



Paulele 'Ana I Ke Akua

Lilia Davis, KS Maui '20

No ka mea, mai o 'oukou aku i pae aku ai ka 'ōlelo a ka Haku, 'a'ole ma Makedonia a me 'Akaia wale nō, akā, ma ia wahi aku a ia wahi aku, i ho'olaha 'ia a'e ai ko 'oukou paulele 'ana i ke Akua, i 'ole ai e pono iā mākou ke ha'i hou aku.-
Tesalonike I 1:8

For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything.- 1
Thessalonians 1:8

Each year since 2004, haumāna from the three Kamehameha Schools campuses spend their fall break in Kalaupapa serving the community and patients. This is a time of discovery and renewal for all. Unfortunately, we were unable to travel this year due to COVID restrictions. Here is the reflection of one of the haumāna from 2019.

Before this trip began, my main goal to get out of the mission trip to Kalaupapa was to get a closer connection to God, but I gained so much more than that. On the flight over, I was stunned with the beauty of the tall sea cliffs and then stunned with the beauty of Kalaupapa itself. As soon as we arrived at the Church we were staying at, we got right to work cleaning the yard. Although it was hard work I didn't care because I knew it was for a greater cause. I only got to really help on Saturday because I injured my foot later that day. For the rest of the trip I felt bad because I couldn't help everyone clean the yard. Although I wanted to help, I'm happy that I got time to talk with Auntie Winnie. I learned that she is from Maui and lived in the Portuguese camp, just as my Great Grandma did.

I always felt happy to help and be a part of something bigger than myself on this trip. I was excited to get close to the students from the other campuses. At first, I was worried that we wouldn't mix well because we tended to stick to our groups. Day by day we got closer and more comfortable with each other. On the last day it was hard to say goodbye to my new friends because we bonded. I found it easier to contribute to group discussions after going over scriptures because I knew we all had a common love of God. When we led Chapel service on Sunday, I pushed myself to really think about the message and relate to my current life. I had also never read scripture in service before and now that I know I can I want to push myself more to do it again in school or at Church if it is needed. I was also nervous about singing because my singing is not my best talent, but I was happy to hear the beautiful voices of our other students. When seeing the patients'

happy voices while they listened to us sing took my worries away as I enjoyed entertaining them.

Little did I know that the reflection of Kalaupapa's natural beauty would be shown in the patients of Kalaupapa. The people really made this place as beautiful as it was. When talking to the patients, I felt emotionally drained at the thought of what they had to go through. Although they went through so much in their life, I was inspired to know that they still had faith in God. I also pushed myself outside of my comfort zone again while talking to the patients. It's not that I didn't want to talk to them, but it was figuring out what questions I could and couldn't ask. In the end, I'm glad I focused on the patients' happy moments as it brought them memories of joy. I felt that I created a special bond with each patient, especially Aunty Meli, and I also created a special bond with the natural beauty of Kalaupapa, along with the people I shared my experiences with.