BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: Leslie Kanoe Keliʻi Alapaʻi-Hashimoto

Kanoe Alapaʻi-Hashimoto was born in Kauaʻi and grew up on the North Shore, Hāʻena, area. He reflects fondly of his grandparents who played a large role in teaching him about the "mauka to makai" lifestyle, as well as the many gatherings that took place in his childhood. Kanoe attended Lahainaluna in 1998, the only Kauaʻi boy of his year. He speaks to his experiences there as a boarder, working in the garden with his boarder brothers, the dynamics between the boys in the dorm, and the responsibilities that came with being boarders. He played soccer with many of his friends there, allowing him to see more of Maui Island. Kanoe speaks about the values that he learned as a child in Kauaʻi being fostered even more so during his time at Lahainaluna, those being loyalty, integrity, and respect. He eventually came back to Kauaʻi, and now lives in Hāʻena with his ʻohana.

Kanoe Alapaʻi-Hashimoto at his family baseyard in Kīlauea on March 1, 2024.

INTERVIEW INDEX: Leslie Kanoe Keli‘i Alapa‘i-Hashimoto

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Kanoe Alapaʻi-Hashimoto (KAH)

March 1st, 2024

Kīlauea, Kauaʻi, Hawaiʻi

BY:Wailana Medeiros (WM) and Ty Kāwika Tengan (TT)
Note:Also present is Micah Mizukami (MM)

TT: Oh yeah, they do tell us how hard it—it is to.

WM: To? Okay. Okay.

TT: You go first.

WM: Aloha. This is an Oral History interview for the Lahainaluna Boarders. . . um, Project. We are in Kīlauea, Kauaʻi, and we are sitting—the interviews are um Wailana Medeiros, Ty Kāwika Tengan, and Micah Mizukami and we're sitting with Kanoe Alapaʻi-Hashimoto. Um . . .

TT: March 1st.

WM: . . . Yeah. It's March 1st, 2024, and it's 2 p.m. Okay, so we're going to start (laughs). So, if you could please uh, just first of all state your full name?

KAH: My full name is Leslie Kanoe Keliʻi Alapaʻi-Hashimoto.

WM: Alrighty. And then um, when and where were you born?

KAH: Born Wilcox. Līhuʻe, Kauaʻi, May 23rd, 1982.

WM: 1982. And then who are your parents?

KAH: Oh, my parents is Keliʻi Alapaʻi and Nalani Hashimoto.

WM: Nalani Hashimoto. And then where are they from?

KAH: They're from Hāʻena Kauaʻi.

WM: Hāʻena Kauaʻi

KAH: Yeah.

WM: And what do . . . (inaudible). Can you tell me a little bit about, like, your kupuna and your ancestors on your mother and father's side or what you know, the extent of um, your ʻohana [family].

KAH: Oh, man. That'll be one long story, but, I mean.

WM: (Laughs).

KAH: My dad had really touched on all of them already, you know? So, I'll just say mauka [mountain] to makai [sea].

WM: Mauka to makai.

KAH: You know, a lot of . . . . uh on my dad's side, it's a lot of, outdoors. I mean same with my mom, too, you know, it's just how Kauaʻi is, you know, outdoor stuff, fishing, hunting, work. You know um . . . . yeah, just . . . . freaking gatherings, you know, like, a lot of gatherings with the family and . . . . you know, growing up in a time where, you know, food brought everybody together and parties and, like . . . . my grandparents was always—on my mom's side, was always, you know, they always helped out with . . . . the cooking.

WM: Mm-hmm.

KAH: The prepping.

TT: What are they—what were their names?

KAH: Thomas and Annie Hashimoto. And then . . . . on my grand—my dad's side, growing up, little bit was more *da* farming. And, um that's how I got to learn how for drive equipment. You know, not just my dad, but my grandpa Sam Mahuiki, which was my dad's stepdad, taught us at Waipā. You know Waipā?

WM: Yeah.

KAH: So back then, used to be one flower field before. And because my dad's mom, Grandma Bernie, it was her name. Bernadette Mahuiki and Grandpa Sam, they was part of Waipā Foundation before. And the families would make poi, you know. And so that used to be one Heliconia farm before, where you see all the buildings and, you know, all *wea* [where] they get the structures. That whole field used to be Heliconia field before, and one road in the middle and two on the side. And then . . . . um so there's a few of us that grew up together with the Sproats, you know, a few families that we would hang around because everybody would be making poi. You know, once we get bored, we'll run around in the flower field and then a couple guys taught us how *fo* farm taro and . . . . you know . . . . work the machine and you know, so we never really enjoy you know, I never really enjoy like . . . . being in a taro patch, you know, you kind of had to make *um*—you

had to make *um* fun. Me and my cousin Danny Alapa‘i. You had to get through that because felt like, oh, man, everybody else is surfing. Everybody else, stay playing. And I stay in the mud.

(Laughter).

KAH: Like. You know, but you know, with that came, one kind of like one incentive, one like okay. And as we got a little . . . . bit smart, we thought, you know, like, okay, well if we no like work in *da* taro patch, we just go to the taro patch so we can drive the tractor, you know. And—had to find something that was fun for kind of like get through the day cause, you know, my dad guys was working and stuff like that. So, I spent a lot of time at Waipā . . . . doing that uh learning *how for drive* and, you know, just being one, one little kid. And it’s funny that my dad, you know, in these interviews, he’s talking about El Camino because my grandpa had one yellow El Camino. And, you know, me and, my cousin would . . . . tell my grandpa—ask my grandpa, hey grandpa we can go drive? He’s like “Yeah, go easy yeah”. Soon as we come around the corner, we *burn rubbah*.

(Laughter).

KAH: . . . you know (laughs) . . . then he would come back—we would come back and he’d be like, “Oh, how come get mud on the tire.” “Oh, muddy the road grandpa.” But he knew already, you know. But he just . . . . he just go *wit* it but yeah. So a lot . . . . of on that side of the family was the farming, learning how to drive tractor equipment, driving cars like learning how to drive standard. So, my Grandpa Sam taught me a lot on that side, with that kind of stuff. Uh my mom’s side of the family was more like . . . . um of course was the throw net. You know, fishing. That was a big part of my Grandpa Tom and my Grandma Annie side of the family come from uh, net fishing and stuff like—taro farming, too, you know, but was more so *da* fishing side on that side of the family that I was more gravitated to. And then also observing a lot of . . . . how my—how my grandpa guys would . . . . like work so hard *fo* bring people together in these gatherings. And, you know how—we was all a part of it, you know, so like if they had volunteer *fo do* one wedding and prep—prepare *da* food and everything was like, okay, come with that. We got to go make imu [underground oven]. We got to go gather ti leaf. We got to go pick lūʻau leaf. We got to go get the stone. We got to go. You know, all this stuff. But was one way where our family would come together, you know, *fo do* all of that stuff, then, you know, go catch fish and, you know, all that stuff. So it was good, you know. It wasn’t—at the time, wasn’t good.

WM : (Laughs).

KAH: But, you know, when you grow up, you understand and things make sense and you know, so that was uh, I grateful for all of that. You know. So, a lot of different things come from both sides of the family, you know. So, it was good. I miss that (laughs).

WM: And you have a sister?

