

**BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: Francis Philip Keoua Gora**

Francis Philip Keoua Gora was born in Honolulu, Hawai‘i on March 15, 1957 to parents Francis Philip Gora and Rita Nohea Makini Gora. Although he grew up in Pālolo Valley, he frequently visited the ‘Ālewa Heights home of his paternal grandparents, Joseph Gora and Elizabeth Kaluakini Gora. At 11 years-old, he went to Palama Settlement to play Pop Warner football and basketball as part of the Pākōlea program that included the Training Table for nutritionally balanced meals and the Learning Center for studying.

He attended St. Patrick School and Saint Louis School, where he received his high school diploma. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Management at the University of Phoenix. In 1997, he attained a Certificate in Public Administration at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, where he met his wife, Conception Bernadette Castro, a music major.

He was the construction operations supervisor at the City and County of Honolulu Department of Parks and Recreation for 36 years. Growing up in a musical family, he performed Hawaiian music at the Halekulani Hotel and Moana Surfride in Waikīkī and the Willows Restaurant in Mō‘ili‘ili. He volunteered to coach football not only at Palama Settlement, but also in the Kailua and Moanalua neighborhoods, at Kamehameha Schools, Kalāheo High School, and McKinley High School. He continues to volunteer at Palama Settlement to the present day.



Francis Philip Keoua Gora

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ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW  
with  
Francis Philip Keoua Gora (FG)  
May 23rd, 2023  
Palama Settlement, Honolulu  
Interviewed by Paula Rath (PR)

- PR: This is Paula Rath interviewing Francis Gora for Reflections of Palama II, May 23rd, 2023, at Palama Settlement. What's your full name, please?
- FG: Francis Philip Keoua Gora.
- PR: And where were you born?
- FG: Honolulu, Hawai'i.
- PR: When were you born?
- FG: March 15, 1957.
- PR: What are your ethnicities?
- FG: Hawaiian, Japanese, Chinese and Scotch-Irish.
- PR: What languages do you speak?
- FG: English and some Hawaiian.
- PR: What's your wife's name?
- FG: Her name is Conception Bernadette Castro Gora. They call her Bernie Gora.
- PR: When was she born?
- FG: April 26, 1958.
- PR: Let's go back a generation. What is your father's name?
- FG: My father's name is Francis Philip Gora.
- PR: And what nationalities---is he?
- FG: He's Japanese. Well, he's Hawaiian-Japanese.
- PR: And your mother's name?
- FG: Rita Nohea Makini Gora.
- PR: And what nationalities is she?
- FG: She's Hawaiian, Chinese, Scotch-Irish.
- PR: How many siblings do you have?

- FG: I have five sisters and a younger brother.
- PR: And where do you come in that line?
- FG: I am the second.
- PR: So are you after---there's a sister?
- FG: I'm after the oldest. My oldest sister.
- PR: How about your children? The next generation down.
- FG: My wife and I have one son. Francis the third. He's Elmer Juan Keōua Kū'ahu'ula Takeshita Gora.
- PR: Oh, we need you to spell that.
- FG: Elmer. E-L-M-E-R. Juan. J-U-A-N. Keōua Kū'ahu'ula. K-E-O-U-A-K-U-A-H-U-U-L-A. Takeshita. T-A-K-E-S-H-I-T-A.
- PR: And he's Gora also, right?
- FG: Gora.
- PR: Okay. In addition, you have some other children?
- FG: Yes, I have a daughter, Regina. She's 38 years old. My wife has three children. Richard, Sheena and Christian. Richard is 40. Sheena is 39 and Christian is 38.
- PR: Now we'll go back in time a little bit to your ancestors. Your grandparents on your mother's side, their names---?
- FG: My grandpa is Henry Makini. My grandmother is Gertrude Aiu Makini.
- PR: Where did they live?
- FG: They lived on 1031 Belser Street, Honolulu, Hawai'i in Kaimukī.
- PR: How about your paternal ancestors? Grandparents?
- FG: My paternal---my grandpa, Joseph Gora. My grandmother Elizabeth Kaluakini. K-A-L-U-A-K-I-N-I Gora.
- PR: Where did they live?
- FG: 'Ālewa Drive up in 'Ālewa.
- PR: I understand that their former home is still in your family?
- FG: Yes. All the homes that we have up there in our family still yet.
- PR: I understand you have knowledge of your long Hawaiian lineage. Can you talk a little bit about that?

