

I believe that preserving and perpetuating the culture and history of West Maui is a high priority. As a boarder at Lahainlauna High School, living in this community and understanding the history and culture of West Maui has given me an identity. The knowledge is imperative not only to our youth and future generations, but also to tourists that visit our community to ensure that everyone and can live in harmony.

Preserving the history and culture is pertinent to the youth of today so that future generations can become the next leaders of tomorrow. Children must be taught about the things that happened in the past. Knowing one's roots is very important and makes us appreciate the past as well as learning about the present, while embracing the future. Reading accounts of whaling activity helps me appreciate the community even more. The courthouse, the prison, and Carthaginian become alive when I think about this period. Also, during the plantation period, it made me aware of how hard it was for these immigrants come to Lahaina to make a living. In fact, some of their values and traditions are now a part of my life.

Not only is it important for the youngsters of our community to preserve and perpetuate the history and culture but also people who visit. Lahaina is a tourist destination and many who visit often decide to live here. Therefore, it is important to inform the future residents so that they understand and respect the significance of traditions, history, and cultures of West Maui. By informing future townspeople of West Maui's past it will give them a better appreciation of where they live and how to interact with one another, especially the locals. If everyone in the community has the knowledge of the history and culture, everyone can live harmoniously together as an 'ohana.

I am very proud to say that I am a boarder at Lahainaluna High School. As a boarder, I had to learn and live with other boarders from various economic, social, and racial backgrounds.

I learned that I had to be a team player and the only way to accomplish harmony and progress is to work and communicate with one another. Even at times of disagreement we learned to compromise and see both sides of the issue, which indeed, created a common bond among boarders.

At Lahainaluna, I was immersed into history, culture, and tradition. I am attending the oldest school west of the Rockies, the only public boarding school in the state of Hawaii, and the only school with an alma mater sung in Hawaiian. As a boarder, I believe that I am equipped with the skills to go out into our community and share about the rich history and culture of Lahaina. Knowing that I have lived in this community makes me proud that I will make a greater effort to preserve and perpetuate the history and culture of West Maui, my home.