance of the offering given by the student spear thrower, without cracking in the cooking, combined with the success in the training from start to the graduation were very good signs. If the teacher

saw that the ceremonial pig was spoiled or cracked down the back then the person would himself be hit on the back when he fought with spears against his opponent. Wherever the pig cracked, there the pupil would be injured according to the kahunas...

Lua fighting

Lua was an art practiced for war and one trained for war or for fighting. The art of lua was learned for defense against any person who wished to harm one. No one could gain the victory over the person trained in the lua. No matter how strong a person was, if he was untrained in lua fighting his strength was as nothing before that of a feeble old man's trained in it. If two persons were well trained and both knew the holds and strokes, the stronger of the two won over the other. A person who knew the art did not fear going to lonely places. He carried a piko'i club and knew how to break bones.

When one wanted to be taught he was taught by a lua expert and heeded all of the teacher's instructions. In teaching a pupil, the teacher took only ten evenings or afternoons to teach, then roasted a pig in order to read the signs. If the offering was good then the training would be a success, but if the pig was not good or cracked, then the teacher said that it would not do to learn lua fighting because wherever the crack was found there the injury would be for him.

As it was with Kekuaokalani when he was being trained in lua fighting. When the pig for the signs was killed, the whole animal was good except that it cracked in a leg. Then his teacher, as an expert declared, "It is not well for you Kekuaokalani to go to battle for if you do you will be wounded just where the pig is cracked." Kekuaokalani did not heed his lua teacher and when the battle was fought at Kuamoo in Kona, Hawaii, Kekuaokalani was hit on the calf of the leg by a bullet.

The god of lua fighters

Kuialua was the name of the god of lua fighters. Before one entered the house for the training in the art of lua fighting, the pupil paid homage to the god Kuialua in making a noise by stamping with his feet at the door of the house. The noise of stamping was first made by the pupil then the teacher made a noise just as the pupil did.

The rules of the god of lua fighting was rigidly kept and whatever the teacher said was obeyed. There were many strict laws and when one of them was broken, the god punished. If the punishment was lameness then that was what he had and if by some other deformity, so was he punished.