

Aloha e nā hua,

A continuation letter from Kekuhi:

Was that really 13-weeks?? Bruuhhh! Doesn't it feel like we were JUST introducing ourselves to "kuahu conversations"???!?

As the hua settles and gets just enough nutrients, just enough ua, and lots of sun ☀️.....the rootlets begin to find their way into the neural network of mama honua!!

I love it! Just think, the "hua-ing" of the earth happens an infinite amount of times whether we're conscious of it or not. I am very confident that there has been an intentional hua-ing happening here...whether you've been in the LIVES or not!!

The rootlet-to-tap-root-phase is a significant transition both in our plant communities and in the Hālau 'Ōhi'a process. This is where learners either say, "umm that was nice, but I don't see how this helps me in my life" and decide to be pau (which is totally fine) OR learners ask the same question and STAY because a slight tug says "I know there's more"!

It's around the 3rd or Mokulehua level (this is where the forest is mature enough to flower) when learners feel a sense of confidence about applying the knowledge, skills, and abilities that has been cultivated.

Just thought I'd share that observation for your consideration.

What is Papa A'a a Mole?

The a'a is a small rootlet, vein or artery. Mole is a tap root or an ancestral root. For the next level of training in Hālau 'Ōhi'a, we nourish ourselves with the stories of our place. Whether our stories are orally transmitted, recorded in written narrative or in chant form, story layers can be understood at many scales. AND when we aim to embody, continue, and add to the stories & chants, THAT very action is our mole penetrating the pele rock in search of the sweet water...the soul of the island.