KAH: Yeah. She's six years older. Her name is Kalei Suzuki. Yeah.

WM: Um and, so, um you've lived in—over here your entire life?

KAH: Yeah.

WM: Besides Lahaina.

KAH: Yeah, I live . . . . pretty much all the way . . . . until I went to Lahainaluna. And then I came back, and then I went back Maui.

WM : Mm-hmm.

KAH: I live on Maui for six years after. From 2005 to 2011. And then I came back here.

WM : Mm-hmm.

KAH: From then on. But yeah, Maui was . . . . always dear. It's a good—good memories and, you know, good lessons learned through all of that, you know? But my friendships from Lahainaluna still carry on today. You know, it's more like, you know, it's more like, brotherhood. One family. You know? So it's good (laughs). I miss that.

WM: Yeah. And then. So where did you go to elementary school?

KAH: I went to elementary school in, uh Hanalei. I was Hanalei School from kindergarten to second grade. And then I went . . . . Kīlauea school from, third grade, to sixth grade. And then . . . . Kapa'a.

WM: Kapa'a.

KAH: Yeah. From seventh grade to ninth grade, and a little into my junior year. And that's when I went to Lahaina.

WM: Mm-hmm.

KAH: Yeah.

WM: How did you end up going to Lahainaluna.

KAH: Um.Well, so my grandma's house had one picture of my dad from graduating Lahainaluna. And I always looked at the picture and I was like—because my Uncle Sam, my dad's brother went graduate from Kapa'a and he had one different color. You know, it's green.

WM: Mm-hmm.

KAH: Green and white. And so, I was like looking at this picture and I was asking my grandma about how come different *da* color. And then that's when my grandma told me that my dad went to Lahainaluna. But very vaguely I remember that, you know, it wasn't present until . . . . (breath, sighs), until maybe around my sophomore year. And I don't know, I forget how it came about. I just remember being asked the question if I wanted to go to Lahainaluna. I don't know, maybe Uncle Abner had some influence with that because we was going O'ahu to and, you know, like Uncle Abner would always pick us up in his police car. And, you know, I was just like tagging along. But I think that's how—that maybe became one conversation with him and my dad because I was playing Pop Warner football and then, uh . . . . yeah. Then I just got asked the question if, you know, I wanted to go—if I ever thought that—if I wanted to go to Lahainaluna. And I was kind of like, I don't know, like . . . . I get all my friends here, you know, and frick my life is here and, you know. A little bit uncertain, you know, a little bit scared in a way. Like being away. So, I was kind of just . . . . thinking about all of that stuff, but. I think I just . . . . remember saying, ah whatever. We try *um*.

WM : Mm-hmm.

KAH: You know? And then I remember my dad . . . . kind of sweet talking me a lil bit.

WM: (Laughs).

KAH: You know, and then . . . . like me tell you the whole, like, process through that?

WM: If you feel compelled.

KAH: Yeah. Like, I mean, from then it just led into . . . like, having to—I had to write one essay.

WM : Mm.

KAH: Explaining why I wanted to go to Lahainaluna. And so I just remember, I was like, I was living with my grandpa and my grandma at Kīlauea. And I remember writing the essay out and like, I had some . . . . some family members there who would kind of reread them and then tell me something like, you know, you had to sound . . . .

WM: Special.

KAH: Ah, well, you had to, like, sell them on why you . . . . fit.

WM: Mm-hmm.

KAH: Or, you know, whatever it was. But yeah, so ended up doing that and, at the time was . . . . at—I think was at Wilcox in Līhu'e. We had Miss Mailua she was at the time. I'm not sure she was vice principal . . . . or something. But anyway, she was there and got interviewed.

WM: Mm-hmm.

KAH: And then, next thing you know I got accepted. And that was—that was where it started for me like. Getting accepted and yeah, I don't remember too much. Like I forget like how that whole process went.

WM: Mm-hmm.

KAH: You know. But . . .

WM: Do you remember how you felt when you get accepted?

KAH: I was excited in a way, like, you know, nervous, but excited, you know, because it's like, oh was like a big accomplishment because somebody—like you felt like you'd pass one freaking test or something you know. One essay where you—was like one big—big deal, you know? So yeah, it felt like one big accomplishment in that. And you had to make *um* in your own words like, you know. So it was kind of . . . . yeah, it was . . . . it was a good feeling like, you know, but, that's how it started.

WM: Yeah. So then, um shortly after you had to go to Lahaina and um, how did it feel to get to Lahainaluna for the first time?

KAH: Well, it's kinda . . . . mind blowing because, like, I never been to Maui, I had no idea what Maui looked like. I always wondered about Maui, you know, family reunions. We had family from Maui come down and, you know, yellow was *da color*. And, you know, I was kind of like, oh, yellow. But, you know, had no idea what Maui looked like. I knew my dad, you know, the stories of roping up Makawao and stuff like that, you know, and certain places, you know. But I never was exposed to anything like—like Lahainaluna. So going up to the school, you know, the entrance, you get the big royal palms, you know, and I was like, wow, when you drive up, you know, get Lahainaluna High School and then you drive up to the royal palm then on the right side, get like, one uh—have one staircase but then get like one canal, like, like an old flume or something. And then get the boy's dorm.

WM: Mm-hmm.

KAH: David Malo dorm . . .

WM: Yeah.

KAH: . . . was right there chorus building was on the left side when you get up. So, you know, it—it was just going up to the campus and being like, wow . . . . like . . . . okay, this is Lahainaluna, you know, and then kind of like . . . . replaying my dad's history here, you know, and I was like, oh . . . . I felt little bit, weight, you know like, oh, gotta like—Pops had graduate here, Uncle Abner had graduate here. Like I get—I get two kind of, uh . . . .

men figures like, you know, kind of setting the principles. And I was like, oh . . . . of course, I knew people who got kicked out, you know, I knew what it was. And, you know, you hear *da* stories *ho brah you gotta watch out, brah* you know, it's a little bit rough up there and, you know, guys *gon like scrap* and, so you get all these things, you know, kind of spinning through your mind walking to the boys dorm and . . . . you know, it's just a reality. Like . . . . you know what frick *um*. What I'm going to do? Like *I hea*. You know, so we just went through the process, but I was really taken on the campus and, you know just turning around and looking at downtown and, you know back then the football field *no was nice*, like how it is now, you know. But, the history part there was just like, really cool. So I was good. You know after get settling in and understanding and realizing like—, in a way it's kinda what you wanted. You know you wanted you like—like when you home you like your own room, like your own space. You know, you kind of getting into that—that age in that time where *you like cruise wit your friends* and you just like do your own trip, you know and so it's kinda like one—, and then when we had one experience in fifth grade I think was when we go Kamehameha School for explorations. And I was like, oh, little bit taste *dea*. And it's like *ho we gon* be over here, you get your own room and you know, you on your own and you know, you do your own trip. And no more your parents *fo like* scold you or do all this stuff and it's like *ho* freedom. And so, yeah I was thinking about all of that stuff and that's pretty much what it kinda like hunker me down inside *dea*.

WM: So you had your own room at Lahainaluna? Or you had a roommate?

KAH: We had roommate.

WM: Yeah.

KAH: You know but, at that time was what I was *tinking* .

