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Lahaina Restoration Foundation Scholarship Essay**

In your opinion, WHY is it important to you and our community to preserve and perpetuate the history and culture of West Maui? Use any examples you see in the community to help you explain your opinion.

From humble beginnings to becoming the royal capital of The Old Hawaiian Kingdom, West Maui has a rich and proud past. It is where the colorful pageantry of kings, the intrepid days of whaling, and the convergence of a multicultural society sprang. Lahaina has and always will be home to both the people and the ideals which makes our community great.

The culture of West Maui is something that must be cherished for eternity. It is a place that holds irreplaceable treasures and magic of its own. Yet, do you remember the Carthaginian? I do, but how many of our keiki of tomorrow will? Its absence only serves as a part of the past that is gone. People can no longer feel the breezes that crossed its deck and revere a piece of history. Its richness and grandeur can never be replaced. You can't touch, see or feel it. It is just a memory of a time past.

Even as times race towards the future, we must never forget our past. We must preserve the history and culture that West Maui holds for there is no other place in the world that possesses the beauty that our home has. Each historical landmark tells a story of the past that propels us to even greater achievements in the future. Our past is to never be forgotten as it holds the key to opening new doors that provide a rich culture for generations to come. The preservation of West Maui's history will enable each and every person who steps foot on West Maui to feel the mana radiating from our home.

By protecting our culture, each and every person can experience the treasures our island holds and ensures that our traditions will last forever.

The culture of West Maui is something extraordinary and special. It is what connects us to each other and to our past. As a student of Lahainaluna High School, the oldest school west of the Rockies, I know just how important the spirit of West Maui is. At this school filled with tradition, we implement one of the most important characteristics of Hawaiian culture and consider ourselves to be a part of one big 'ohana. These are the traditions that must live on.

We must preserve this history and culture that make West Maui such a special place. We can bring back the beautiful pageantry that was present in West Maui by preserving and perpetuating the richness that once was. We can honor our ancestors and our progeny by rebuilding what was, maintain and improve what is and celebrate it all through the richness of hula, chants and luau for all to see and enjoy. The history and culture of our 'aina, our ancestral lands, demands it of us. What's more, people all over the world would come to see the richness that we are.