



Kahu Kalani Wong, KS Maui

³ A ua ho‘opiha au iā ia i ka ‘uhane o ke Akua, ma ke akamai, ma ka na‘auao, ma ka ‘ike, a ma ka hana ‘ana i nā mea a pau, ⁴ E ‘imi i nā mea akamai, e hana ho‘i ma ke gula, a ma ke kālā, a ma ke keleawe, ⁵ A i ke ‘oki‘oki pōhaku, i mea kāpili: a i ke kālai ‘ana i ka lā‘au, e hana ho‘i i nā hana a pau.- Puka ‘Ana 31:3-5

³ And I have filled him with the Spirit of God in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all kinds of craftsmanship, ⁴ to create artistic designs for work in gold, in silver, and in bronze, ⁵ and in the cutting of stones for settings, and in the carving of wood, so that he may work in all kinds of craftsmanship.- Exodus 31:3-5

Nestled in the sleepy settlement of Kalaupapa, is a hale in which a variety of crafts were made. All beautiful, all useful, all from the hands of Kenzo Seki. A coconut shell turned into an ashtray, a piece of copper pipe flattened so a fork or spoon can be inserted and used more easily, or a rod shaped into a hook and anchored to a wooden handle to help with pulling up zippers. Each item made life easier for those needing an assist so they could live independent lives. Besides being a craftsman, he also cut hair for those needing a trim. Kenzo himself was a patient so he knew how best to serve his fellow patients.

Ke Akua gifts people like Kenzo with special talents so they may help others. Such was the case with Bezalel and Oholiab. In Exodus, Iehova gave specific directions to Moses on what the Tent of Meeting, and all the elements that was to be used in it, was to look like and how they were to be made. The ornate fixtures and tools were to be used in the service of God, therefore, they needed to be of the highest quality. Instead of leaving that kuleana to just anyone, God gifted Bezalel and Oholiab with all the abilities to do what was necessary.

Some of you have been given the gift to turn something ordinary into something extraordinary. Be thankful and know that you have received that for a special reason. When the time is right, God will lift you up. Honor that call by serving with honor, pride, and humility. Take the time to give your best, for you have been equipped for service which helps others and honors God.

January is Kalaupapa Month, “to serve as an annual reminder to people all over of the importance of Kalaupapa and the significant sacrifices and contributions made by its residents throughout the history of Hawaii.” (SB697)

We will honor a patient each Friday throughout the month of January.