WM: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

KAH: You know, but not knowing you *gon* have one roommate (WM laughs) you know? Yeah so.

TT: Who was your roommate that first year?

KAH: My first year my roommate was his—his name was Albert Diego from Hana. Yeah. And our room was upstairs. Long wing. David Malo dorm. And then he had one older *braddah*. Albert, uh . . . . wait, Albert—Nathan. Nathan Diego was his name. So, yeah it was kinda—, at first was kinda in with the Hana boys like, you know? (WM laughs). Oh everybody come over like all the boys from Hana, you know? Meet you and *everyting* and, yeah it was—was a very interesting first month I would say (laughs) ah.

TT: So interesting like—like, like in what ways?

KAH: Uh interesting to where like—, okay. I think was maybe . . . . *I not gon* say the first, maybe was the first week. You know, boarding life you get—, today they call *em* hazing.

WM: Yeah, yeah.

KAH: You know what I mean?

WM: Initiation.

KAH: Yeah initiation. So, you know new boarder you know you—, everybody you got to go introduce yourself to everybody and stuff like that, but. I remember the first . . . . *I gon—I gon* say the first week. So. Sleeping. And then, next thing you know I just feel this like, PACK, like on my face. And I open my eyes and I smell of like of shaving cream. (WM laughs). So it's like, oh, okay. Not knowing that my—my roommate was—, had leave the door unlocked for his *braddah* guys, the upperclassmen. So Albert, we was sophomores, *his braddah was one junior*. So it's like the upperclassmen going kinda initiate the underclassmen.

WM: Mm-hmm.

KAH: *Ho that never sit good wit me at all*. (WM laughs). And I was like, okay. I look at my roommate and I was like, *I no can trust you*.

TT: Did he get shaving cream too?

KAH: Hah?

TT: Did he get the shaving cream too?

KAH: No. So he sleep on one end of the room and *I stay on one side of da other* . . .

TT: . . . Oh cuz he had it last year, or was he there the previous year?

KAH: Nah, he—he'd kind of, you know, they set—they set you up. You know, he was there when was one freshmen . . .

TT: Yeah, yeah.

KAH: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

TT: So he might've got initiated freshmen year?

KAH: Oh yeah.

TT: Yeah so.

WM: So he left the door unlocked?

KAH: Yeah yeah . . .

TT: For you guys the sophomores . . .

WM: (Laughs).

KAH: Yeah but—but I never understand that. You know, it was like . . .

TT: . . . Right.

KAH: Well I took *em* kinda personal . . .

WM: Oh yeah.

KAH: Like oh somebody kinda like, you know?

TT: Mm-hmm.

KAH: So the next morning I woke up. I was like, okay, this is how it is. I grab the shaving cream, I put *um* on my piece *pepa* [paper], I wait—I wait for his *braddah* outside Short Wing, and I never really care about if he was one upperclassman was more so like, I not going give in to you. Like I'm not going to be pushed around, you know? So he came around the corner and I was like *sup brah* wang (slap).

(Laughter).

KAH: And then *ho* that was it right *dea* that just said like—, he had looking me and had this word like *unz*, you know, like, *oh you unz you*. *Ho unzeh*. You know, it was like was when uncool. Short for uncool.

WM: Mm-hmm.

KAH: Was like, *oh unz*. I was like, well *brah*. You get what you give *brah*. (WM laughs). You know, and then we'd walk down to time clock right after that, you know, was in the morning at 5:45. So, you know, adapting to like you—, okay I got to get up at 5:45 [AM]. I get 15 minutes *fo* get ready. I got to be down at time clock by six, before six check in. You know, if not you get overtime and all of *dat*. So I was like okay. So I wait for him outside *dea* early. Soon as he walked up, go walk time clock makes you—you know like I see already all the things escalating. Like you get all this group, you know. Everybody back up everybody. But you know in that time was—was kind of had open doors for me in a way to where I was being looked at as, oh, okay this guy not going like, *he not gon* take things easy. But I also had a other group of friends that *gon* lead up, you know with that position and that pivotal moment going lead up to my true *braddahs* in the boarding department, you know. So yeah, that was the start of that (laughs). Was good, you know?

But yeah, the first couple was rough the first—first month man. Like because of that situation then I had his *braddah* like . . . . I mean his friend, you know, was kind of like oh yeah if you do that to my friend like everybody's was out *fo* get you now, you know? And so had little bit scuffles first—first month. But, ended up being okay after that you know? The dorm counselor, and you know, some of the upperclassmen was like *brah* it's your fault you know? Like *if you no can take em, no give em*. You know coming from the upperclassmen it was like they was kinda agreeing you know that I wasn't in the wrong. The upperclassmen was in the wrong. Like if you're not ready for something like *no do em*, you know, or if *you no like em* done to you then *no do em* to somebody else, you know?

TT: Right, right.

KAH: So the upperclassmen ran the dorm. The counselors was there *fo* kinda like, oversee? But the upperclassmen was given the reins *fo* like, train up the next underclassmen, you know, and teach them. You know of course you're not gon have all the good ones yeah? You get the bad ones too, and you know all of that. But for the most part like everybody was solid. Like, that's what I remember. Like, man. You know, you had certain upperclassmen that you wouldn't mess with, you know, *you no even like go dea*, you know, that just get that, you know, presence and then, you know, you get the cool ones, you get the flexible ones. And yeah, it was just one cool situation, but how much the dorm counselor would . . . . entrust this responsibility to the upperclassmen, you know?

WM: Mm-hmm.

KAH: I think that was . . .

TT: So that includes, like, disciplinary actions?

KAH: Yup.

TT: And was there the . . . . what was it called? The dorm court or the student court? What was that?

WM: The officers and stuff like that. Did you guys still have officers like the lieutenants? The sergeants?

KAH: Yeah, I think we did. I think we did. But . . . . I no think that—that wasn't like something that I paid attention to.

WM: Mm.

KAH: I mean, you had—you had people that would kinda like abuse that, you know? And then the ones that wouldn't and would be just up front and, you know, up and up would be always the—the good guys. But they wasn't officers, so. It didn't matter if you really had a title. It was just . . . right and wrong, you know? Simple. So.

WM: Do you remember your dorm counselors, like the names of these guys?

KAH: Yeah.

WM: Yeah?

KAH: Yeah. I never gonna forget this guy. Kurt Kanetaki. One of the coolest humans I ever did meet.

WM: Yeah?

KAH: And he was there when I first got there. You know, had something happen, you know, they had—they'd end up letting him go, but I—I remember the way he handled my situation with the two guys that we ended—, you know, got into fights with, you know. The way he handled it and just, the—the trust that he had from the—the boys, you know, the upperclassmen and everything. You know I could see that, like, *ho* these upperclassmen, they respect him, you know? And so . . . . it was something about Kurt, you know, the way he handled things, the way he did stuff. He spoke to you with respect. You know? I guess that's what it was. You know, his character.

WM: Mm-hmm.

KAH: So it was—was cool. So had him and it—, and this other Japanese guy. I *no can* [can't] remember his first name, but I just remember their last name. So—so we used to call *em*, you know, except Kurt. So this other guy came in, was Ha—Hajiro was his last name. Haj we used to call him. And then uh . . . . had this guy Bento. His last name was Bento. He was cool. Haj was all right. He was kind of like—, in a way he was kind of like one . . . . (laughs) uh trying *fo* find some good words.

