

PROJECT HO'OKU'I IV: 'OHANA LÖKAHI

NEWSLETTER



COMING HOME

AN ISLAND GIRL'S HOPES AND DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE!

By Caryl Hitchcock

When Sabrina Curtis graduated from Moloka'i High School in 2016, she was featured in our Na Hoku stories of student success. She participated in Project Ho'oku'i II during her junior and senior years and had been awarded a prestigious Gates scholarship and attended Columbia University. Her star was on the rise!

I had the good fortune to catch up with Sabrina in June this year while she was acting as a consultant for the Sustainable Moloka'i Energy Hui and supporting a project to benefit her home community. We had a chance to talk story and find out what she had been doing since her days at MHS and what her plans were for the future. Sabrina had just graduated from Carnegie Mellon University with her Master's Degree and was beginning a doctoral program, also at Carnegie Mellon, in Engineering and Public Policy. Her research is in fisheries management, looking at how climate change is affecting existing management practices, and how local and indigenous knowledge can be incorporated to make practices more resilient and holistic into the future. Sabrina said about her research,

“It'll be nice beginning here and then knowing what to do coming back home [Hawai'i] and seeing what I can help with because that's...really what we need right now.

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TO JOIN THINGS TOGETHER:
FAMILY HARMONY

Through her work at the intersection of indigenous/traditional knowledge, climate change adaptation, and mitigation practices, Sabrina is learning the skills that will help balance the eco-systems of Hawai'i's aquatic habitats in the future.

When asked how Project Ho'oku'i helped her to prepare for college, she highlighted the mentoring she received and the writing skills she learned through taking Early College Classes. She especially appreciated the outlining skills she learned in English 100, which gave her the knowledge and confidence to complete her college papers and writing assignments. Sabrina particularly mentioned that her Ho'oku'i mentor, Mr. Nakamura, gave her the opportunity to participate in the program, held her accountable, and kept her on track. She also mentioned the staff at Moloka'i Community College, who were helpful in finding interesting classes and scholarship opportunities. Having someone notice and care about the future was vital to the development of her self-confidence and belief that college was within her reach.

Although all the Ho'oku'i staff made her feel connected, understood and supported, Sabrina was particularly grateful to her family for their unconditional support. This extended to long rides to and from evening classes at the college to their home on the remote east end of Moloka'i.

When asked what advice she would give to the Ho'oku'i program, she said:

“ As a program – it is really to just keep doing what you're doing. I really couldn't have been where I am or be as confident in what I'm doing if it wasn't for all the help that I got in high school, not only the confidence and the skills, like all the soft skills, the hard skills. It [the experience] was something that was really valuable to me...

When asked what she would recommend to students following in her footsteps she advised they join Ho'oku'i and take advantage of all the opportunities that it provides.

“ ...It [the program] was invaluable to... getting to where I am in my academic journey to becoming an incoming PhD student. It's a really great way to dip your toes into what the college experience is like.



FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

OPEN FAFSA Application

<https://studentaid.gov/>

UH Priority Deadline: Feb 1, 2023

UHM Code: 001610

OPEN Kamehameha Schools College Scholarships

<http://go.hawaii.edu/vQ2>

Deadline: Jan 20, 2023

Hawai'i Community Foundation

<http://go.hawaii.edu/Vy6>

Opens: Nov 11, 2022

Deadline: Feb 15, 2023

OPEN Pauahi Foundation Scholarship

<http://go.hawaii.edu/zQ2>

Deadline: Dec 2, 2022 at 4:15pm HST

OPEN James & Abigail Campbell Family Foundation Scholarship

<http://go.hawaii.edu/2Qp>

Deadline: Nov 15, 2022

THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT FOR FARRINGTON GOVERNOR, KAILEE UMAGA-SILVA!