- FG: Okay. On my mother's mother's side, she comes from Kamehameha I. Kamehameha's first wife is Kahulilanimaka. K-A-H-U-L-I-L-A-N-I-M-A-K-[A]. They have a daughter. She is born in 1794. Kahiwa, K-A-H-I-W-A. Kānekapōlei. K-A-N-E-K-A-P-O-L-[E]-I. And from that---she has a daughter, Puahau Kauhimakaokalani Kaenaokalani. P-U-A-H-A-U. K-A-U-H-I-M-A-K-A-O-K-A-L-A-N-I. K-A-E-N-A-O-K-A-L-A-N-I. And from there---
- PR: And where are we in years at this point?
- FG: We're in the second generation. The third generation after Kamehameha.
- PR: Okay.
- FG: I have two more that has to go down there. There is Victoria Aiu. From Victoria, they have a son. Thomas Aiu. Thomas Aiu has a daughter, Gertrude Aiu. Gertrude has a daughter. Rita Nohea Makini. Rita has her son, Francis.
- PR: So that is part of what your Hawaiian Genealogy Society does, is traces way back to the 1700s.
- FG: Yes.
- PR: That's impressive.
- FG: But what we look for is the proof, which is birth, death, marriage certificates, or when they transferred land from your grandparents to a grandson.
- PR: Okay, let's talk about your small kid time, really small kid time when you lived in Pālolo Valley and who were your neighbors there and what did you enjoy doing with your friends?
- FG: Some of my neighbors, they raised pigeons and that was interesting. Growing up there, we would ride up the back roads, up Lāī Road and we would go around what they called Dragon Mountain, and then we would cross over the stream in the back of Dragon Mountain and head over to Wai'ōma'ō because in Wai'ōma'ō on Yvonne Place, my grandparents bought a house there. We would go from Magnolia Place to Yvonne Place. As kids growing up, you're adventurous and would get my mother really upset (laughter). We going grandma's house. That was at up in Pālolo, but growing up in 'Ālewa, it was always---by the time we were in fourth grade, fifth grade and sixth grade, I started coming down to Palama Settlement because they had a good Pop Warner football program here, and I ended up playing Pop Warner football here and basketball here. That was, you know, we were kids back then. We didn't have too much. My parents sacrificed so much on sending all of us, all of us, to private schools. And get these activities that we had here at Palama. There was a pool room, there was a ping pong table. We didn't have those things at home, but we could come down and play with the other kids here. There was a swimming pool. There was a high diving board that was on a springboard on the side and there was free swim time. Also, I love to play basketball. We could stay in the gym all day until they said "We going close the gym." (Laughs).

PR: How old were you when you first came to Palama?

FG: Sixth grade. So I was 11 years old. Back then, because I had a lot of cousins that live down here, it was interesting because they lived in the housing at Mayor Wrights. And they were rugged (laughs). They were very rugged.

PR: They used to come here as well?

FG: They came here.

PR: It was probably a calm place for them here.

FG: Well, it was different than the housing because in the housing was---people would get hijacked by people. I didn't have to worry because my cousins was like the rugged guys in there. They were the tough guys in there. A lot of them, there was like four or five families that we were we related to. What was really good was that coming to Palama was---you had good coaches to learn the games of football and the game of basketball. Very good coaches. They understood what---we practiced to win. We didn't practice to show up. And then you have to earn a place just to play. You had to have enough skills. You have to have enough savvy and you have to have enough---to even put on a Palama Jersey. Because back then, they had tryouts. You had to try out for the football team. You had to try out for the basketball team. If you weren't good enough to make the ten or the twelve, they cut you. It was that competitive.

PR: Did you have Learning Center at that time?

FG: We also had a Learning Center here.

PR: How did that work?

FG: After practice. After practice, we would shower. Then from shower, we would go to the dining hall. Then you had Learning Center from like 7 to 9:00.

PR: So you had a Training Table?

FG: We had Training Table. Right after practice, we had Learning Center.

PR: So you were really here till 8:00 at night or so.

FG: Oh, I'd walk home sometimes at 8:30, 9:00. And that was a good day (laughter).

PR: I'm glad to hear it. So let's talk a little about your education. Where did you have your elementary and intermediate?

FG: Elementary school was kindergarten to eighth grade at Saint Patrick's School in Kaimuki. High school, 9th grade to 12th grade, I went to Saint Louis.

PR: Did you play football?

FG: I played football and basketball and I threw discus at Saint Louis. In the meantime, I worked over the summers as a---I learned how to break stones with Tokunaga Masonry. I

worked at the Rigger Restaurant down in Waikīkī because that was extra money for me. I ended up 20 years later registering to go to school, and I went to all the community colleges to save money because now I was paying my own tuition. I went to KCC, HCC, WCC, LCC, and I ended up at the University of Phoenix and I have a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Business Management. After that, I went and enrolled at the University of Hawai‘i in Public Administration and I earned in graduate school a certificate of Public Administration.

PR: And that was at UH?