(Laughter).

TT: You can always edit after we're done with the transcript.

(Laughter).

KAH: Yeah. Save you guys time you know, but.

(Laughter).

KAH: He was kind of . . . . he was cool but he was . . . . he would act like one *scrub* [idiot] sometimes. You know, so. You just never—, he never have that character like Kurt that—, kinda you like give your trust to this guy. Not demand, you know? So in a way, it was kinda like how it felt like, oh, you trying to, like, push your weight *fo—fo get us fo obey you*, like, instead of how Kurt was relating with you, you know? And talking with you, you know? So it was one different way of how we connected with certain dorm

counselors. And you had Bento who was cool. *He lil bit* dizzy, but he was cool you know? Um . . . . and this other guy Dechanko, I think was there for a little while, Dechanko. He was cool. It was all right. He was one str—, upfront person. And. Yeah. So we had—we had different teams, you know, so we had a little bit—, we had a rat pack, you know? That we ended up . . . kinda like coming together just because we was like country boys, I guess.

TT: How many of you were from Kauaʻi at the time?

KAH: I was the only one from Kauaʻi. The only boy. I had two girls, Nanea Sproat and Jody Goo . . . . that was from Kauaʻi. Nanea was one year older, Jody, I think was one year younger than me. So I was the only boy, three of us from Kauaʻi. So I was the lone ranger in *dea*, you know? Like *ho*.

WM: What was it like to um . . . . have the girl boarders? What was that dynamic between, like, the boy boarders and the girl boarders? Like . . . .

KAH: Like?

WM: Like you guys got along with the girl boarders?

KAH: Yeah. Oh, yeah.

TT: Cuz your dad never have girls, yeah?

KAH: Yeah, was all boys. So yeah.

TT: So your time had . . .

WM: . . . girls?

KAH: Yeah, yeah.Very strict.

WM: Yeah?

KAH: You know, very strict. Because, you know, girls' department up here. Boys boarding department is right here. And only you get one stairs and, you know, I think a lot of the—I mean we had . . . . I trying to remember if it was our boarding department, like our dorm, that was the main hub for like, the mail and the bank. I think it was, you know? Well . . . . the girls would also come in for their mail as well. I could be wrong . . . . I could be wrong. But yeah, I just remember a lot of—, you know they would come hang out and stuff like that, but it was always super—supervised and stuff like that. But yeah had some . . . stuff go on.

(Laughter).

KAH: But for the most part it was very—, never have any challenges or anything. You know, was—was cool like, frick man, that—that was just one real . . . amazing experience like, will be a—, *fo be dea* at that time, you know?

TT: What year was it that you started?

KAH: '98.

TT: '98?

KAH Yeah. 1998. October. Yeah.

WM: What was uh . . . . sorry (inaudible).

MM: Did you have a dorm matron? Dorm matron?

WM: Like a . . .

TT: . . . Dorm mom?

WM: A dorm mom, maybe?

KAH: No . . .

WM: No? (KAH laughs).

KAH: Not that I knew of, like uh . . . .

WM: Yeah.

KAH No, we never have any moms.

TT: Cuz yeah, Susan Yap was at one point.

KAH: She was *dea* but . . .

TT: . . . but not as . . . not . . .

KAH: . . . I mean, I never was.

TT: That was Lindsay, yeah? (inaudible) Lindsay.

KAH: *She no was there*. I do remember Mrs.Yap.

WM: Yeah.

KAH: I do remember Mrs.Yap, but I don't know if she was, like one, you know, dorm mom. And we never—we never had that presence, you know, like, we wasn't in a position to like talk to her or like, seek or confide? You know, was just the upperclassmen, you know, that we would go to. Or a certain dorm counselor. You know, who we could trust, you know? Yeah. As far as the moms, I would just talk to my own mom, you know? If I needed to.

(Laughter).

WM: Yeah.

KAH: You know but.

WM: Since your—when you went was little bit later—it was later in the 90s. What was your schedule like? Like your daily schedule every single day? Like from when you guys would wake up and like what time you'd wake up and to the time that you finish work and everything.

KAH: So yeah 5:45 [AM] we wake up, 15 minutes we get ready. Check in by time—check in at 6:00 [AM], time clock. Grab your tool, your department whatever um, department you working in you had garden swine or 'opala [trash] truck you had cafeteria, dorm. Um, I could be leaving some—oh yard. Um, yeah so y—you check in to that, you work for one hour before school, and then you get 15 minutes *fo* go back. Go back to the dorm. I was in garden. Yeah. Both years I *tink* I was in garden. Or year and a half, (laughs) but you go back to the dorm get ready. So, it was one whole, mad house inside the shower. You know you get everybody like running in there and you look at some people come in—some guys come in all with all this stuff you know like, shampoos and everything. And then you get guys running out with shampoo already on they head . . .

WM: (Laughs).

KAH: . . . and like you know doing whatever it took to not be late, you know so just jump in a shower go go go. Then you got a, you know we had dress code, so you had to have one belt and you had to have shoes and jeans. So, go back to the room change run outside the dorm. You got a line up in your classes and then, once everybody line up. The boarders would walk together boys and girls walk together through and you go up to the cafeteria, and then you get, I would say one of—one upperclassmen standing at the cafeteria doorway you have to lift up your shirt show your belt you know, cause all these little *tings* was like, if you *no more anything* you get over time, one hour, you know. So you go do that. And then after that you eat breakfast and then from there you go school, and then once you *pau* [finish] school you go back to the dorm same *ting*. You get one time, check in time clock work two hours, go back shower up and then you get like, I don't know how long was like free time, and then you had like study hall . . . . And then, well you had free time then you had dinner. You walk—you go to the cafeteria eat dinner, I think you get one choice. Either you could go to the d—the cafeteria eat dinner, or if you had your own food in *da* dorm, you could eat your own food. You you wasn't mandatory *fo*

like, everybody got to go up and eat dinner together, you know. Was more so you get—if you get food in your dorm or, you like go to the cafeteria go eat—go eat at this certain time. That's all. Then after that, then you get study hall. How you choose to do that is up to you (laughs). But you know dorm counselors would come *tru* and you know, you stay in somebody's room they tell you go out and go back to your room study, and then I think they had like, oh man, I don't know if it was like one hour, or two for study hall. I think it was like one hour, I could be wrong. And then free time little bit, and then I think we had to clean, every night. The dorm, the bathroom and the showers. That was like—and mop, sweep, everything. Clean up the dorm before we go sleep. So that was like the last trip I think. And then that was it. Lights out. But then lights out was, go somebody's room, go hang out, you know.

(Laughter).

WM: What was your—what did you do in your—in the garden. What was your primary stuff or your responsibilities?