By Lisa Uyehara

The first thing one notices about Ho'oku'i student, Kailee Umaga-Silva, is her smile. Her optimistic attitude and kindness shines through her smile. Although she has had her share of challenges in life, she is forging ahead to a bright future. Before graduating from high school, she has set her goal of completing an Associate's degree in liberal arts, and hopes to become a valedictorian in her graduating class. She expressed that she hasn't selected a specific college major yet, but she definitely knows she wants to finish a bachelor's degree.

When discussing other future goals, she said she wants to put the time into learning how to walk again. As someone who is currently dependent on a wheelchair for mobilization, she said one of her other goals is to be able to drive on her own one day in a car that is retro-fitted for her and her disability. Fiercely independent in mind and spirit, she explained that her disability is a result of an incident that occurred when she was in pre-school. Kailee has been diagnosed with Acute Transverse Myelitis with Unknown Etiology, which translates to being paralyzed from the waist down. Despite her disability, it does not stop her from pursuing her college and career goals, dreams, or interests. She loves to read, sing, watch movies, and spend time with her family.

“ Before becoming a participant I wasn't entirely sure of my plans for the future, but being a part of the project has helped me decide on where I want to be and what I want to do after high school. ”

Kailee said that Project Ho'oku'i developed her into a better, hard-working, and dedicated student. She went on further to state that, “Before becoming a participant I wasn't entirely sure of my plans for the future, but being a part of the project has helped me decide on where I want to be and what I want to do after high school.” Project Ho'oku'i also developed her native cultural awareness and learning by helping her understand the importance of staying true to her native culture. She stated, “This project developed my relationship with my Hawaiian culture. I've become more open to learning more about my culture's history and its connections with the island.”

What she likes most about being a participant in the project, is it gave her the opportunity to go further with achieving her Associate's degree prior to finishing her high school education. She said she doesn't think it would have been possible to be an online college student while in high school without the project's financial assistance. Kailee summed it up with, “Project Ho'oku'i has been the biggest support throughout this journey, and that's what I enjoy most about being a participant in this project.”





KAPA'A HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT HO'OKU'I PARTICIPANTS ENGAGE IN SERVICE LEARNING AT AHUPUA'A PILA'A

By Kahele Keawe

On September 28, 2022, Project Ho'oku'i na haumana (students) joined their classmates from an early college Hawaiian 101 class, and additional students from Kanuikapono Public Charter School on a huaka'i to the ahupua'a of Pila'a on Kaua'i. Under the leadership of Dr. Kahele Keawe, Project Ho'oku'i lead teacher at Kapa'a High School and Early College Director at Kapa'a High School, and Pelika Andrade of Na Maka Onaona (a Native Hawaiian non-profit), engaged the na haumana in service learning through kilo (observation) and malama 'āina (caring for the land). The students participated in cultural protocol and strengthened their pilina (connection) with each other and wahi pana of Pila'a through cleaning the stream and lo'i.





‘Ōhi‘a Lehua ‘Āpane
by Randyn Cabreros



Kupukupu Fern
by Mali‘o Kaheiki



Kou
by Caryl Hitchcock

LESSON PLAN HIGHLIGHT: NATIVE HAWAIIAN CULTURE FOCUS

"PAINTING THROUGH YOUR JOURNEY"

The first monthly focus (Focus 10) of Fall 2022 was titled "Navigating the Western Academic World While Honoring Hawai‘i and Kanaka Maoli Culture." In each monthly focus, there is a lesson developed for the following segments: Academic, Family Engagement, Nutrition, Native Hawaiian Culture and Well-being. Focus 10's Native Hawaiian Culture segment, led by Desiree Evans, was titled "Painting Through Your Journey" with an activity to create a watercolor art of plants that are native or endemic to Hawai‘i. Just like us, plants have beginnings in their journey. They start somewhere and keep growing in their journey.



Ti
by Sophia Stein



Pua ‘Ilima
by Desiree Cabreros



A‘ali‘i
by Marie Guillermo