FG: At the University of Hawai‘i. You had to qualify to go into the master's program (laughs). I finally had---I had very good grades at all the community colleges and at University of Phoenix.

PR: Sometimes when you go back to school a little later, you are more motivated.

FG: I read three to four hours a day.

PR: I think you mentioned something about your wife helping to motivate you. A little competition?

FG: My wife, when I first met her, we were going out, she was going back to West O‘ahu for a second degree. And I said, "Boy, I need one degree." I thought about it and prayed on it. I said, "Okay, Business Administration sounds good. There's a lot of city openings that require a Bachelor's in Business Administration. I didn't know how tough it would be in going to school, working for the city, finding some days where I could still coach, finding some time and still going out there and go play music on Saturdays and Sundays.

PR: I remember my sister telling me when she was getting her MBA. It's the only time in her marriage, which is now 46 years old, I think, where they really were having struggles because she was trying to get through that program while working full time. It's a tough program.

FG: Yes. Any academic discipline, if you don't have good foundations there, you'll wrestle with the English or the statistics because, you know, I love numbers. I loved algebra. I didn't have to wrestle with it. But accounting, managerial, finance. Then at the same time, I really took a liking to business law back then, understanding contracts, understanding what your rights are in business and how to conduct a business and good moral practices in good faith.

PR: Ethics.

FG: In ethics, yes and principles. Because those values, they're good values that I believe my parents instilled in me.

PR: I think you also really have had good values in relation to learning. You've mentioned so many times how important your education has been and the education of those around you. I want to quote you back to you because I loved what you said, that school was the concrete and Learning Center. Palama was the rebar.

FG: Yes. Because we had a Learning Center over here, an academic---you had to have good grades in order to get a jersey on Friday. Well, you had to have good grades in order to get a jersey when you played. Otherwise, Dutro---you weren't on the list. Sorry (laughs). You're not playing tonight. I was fortunate I didn't have a problem with with that because---the Sisters at Sacred Hearts, and I had a lot of nuns at Saint Patrick's School that I had there---they were funny. They were compassionate. They were strict. My mother's classmates who were nuns, they were very strict on me. I understand why they're that strict, because my mother, Rita, was their classmate. My mother was a librarian at Sacred Hearts Academy. To volunteer so that they could get a break on the tuition with my five sisters there. When you know somebody cares that much about you in school, you don't really think about it until when you understand why they did that to you, because they really cared. If they didn't care, they would just let you go by. Because their expectations was so important to them. You had to get good grades. You had to be a good person. You can't be fighting in the schoolyard (laughs). She'd call my mother.

PR: Tell me how you got to swim at night at Palama.

FG: Oh, you know, on weekends---and we'd come back down to Palama. 10:00 was curfew. So we'd go around the neighborhoods and stuff and we'd say, "Let's go to Palama. We can go jump the fence and we can go swim." (Laughter) So we jumped the fence---it's about eight, ten of us jumped the fence. They didn't have the bleachers that they have there today, the concrete bleachers. So from Vineyard and even across from Vineyard, if the police was going around on patrol and they pulled up and they see these kids running around and jumping in the pool, guaranteed they're going to come up there. What we would do, we would hide on the side of the pool thinking that, Oh, he's not going to come out. If he came out and he came to the fence, we're up over the fence down behind the back of the gym, down, pass all the white houses, jump over. They turn right because they go back to Mayor Wrights, I turn left, going over the bridge on the Liliha access road. As long as I could make it by Saint Theresa's church, Hawaiian Electric, I'm safe. Because from there I can head up to Kuakini. I can head up the back roads, I can go up to 'Ālewa Park. Once I got [to] 'Ālewa Park, I'm even better because I have an uncle that lives on Kula. I can go to the end of Kula, and then right across a few houses, I'm on 'Ālewa Drive already. Because the whole thing was, "Wow, that was fun." (Laughter). Just to go swimming.

Palama had---there's so many memories that just come up and it's good memories of a time where it was so wholesome. It was good. It was good to practice. It was good to come here and train. It was a good place to come to. You didn't worry about the gangs or you didn't worry about, you know what you see today. You see shootings in high schools, shootings at the parks. And we're going, "What direction are they going to in how we deal with our young keikis today?" All these young ones, the four's, the five's, the six year olds that are here. If you make it fun, they'll enjoy the drill. They'll enjoy the playtime. If you make it too rigorous, then you're missing the point because really it's a step process and the step process, it takes a day, a week, and then you add another rep to the process. Those steps that go up. At the same time, you've got to have a law for these kids, no matter what they do. Come, come, come, come, come. I have an autistic kid that I coached this year. He's 12, you know. . . .

PR: In which sport?

FG: The flag football.

PR: And here at Palama?