KAH: Responsibilities, so I had this Filipino man, oh his name was Mr. Manzano, and he had *one* jeep. So our duties was, you know, clean the weeds, dig out guinea grass, take care the uh, fruit whatever had, uh was basically—mostly clearing a lot of area, you know, for expand the garden I guess. Build trellises, you know, drip tube and—and all that *kine* stuff, just farming stuff for that, you know, but. We would be so tired in the morning, waking up, that in our group, was like, okay, grab your tools because it was still dark when you go out you know so you had to wait till light. So, you had some time and some of the guys would be like on lookout, or was like if—so being that we was underclassmen, they would pick somebody from the group, *one* upperclassmen would pick somebody, one underclassmen for be point—be on point you know. Be like, "Okay, so-and-so just listen for Manzano's jeep." Then, everybody we go sleep like . . .

(Laughter).

KAH: . . . you know we would sleep. And next thing you know we hear the jeep. "Oh Manzano coming! Oh everybody get up," start moving with the tools, digging you know. Oh and this Filipino man would come in the hall. He was one smart man, man. He wasn't *one* fool.

WM: (Laughs).

KAH: Like "Whassamatta you!"

TT: (Laughs).

KAH: "You *tink* I stupid?! I know how much you guys can do."

(Laughter).

KAH: You know, but he was—he was *one*—he never did really discipline he would just tell us you know warn us; don't do that you know. So it was good was—was he was *one*—I'd come to like respect him in like . . . . I seen so much stuff that he did and like how much things people would make fun of him and everything. But all in all he was, like I seen—I understood what he was trying *fo* do. So it was just, that *kine* stuff and then after work you know af—the afternoon, after school work was, um we would—we would bust ass. Digging up picking up gra—guinea grass with the pick, you know and, we—we had to like be creative man like he just give us *one* plot set us over there you know like kay. We would work, we would do so much, and then we would cruise, you know. Dig holes and we find plenty centipedes, plenty scorpions, you know? So we would—we would dig *one* hole and we would put em in it (inaudible) let em fight and like do all this stuff and, you know, had orc—orchard trees and, you know you had snack and whatever drink that you had, but you couldn't pick the fruit you know and so. I don't know how, but this Filipino man he knew like the count of the fruit you know, but so we would go because we was thirsty, see the orange go over there pick the orange, oh next thing you know (inaudible) from this Filipino man. But he never did—and he *no* he was strict about it you know he would just, he would warn us because we wouldn't—once he would warn us wouldn't do it again you know. But, I just remember like, every time the jeep coming like you could hear that jeep, it was li—like *one* old military jeep, *one* beige color one and you could hear him coming up the hill, because we was either down below—below swine I think. Or we was up by the water tank, you know on that *get one* road, like you go up the hill, get the automotive shop and then have *one* road that go up to the water tank, and we would have to like, clear that side of the road for like open up fields for more—plant more orchard trees, and just dig out guinea grass. But had *one old bus up* [busted up] truck on the side of the—the hill like kind of like on the edge of the valley. And we would sneak away, like, go over there, go cruising, sleep and like just, you know find ways to . . . . freaking be alert and be awake because you know *brah* in the afternoon heat *ho, it's one cookah* [cooker], you know. But yeah.

WM: And [inaudible] and you played sports too or no?

KAH: I did.

WM: Yeah.

KAH: I played soccer.

WM: Played soccer?

KAH: Yeah, I played my freshman year—or my junior year and then half of my, my sophomore year and then half of my junior year, and then I got kicked off, so.

TT: What was the soccer like there?

KAH: *Ho* rugged. Like rugged I mean it was kind of like—so then I had—so af—after like, getting into these little scuffles, I was the new Kaua'i boy I was, you know. I ended up,

making good friends with the upcountry boys like Pukalani, Makawao, Haiku boys. You know I had Naali‘i Armitage, Dean and Max Kincaid, Greg Fevella, John Adams like I can remember like, all the boys from upcountry like BJ Kabanting like Nelson Armitage, like all these guys you know. That I became—that was like, that was like the group. And we always watched out for each other and so, Max was upperclassmen, Nelson was upperclassman, BJ was upperclassmen, and kinda got taken under they wing, you know. And so that was—that was when that whole soccer journey when—where Max was playing, Yosh was playing, and it was like *oh brah* we'll play soccer. So we ended up playing soccer and like, we was the worst team.

(Laughter).

KAH: We was the worst team on Maui you know, but we was the roughest like. So, the captain for our soccer team was like, kay I'm not going to promise any wins *brah*, but if you go out there and clean somebody out, that's *one* win.

(Laughter).

KAH: You know and so we—we really was like okay. Like I never played soccer officially on *one* team, but my sister and like my cousins all—I was always around soccer so know *how fo play* soccer just never understand the game really officially, you know. So, that's what I learned *tru* that experience. The coaches was cool, you know but the field was rough. Was like, was like that—practicing on that, over there that dirt behind where my tires *stay*. Like little patches of grass, you know but when you slide—slide tackle and everything like that was rough but, so we would—that was our practice I mean just, practicing drills with the coach and everything like that.

TT: Who was the coach?

KAH: Oh, shoot. He was *one* surfer dude. Long hair, but he was cool he was good like you know he was cool. I *tink* it was just—we try our best you know, don't get us wrong. But, our captain was just like *brah* just pound somebody like . . .

(Laughter).

KAH: . . . you know, so yeah we ended up, being like, frickin second to the last place besides Moloka‘i (laughs). You know, but that's how we ended up. You know, I ended up being able to go outside because of soccer so we had to go like Maui High, you play Baldwin, you play Saint Anthony, you know you play all these different school—then you go Moloka‘i you play Moloka‘i, you know . . . . I *no tink* [don't think], I *no tinking* King K was, there yet. I don't think they was open yet. So they never—we never have them yet, we never get to go upcountry. Go play.

TT: Seabury?

KAH: Seabury, we always play them, War Memorial I think.

WM: Oh.

KAH: Yeah because we never had any games in Lahaina was—well actually we did down by the Aquatic Center. We had some games down there in Lahaina, and then, War Memorial. And then the next year my junior year when we would play down at um, what is by the . . . . beach road.

TT: The Keōpūolani field?

KAH: Yeah, Keōpūolani, that's when we ended up having to play games over there but.

TT: Oh they just started there [inaudible].

KAH: Yeah, yeah, mostly all the games was at War Memorial playing Saint Anthony and like, you know, Shane Victorino guys like at that time, you know. And then, yeah that was the only two places in Lahaina and War Memorial.

TT: You know, one of the things, some of the coverage, on the football has been on—or other stories is the singing of the alma mater at the games or coming back from the games as a kind of an important thing. I don't know if that was a big thing for you guys. The alma mater. How was that?

KAH: The alma mater. The alma mater was always big, yeah, we always did that. The bus driver was—ah shoot, I forget his name . . . . one good guy though like, but he would always like, root for us . . .

WM: Yeah.

KAH: . . . you know so we would—he would always push us, "Okay we'll sing the alma mater" so we sing, you know, but it wasn't big like football. You know where you get people in—you know the crowds was small for *socca*. So, really, never really, wasn't as impactful as like *one* football game where everybody just holding hands and you know embracing that moment. But the alma mater was always, always so—sang, yeah. I would say emphasized (laughs). You know.

WM: [Inaudible] They talked about they had to learn the alma mater as soon as they got to Lahinaluna . . .

KAH: Yep.

WM: . . . was that still . . .

KAH: Yep.

WM: . . . the same for you guys . . .

KAH: Yep.

WM : . . . you had to learn the whole thing . . .

KAH: Yep.

