

After being born on the island of Maui and going to a school with the most ingrained cultural identity of all the schools in Hawaii it is impossible not to feel a great sense of belonging and protection for West Maui. I have walked Front Street a few thousand times in my short 17 years of life and I am always amazed at how the culture and history of Hawaii is mixed in with the restaurants and shops that are now used to sustain our economy.

I believe my favorite of all the sites displayed there is the Baldwin Mission House. It is the oldest standing building in Lahaina and I have taken the tour many times over the years. It is a time capsule of the past of Hawaii's missionaries. I feel inspired when I see it and remember that Hawaii didn't always look the way it does and that we can't forget where we came from.

History has a habit of repeating itself as we move on in time. It has led to repetitions that could have been avoided. This is an example of how remembering history can help us avoid old mistakes, but another reason to remember our past is because it means something to the future to know where we came from.

Maui came from people who came from across the ocean to set up a society here and then had it put under a microscope by a group of foreigners. It is a complicated issue what has happened in Maui, and Hawaii's, past and whether or not blame has been put where it is due, but one thing we can be sure of is that the island of Maui has a noble history and a heritage that should be upheld.

My school, Lahainaluna, is the oldest school west of the Rocky Mountains. It has been on Maui for more than 175 years and is a prime example of West Maui culture. With the Hale Pa'i printing house on campus and the ancestors buried beneath our

campus just walking to classes amongst the lush vegetation brings you back to the time when David Malo walked those same paths.

The past of Maui is alive when you go to these places and remember what has been. We must always respect this history and heritage that we are charged with guarding by bringing honor to the culture of West Maui. The Historic Sites around Lahaina are just the beginning of remembrance. We have to also respect the existence of cultures and a past that may sometimes conflict with modern needs. We have to balance the past that we honor with the future of our island home.

When I gaze down at my class ring with Hale Pa'i and David Malo emblazoned on the sides I remember we are a cornucopia of heritages and must always remember that we have are living in a place that has a past and a culture that we must represent and respect in our lives.