

Oriahna Platt
Essay

The fierce winds of Kaua'ula blew harder than I had yet witnessed them. The mysterious colors of twilight mixed with the lights from the football field, casting shadows among the faces of the 2,000 plus crowd. I remember their expressions of joy, happiness, and excitement as they waited for Lahainaluna High School's big 125th anniversary pageant to begin. After practicing throughout the school year to help make this special occasion the best that it could be, the excitement I felt from being able to finally perform for the community overwhelmed me!

Almost four years ago, I came to Lahainaluna High School from the island of Hawai'i to become a freshmen Boarder. Before I got here I believed the Boarding Department was all about learning to be independent and responsible. My theory though, was proved wrong.

Before I came to Lahainaluna I didn't know that Lahaina was once the capital of the state of Hawai'i! The more time I spent in Lahaina the more I came to see the richness of its culture, traditions and history. Even when growing up on the Big Island I had never seen or felt the sensation of pride, the overwhelming togetherness of ohana, and the overall respect that I see and feel ever day in Lahaina.

Our home is the greatest. We support one another in times of need and create a safe haven, a place where everyone can feel the pride and become part of it. I believe that Lahaina and the people who live in it have learned this sense of ohana because of its history, because of the wisdom that has been passed down through generations.

We need to perpetuate as much of the history and culture as we can because without it there would be nothing. Lahaina is built upon the traditions and culture that have carried with us

Oriahna Platt
Essay

through time. As a Boarder and student at Lahainaluna I have personally seen the way the community supports us younger generations. In fact this scholarship is one way that our community supports us so that we can continue on with our dreams and goals. I have seen hardships and sad times. One of which was when the Mill was torn down. I still remember the controversy over it. That Mill held so many memories and was one of the last standing artifacts of our rich history.

In the begging I referred to David Malo day. Through my eyes Lahainaluna is one of the richest historical sites anywhere in the world! Although David Malo day isn't the oldest tradition, it has surely become one of the biggest and I can truly say that I am proud to be a part of it. I know that the spirit I feel when I am in Lahaina or Lahainaluna is one that can only be found here. As long as we remember our history and celebrate our past we will forever remain one of the greatest communities that anyone could ever know.