WM: (Laughs).

KAH: But we had chorus.

WM: Yeah.

KAH: You know, that was mandatory. You know, I never going to forget that.

WM: Did you also have Aunty Laurie?

KAH: Yep.

WM: Yeah (laughs).

KAH: And I remember singing *ova* and *ova*, "Mama's in a kitchen cooking dinner real nice, beef stew on the stove" (laughs) you know how much times we sang that, on the island, we do it island style.

WM: Oh, yeah (laughs) oh, you guys would have performances?

KAH: No, we never had performances.

WM: Yeah.

KAH: Just the chorus practice. As—as I can remember I was just in there singing alma mater, and that song really was like, you know, (WM laughs) I never forget that man. That is like embedded so no matter like, I hear a certain artist singing that song I'm like *ho* take me back (WM laughs). Like you know Aunty Laurie would be like okay you know you had different like vocals yeah. You get, you—whatever it is.

WM: Sopranos.

KAH: Yeah. You tenors you know, you get the girls in you know so this (inaudible), you know a lot of practice it that. But it was good fun, and we just goof off but those songs man like that one song "Island Style" *ho* I never gonna forget that. "Again!" (laughs) you know? But it was good.

WM: Would you also—would you guys also dance hula too or?

KAH: Yep.We had that and *I no can* remember like if . . . . that was mandatory that like, I mean, it was mandatory at the time, but Uncle Art Filazar.. Yeah, he was the—the director at that time for that. But I *tink* if I remember correctly, I *tink* it was more so closer to David Malo Day that—that stuff. You know, that's when we would start rehearsing, you know because other than that like *I no can* remember, I just know chorus was mandatory. I forget if it was on a specific day of the week. But it was just work, go back to the dorm, do your trip, study, do all this stuff. And then I *tink* just, if I remember correctly leading up to David Malo Day that's when we would start rehearsing, heavy, you know.

WM: Can you talk a little bit about David Malo Day? And what you remember you guys did.

KAH: Work.

(Laughter).

KAH: Work, you know prep you know get boarders' uh, boarders field ready I mean small little area, you know, where all the borders would sit. And I never really re—it never really hit me to how significant it was at that time, you know David Malo Day. How you would have all of the alumnis come up and you know the support from the community, and it never really—I never really grasp that at that time on like how big—how big of a deal it was, you know other than okay this is what we gotta do you know we *gon* perform, you know? So learning everything we needed to doing what we needed to, and setting up and breaking down and, yeah I mean was—was nice because all of our families would be *dea* you know, so like for everybody was like oh yeah you can't wait *fo* see your family like, you know, and then they watching you perform and you get to meet up a little bit *aftah* and, but yeah now I understand you know it's always after the fact where I'm like wow, that's what it was. You know, that's how big of an impact because even though I never graduate Lahainaluna, like everything I got from Lahainaluna still resonate with me till today, you know and so seeing how people was like relatives and everything it's like man, I get it now.

WM: Would you guys also fundraise too . . . . for David Malo Day with like the imu and the kalua pig and stuff?

KAH: I wouldn't say fundraise, I *tink* fundraisers more for a football department, the athletic department.

WM: Mm-hmm.

KAH: For us was we had to prepare all the food for the—the David Malo you know the kalua and everything like that, the imus. Yup I remember that too the coach Watson, all the football boys you know, boarding and I *tink* we get one big pit up by—was by the automotive class on dirts on the side over there someplace over there, that's where the imu was. Yeah, (laughs) but yeah, as far as David Malo I mean I never really, grasp the understanding of that at that time you know until after.

WM: And speaking of David Malo Day you guys would go up to Mt. Ball, or Puʻu Paʻupaʻu.

KAH: Yeah that was, that was an experience so you tag team like you get two guys. And like Lahaina now is not how Lahaina was, you know. Now you get that upper road I guess that come through. The upper bypass road right? So never have any of that was just one—I remember when we used to call them Mango Lane, used to have *one* row of trees it was called Mango Lane and we had to walk down that way and then from there we had to go up like I just vaguely remember like the trail. But yeah you tag team one 50 pound bag lime, and then you go so much, and then your partner go so much. I mean, frick it was good fun like we were just rouse each other and be like c'mon y—you know. So—some different words.

(Laughter).

KAH: But you know pump you up, you know like kay you carry um this much and we'll go, you know but once we got there, oh man like, you know from the airplane you see thisor from—from the town, you know, wherever you coming in from, you just see the L, you no really know what it actually is until you get up there man it's like trenches. You know, deep trenches. You know and, you know at that time um when I was there the football was—it took off like champions like that's when they got and I don't know if before was that it was still defending or what because, I know had one rivalry was Lahainaluna and Baldwin like, always constantly going at it but at that year when we got championships and so, you know, you get different bars on the L you know. So just liming that and like seeing the whole L for the first time and being like oh frick man this thing is huge. Like, you know mean yeah, look big from where you stay but when you stand there it's far you know, and like this you know in just trenches so you have to wear like football shoes in like, you know cleats cause loose dirt, what you just slide into one trench but you going to have hard time come back up and you know was—was one real experience and then after that you go up to the top and that's where David Malo's grave *stay*, you know and then from there was like wow like . . . . I think everybody had their own internal processing. You know, for me it was just like, ah this guys graves *stay* all the way up here like, the founder of this school you know all the way up here like, this is the most unreal view. You know like overlooking, you know it's this, yeah. You do your own internal processing and then back to life I guess. You know, back down the hill and dealing with what you got to deal with and, I look forward to what you, what you're *gon* do.

WM: What would you—speaking of looking forward to things—what would you guys do on the weekends?

KAH: Ah, well unfortunately like I—I got into some trouble. Unintentional. We—so you get this thing called majors, you know you get over time and then you get one major over time. So I ended up getting one major over time. I got to my—my—my—f—sophomore year was like the first time getting there was like I had the taste of going out, on the weekends. I did have sponsors but was more so going with some friends downtown and you know go to the movies and call a taxi you know from the dorm, a couple guys jump

in you know you pay go down to the wharf you watch a movie or you go eat McDonald's you go to Nagasako or you go to um another, I don't know if was Rainbow Drive-Inn like—have one Foodland before, across from McDonald's. And we just go cruise down there you know just, nothing crazy, you know? But that was—that was what it was unless you stay—with your sponsor wherever they live, you know whether it's upcountry or in town or wherever, you know. But, got the taste of it a little bit and then once I acquired my major, that was the end of my (laughs) . . . . that was the end of that. I had no down time. Like I was always working of—working off my overtime and like just living on the campus basically that was my life like, on the—on the campus. Which was . . . . I don't know at that time was all right.

WM: Yeah.

KAH: You know, but I hated the position I was in. You know. Kicking one soccer ball in the window in our boarding department and shattering the window. That's how I ended up getting that. It's not like I . . . . intentionally broke it, you know and so it was one process, I took it I broke it and it was like my trip. So yeah.

WM: You—you mentioned sponsors.

KAH: Mm-hmm.

WM: Who was your sponsor?

