



# Pōmaika'i

Kahu Kalani Wong, KS Maui

<sup>5</sup> Pōmaika'i ka po'e akahai; no ka mea, e lilo ka honua iā lākou.

<sup>6</sup> Pōmaika'i ka po'e pōloli, a make wai no ka pono; no ka mea, e ho'omā'ona 'ia lākou.

<sup>7</sup> Pōmaika'i ka po'e i aloha aku; no ka mea, e aloha 'ia mai lākou.

<sup>8</sup> Pōmaika'i ka po'e i ma'ema'e ma ka na'au; no ka mea, e 'ike lākou i ke Akua.

<sup>9</sup> Pōmaika'i ka po'e 'uwao; no ka mea, e 'ī 'ia lākou he po'e keiki na ke Akua.

<sup>10</sup> Pōmaika'i ka po'e i ho'oma'au 'ia mai no ka pono; no ka mea, no lākou ke aupuni o ka lani.

<sup>11</sup> E pōmaika'i ana nō 'oukou, ke hō'ino mai kānaka iā 'oukou, ke ho'oma'au mai nō ho'i; a no'u nei, e 'ōlelo wahahe'e mai ai iā 'oukou i nā mea 'ino a pau.-  
Mataio 5:6-11

<sup>6</sup> "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

<sup>7</sup> "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

<sup>9</sup> "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

<sup>10</sup> "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> "Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.-  
Matthew 5:6-11

For the past 16 years, haumāna from the three Kamehameha Schools campuses journeyed to Kalaupapa during fall break to learn the history of the place, to understand what the patients went through, and to serve them with acts of kindness through alaka'i lawelawe. In the serving, the haumāna have learned much more about themselves. Due to the pandemic, we were unable to travel there this year. To keep our aloha going for the people and the place, here are a few excerpts from the reflections of the haumāna who have served as ambassadors of aloha on this trip

*Kalaupapa is nothing that I thought it would be. I honestly thought it was going to be an old, broken town with no hope, and we were the ones trying to bring hope. To my fascination, the people here are more content and stoked on life than anyone else I have*

*ever met. A simple game of volleyball lit their faces up and stretched their smiles from ear to ear, something that surely rubbed off on us as well. It's only been one day here, and I can already see why I was brought here. Physically, I am here to help the residents. But spiritually, they are here to help me.- Maile Sur, KSM '14*

*Being here in Kalaupapa was such an eye opener for me. Meeting the patients and hearing them tell their stories made me realize how much I take simple things for granted, and how having a strong faith can get someone through such hard times. They had to overcome so much adversity and their faith only grew stronger because of it.- Kamalei Roback, KS Maui '18*

*The feeling of Kalaupapa is not somber or desolate like it is rumored to be by all who have not visited. While it surely has a history rich with hardship, the people that continue to live here have an aura of joy and compassion. Meeting firsthand with the residents and most importantly the patients brings so many lessons for me to take back home. No matter the circumstances, it is what we make of it. As I was so brilliantly told, "you can't cry every night, you eventually have to do something about it." What a telling message for how to go about life.- Evan Gates, KS Kapālama '19*

*Before I came here, I had only seen this Kalaupapa trip as a service and history retreat- a time for us to connect with others and the land. And that is what this trip was, we bonded as one school and we served the people of Kalaupapa, through yard work, music, and fellowship. However, that's not all it was, as we pulled weeds, led worship, and built pilina, we all discovered things within ourselves that we all would have never seen as possible before this trip. Whether it was called to lead, serve, worship, kōkua, we all found a snippet of just who we really are.~ Naomi Schubert, KS Hawai'i '20*

*I felt so overwhelmed by the amount of family connection that I have here in Kalaupapa, not only with relatives that have already passed but the two that are still here. It made me want to share everything I learned and the stories with my dad and other family members. I found out that I am related to Auntie Winnie who I admired since day one. We got the opportunity to clean her yard, I have worked in the yard before, but I've never work like that. I didn't know I was capable of working that hard.- Kalia Franco, KS Maui '21*

These haumāna have found the beauty of Kalaupapa, and as one haumāna put it- "I've come to love the place, its history, but most importantly its people." (Hunter Worth, KS Maui, '18) The resilience of the patients to not just survive, but to thrive, serves as a lesson for all of us, especially in this time of COVID. May ke Akua's hand be upon those who remain in the settlement and may their aloha continue to inspire all of us to go beyond our self-imposed limitations and do great things.