KAH: His name was Kelvin Rita. So him and my dad used to rope together but you know back then you know was—was kind of like . . . . if you got into something that, they knew somebody for kind of look—look after me. But I never know too much of them so I was kind of like, I never like cramped his style in a way and, you know never really know them so I never really hung out with the sponsors. When I could, I would go with my friend guys up to Makawao and that's where, a whole *notha* life started. You know, seeing that place and like wow like this is what upcountry is like now I know why you guys like claim your country boys. Yeah. You know, they always cool up here like it's nice like man, and that was my niche but once I got my major, that was it. Only time I seen that was summertime (laughs). You know, but was good. Was good learning. You know, later on in the years, *I no* regret anything in my experience from Lahainaluna, you know. Yeah. Like what I telling you guys right now, like, I have no regrets. You know, because it shaped me. Different times that helped shape me in my life. You know, those hard times, so was good. I loved that experience. I think I could, if I could go back and do em again I'd do em again . . .

(Laughter).

KAH: . . . you know.

TT: Your dad was talking about—and he said his time that day students and boarders were close and I know we've heard different people say different things about rivalries between boarders and day students.

KAH: Mm-hmm.

TT: It didn't sound like your dad had that experience or at least he didn't share it. How about you? What—in the time you were there what was that relationship between the day students and the boarders like in general?

KAH: You had your—he definitely had um some rivalries. Um . . . . (sighs) we was, like what I observe, like between boarders and day students, there was a certain reason you know, there was—there was a respect in a way to where people knew the boarders took care of the campus but they was also look down to, in a way from the day students, some—somewhat in some things. But then we also had rival—personal rivalries within, like if you have one rivalry with one boarder, the whole boarding department *gon* back up that boarder no matter what. And that's—that's the brotherhood that it was like when we was inside, no matter if you was one underclassmen, upperclassmen or whatever, you *gon* get somebody . . . . from the boarding department, you know and kind of talking to the person like, oh, if you get one issue with them, you *gon* have one issue with all of us, you know? And that's how it was like, that's what I remember and the, seniors you know, you had the football boys, but the day student guys would respect the seniors from the boarders. You know the day student you know so—so had like mutual kinda respect, you know, and then you had little niches here and there, but for the most part it was—was really, you mess with one you mess with all because, you know, like we had our boarder section inside school. Borders tables we call them. Where all the boarders would come and sit, you know lunch time and hang out, you know, right in the middle. You know you had like all these other like harbor rats you know who would be the surfers you know we had like the, stoners, the rockers and then you had the the Tongans you know, that they would just cruise and do their trip and then you had the jockeys, you know, and yeah so you had different crowds but like I said, man, when he came to one little trip, man you had the whole boarding department. And we had a couple like incidents like that where friends of ours you know in our circle like had little issues with certain people you know, whether it be girls or waves, you know but, I was always like, *brah* I back you up. I get your back *brah*, you know and that was really loyalty. Yeah.

WM: Was it like the whole boarding department? The girls and boys?

KAH: Yup.

WM: If anybody mess with anyone of them?

KAH: Yup.

WM: Oh that's so cool.

KAH: Yup. Whe—when whe—when we was *dea*.

WM: (Laughs).

KAH: You know. But *das* what *da* upperclassmen kinda like taught us like *brah*, like we one big family in *hea*. We would have hallway meetings you know, hallway meetings in the hallway when something needs to be addressed or you know *somten* happen like telling us *brah* you guys gotta look out *fo each atta* you know, we one big family *brah* and we live *togeda*, we do—we work *togeda*, we one big family *brah*, you go out *dea* you gotta look out *fo each atta* you know?

WM: Mm-hmm.

KAH: And so that's what . . . . that's what we learned.

TT: Speaking of family . . . . um what was it like for you with being th—the son of . . . . an alum? You mentioned earlier you had two kind of father figures who are there, did you feel any other kind of . . . . sense of kind of the expectation or . . . . was it you know, your dad had his experience and you just have yours?

KAH: I had little bit of that, like a little bit of *presha* and weight . . . . yea? I *neva* like disappoint *dem* . . . . you know, but at the same time . . . . I had this life that *kinna* developed . . . . you know? And this friendship . . . . and . . . . you know I come from my family you know, honor and integrity and like you know? Do *da* right *ting* as much as possible like . . . . you know, so . . . . I never really follow all *a dat* at times but *da* core principles of integrity and like . . . . loyalty and all of *dis tings* . . . . was always *dea* and . . . . I got into some situations *wea* . . . . you know I got busted for marijuana . . . . plants *dat* wasn't mine and *dis* is kinda like *wea* . . . . I got, um I got kicked out.

WM: (Inaudible).

KAH: But . . . . it wasn't mine . . . . and it was a friend of . . . . it was a friend of mines that went out for *da* weekend and because I was stuck with my *mayjah* [major] working *um* off on *da* weekend an confine to dorm and everything like *dat* . . . . I was asked to water it, and so that's when I went, me and my friend went down, cause he was also confined to dorms so . . . . I had one *patnah* [partner] you know, we have (inaudible) we was *patnahz* but . . . . I ended up . . . . going down, me and him . . . . to *wea* the plants was, was below the football field, you had to go through one manhole, *fo* get down inside *da* storm drain, but you had to walk past the football field, the track . . . . and at the day of time we went down like, sun was blazing, sun—like the sun was setting . . . . and we decided too, just walk normally, usually we get down and crawl, go through but, this time my friends was like "I no see nobody", I was like "You *shua*?", he's like yeah so we (inaudible) go—go down, gettin ready *for do* the trip and everything next *ting* you know I *hea* like bushes cracking im like "whos *dat*" . . . . *neva* know one *teacha* was . . . . jogging around, the field and I just couldn't see *um*, cause the sun . . . . you know, ... so, that *teacha*, ended up coming and like . . . . man they was out for get some of us like, we was just . . . .

som—some of us just couldn't . . . . be controlled by the system, it took a certain *charactah* to get our attention you know? Even if you was in the hot seat or *whateva*. If you was principle, whoever, we never care who you was . . . . *wat* your title was, but if you couldn't relate to who we was as—as a person, you didn't matter to us you know, and so . . . . we feel like, you know at the time we was uh, kind of like targeted to getting expelled and like you know and so we got busted and, *teacha* walked us up *tru da* whole boarding you know, *whoeva* was there seen everything and was just like put on trial like, you know walking up with these plants that . . . . wasn't mine, but I getting busted for *um*, wrong place wrong time.

WM: Yup.

KAH: My fault you know, and then now you talk about *da pressha* now . . . . they gotta call my parents . . . . and um so now im like uh *dis* going be *da* biggest let down right *hea* you know and so . . . . yeah I went through that but . . . . I think that was—was good, had to prove to my dad like you know, *eh* loyalty meant *moa* to me than . . . . me being *dea*, so that was my story.

(Laughter).

KAH: (Coughs).

WM: It's so interesting to cuz, it kinda sound like those values that you already had were fostered, because you went to Lahainaluna as well.

KAH: Mm-hmm.

WM: Like you learn these things from growing up, and then going there it's like you have a whole new perspective on what loyalty and integrity means, and then how that plays out and even going back to your dad and being like, yeah so this is what I was taught.

KAH: Yup.

WM: And this is what I experienced, and this is what I gained from this place, so yeah that really awesome and um.

KAH: Like really core values, like you know? . . . . But yeah I mean . . . . talk about one let down though like (WM laughs). Pfft and then you know my *Unko* Abner one detective one lieutenant he stay like (WM laughs) I gotta go fac—like I gotta go face the judge.

WM: Mm.

KAH: You know but you know *aftah eh* I got to tell my story like . . . . I not one rat, you know I was caught with the you know the plants and you know I *gon* take responsibility for that but, you know? The *teacha* guys they was trying *fo* like, interrogate me like oh who's plants who? You know all *dis kine* stuff and I was like *brah* it's mine like it's my plants.

WM: Mm.

KAH: You know . . . . and . . . . so yeah choosing loyalty *ova* . . . . graduating, and then following in the footsteps was my path (WM laughs).

WM: So, *aftah* that you came back to Kapa‘a ?

KAH: No.

WM: No?

KAH: I became a day student.

WM: You became a day student?

KAH: Yeah so—so like the story continued.

WM: Oh, okay.

KAH: Like, so my dads frie—my d—uhh my friends dad one—one of my best friends in our group, his dad was one detective . . . . in Lahaina . . . . (clears throat) his name is was Uncle Max Kincaid . . . . Sergeant Kincaid, and so got arrested you know at the school everything (inaudible) police car . . . . and I *remembah* like the policeman was like one of the nicest cops I *eva* did like have, like you know just how he treated us was like civil, you know, he was just like the nicest cop, make sure you was comfortable, *neva* treat you like one criminal . . . . you know? We get down to the police station and there’s my friends dad, like laughing at us (laughs) you know? He was like, what . . . . tell *um da* story and like kay. So he ended up uh, asking me *fo* come live with them, for *da* day student, you know, and I was still playing soccer, at that time. And so me and his son was living down um, as day students. And then that was a whole *nother* experience, you know, but. Yeah. That’s where . . . . things started to kind of . . . . get a little bit carried away and my grades wasn’t—like I had one choice, we either was going stay *hea* and fail, or I can go back to Kaua‘i, graduate from Kapa‘a by just sh—showing up. And I was like, I no like do school, I no like, I like my—I like graduate when I supposed to graduate. So I came back to Kapa‘a.

WM: Mm-hmm.

KAH: But yeah, I was *one* day student for a while and, came back to Kaua‘i and . . . . none of those relationships or anything like that. Everything I learned from Lahainaluna, I still practice that today, like I teach that today.

WM: Yeah.

KAH: You know . . . . so . . . . that's my story. I no more *da* fairy tale story, (WM laughs) but, you know I get one different route.

WM: Good, so even after—after high school and everything, what did you take up and what was your life like after?

KAH: *Aftah* high school . . . . graduated. I worked at the golf course for a little bit.

WM: Mm-hmm.

KAH: Makai . . . . during high school. Well, my senior year actually, came back, so I came back from Lahaina, like . . . . work (clears throat) you know, that was like, go get my first job and just go work *fo* support my—my gas for driving school, you know, so the responsibility from Lahainaluna had transitioned into life.

WM: Mm.

KAH: You know, applying all of these things in life now, not asking mom and dad *fo* money. You know, I was working *fo* my money, just like I how was working for my tuition, you know, so like all these life skills now and work *dea* and then . . . . oh, man, I did plenty man, I, work golf course, I work valet on O'ahu. I move O'ahu *fo* little bit, try that . . . . you know, and did some stuff there and um . . . . and then in 2005, my friend came back because he was um overseas in the Marines. And so he came back as one recruiter at Ka'ahumanu . . . . in the marine branch. And so he called me up, he told me oh he coming back and so I *neva* have *natin* [nothing], holding me back *hea* and so went up and I ended up working at the plantation, the sugar plantation, Pu'unene mill . . . . for six years, from 2005 to 2011. But here we are again now, out of boarding we all living *togeda* now, up in Maui, just doing life. But we did life at, Lahainaluna, now all of us in that group from Lahainaluna living together outside now after school, still together you know and was just like nothing had changed and would be the same right now, you know. So that's what I—I gained from all of that.

WM: Mm-hmm.

KAH: And then now I just . . . . I came back after that 2011 everybody just kind of, you know, had their families and everything like that. But we still—we still keep in touch.

TT: Wha—what—what brought you back?

KAH: I had *one* job. So there was talks about the mill being closed down at that time. And, I was like frick, I had my daughter . . . . 2007. And then I was just, kind of wondering you know, if I going live the life on Maui and the unknown or, at the time I came back for—I came back to Kaua'i *fo* one visit and then one of my *unkos*, he work at the waste *watah* and drinking water in Princeville, Princeville Utilities. And so he was like, oh, we get opening, you know. And I knew already like stability, you know, *watah*, all of this stuff. So I, make *one* decision I was like kay I going come back. And then that's when I left, I

came back. Work that five years and, after that I was still working with my dad though like. So he started his company in 2003. Even though I was working full time jobs, I was still working with him like after work. So it was always work and work and work and. But now that's where I'm at.

WM: And you have a wife or spouse?

KAH: Yup I have my wife, been married *fo* ten years. Then I get my son, our son is six, and then, my daughter is from my not marriage, but relationship on Maui before. And she going to be 17 this year. Makawao (WM laughs) yeah. So I live in Makawao like, because, you know, like I how I said, when I taste that up country lifestyle when we was in school, I told myself if I going back Maui, that's where I *gon* live. And that's what I ended up doing, going back there and living up in Makawao for the whole time, and then she's there right now and going to King Kekaulike.

TT: Mm-hmm.

KAH: Yeah . . . . so yeah, that's my story.

WM: You finished?

TT: So again, kind of the same question to close a I—I pose to your your dad an—and I think you've already answered it already so. So but, you know, looking back, you know, what is it that Lahainaluna and especially the boarding has done for you to—to make you the person you are today?

WM: What does graduating—or not graduating, but going to Lahainaluna and having that experience mean to you?

KAH: The integrity, the loyalty. You know, and the support.

WM: Mm-hmm.

KAH: You know, it was *moa* . . . . *moa.* The trust like. You know who . . . . who *fo* trust like. Very few of those, you know. So was kind of like being in this, mino—majority. But you only had a minority of friends that you could circulate around.

WM: Mm-hmm.

KAH: But the whole core of it was, the upperclassmen given the responsibility, to teach the next generation, you know, the core principles of respect. You know, no matter like what seats you in. Like, we always come down from the seat and we meet somebody like where they at, you know, was never like looking up to the seat. It's always the seat coming down. And so, like, having that picture from the upperclassmen and the counselor, Kurt Kanetake, like I said, like transition, trickle down. Like I take that and apply it and live that and you live that now like cuz that goin only serve you better than like ratting out

your friends, or giving out, giving in. You know, you rather like you get that bond, in unity with all these guys. And you know, like I said, the loyalty. Was just like, I never graduate from Lahaina, but I always like, that's like close to my heart. (WM laughs) . . . . So yeah, that's what I going . . . . that's my story.

WM: Yeah.

KAH: Loyalty.

WM: (Inaudible).

KAH: Yeah.

TT: Mahalo.

KAH: Hoo you guys almost got me *fo tea* [tear] up on that one.

(Laughter).

(Inaudible).

KAH: (Inaudible) like hoooo.

WM: I saw that I was like.