FG: The boys help him tie his shoes. The referee and the boys, they help him tuck in his shirt and put on his flag. But he's our center. Any time somebody grumbles, "Okay, let's go get some mana, some good energy from Keanu. Go rub Keanu." And he feels good because usually autistic, they don't want nobody touch them. But every time he gives me the thumbs up, I feel good. I'm good with him. I'm not there to win. I'm there to help them along in the process because I have a lot of kids that came to me that played in the NFL. I have a lot of kids that played college ball, even more kids that play high school ball, and it's all them. They did the work. They learned the sport, whether football or basketball. They did the due diligence of coming every day. The commitment, playing. The commitment of learning, and they really try hard. Get them to try hard. It's inform, instruct, inspire.

PR: So you've been coaching at Palama for years. Coach Gora.

FG: I coached here then I go to help my friends in high school. I go down to Kailua, I help my friends and come back to Palama. I go down, a couple of years later, I go down to Kalāheo High School, and then we come back to Palama. A couple of years after that, then I go to Kamehameha, go help Blaine Gaison up there through Scott Voeller, and we end up staying there five years. Then I come back Palama, because I always had a nephew or a niece that wanted to come play sports. It didn't matter [if] it was boys or girls. If we finish cleaning grandma's yard, Uncle Watson's yard, my mother's yard---we finish cleaning the yard---because we have a lot of---we have five mango trees up there. We finish clean the yard, Okay, we can come down Palama. And that was the drill for these kids. They jump in the truck and we coming down Palama. So after Kamehameha, it was come back to Palama. Then leave, go back to McKinley. Put another five years at McKinley. I didn't come back to Palama again because by then my son, he was nine, ten years old. And I said, "You need to come to Palama and play," because we live in Moanalua, in the valley and the flag football and the baseball that he was playing there, he did very well. But you had to come to Palama. Daddy went to Palama, you can come to Palama.

PR: What are some of the lessons that you personally learned at Palama that you're now sharing with the kids?

FG: Kenneth Ling, he was the family court administrator for the State of Hawai'i, and he was our coach here at Palama. One thing we built up was to build relationships and bond with the student athlete, because some of them, they have a lot of problems. When they have a lot of problems, how do we get inside of them mentally, physically, emotionally, to understand how we can help them? Some of them would talk to themselves a lot. They run a sprint, [mumbles] "Ho da coach, ho da coach," they grumbling. Okay. Then we find out this kid, he has to live with his uncle's auntie because his mother is either off gambling or the father is in jail. We got to help the kid. We have to help this---we have to

help him. Little by little, they start to get better, they feel better about themselves. So when they feel better about themselves, they start catching on. I can do this. I can get better grades. In Learning Center, I think even more so, when they're reaching fifth or sixth grade and they can't multiply.

His name was Ronn Nozoe. He was the superintendent at the Department of Education and I coached his sons here. And I would---"Ronn, we have a problem." This kid is still coloring. He's in fifth grade. He should be doing fractions so that---he needs to be doing multiplying, so forth. His homework shouldn't be coloring every day. I would walk through Learning Center and go, "Where's your homework?" And he said "Oh this is my homework." [I] go, "Brah, this is coloring." "Oh, yeah, I'm---that's my assignment." "What about math?" Then when I saw what he was doing, I said, "Ronn, we need to go and help this kid." He'd go down to Central [Middle School], and next thing you know man, they'd have vice principals, principals, counselors, and he'd bring them and they put them on the carpet. With the mother there. See, the answer to it is the mother not hitting the kid because the kid doesn't catch on. The answer is how do we inspire the kid so that he catches the process? Obviously multiplication. So I would cut out from Saint Teresa the folders, the multiplication tables. I leave it on the---"This you keep with you." Because back then they never have cell phones (laughs).

PR: Yeah.

FG: But he would catch on. Today, I believe he's graduated. He's at some university playing football. I think Grand Canyon, someplace in Arizona or something.

PR: Wow.

FG: So we don't get all of them. But when you can change some of them, we tried, you know, we really tried. I can see where the Learning Center---how we need to reinforce it, how we need to evaluate it, how we need to put our ears to the ground or even monitor, evaluate, watch, look over. Because I don't want the kids go out there, break into my car in the middle of a basketball game (laughs). And we got the cameras there and next thing you know, I got to tell the policeman, "Guys, I'll take them in the room and then you can take them outside to the side. Don't take him down in front of the kids. No, we're not going to do that." There's some level of dignity. "Okay, Coach. Okay, Coach." Then when they come back and they got an ankle bracelet on their ankle, and the referees are telling me, "Coach, you got to take that off." I got to tell them, "Braddah, he not going to take um off because you got to be one judge for take that off because he's got to go home by quarter to seven. He's going play. I going let him play. Because I'm not going say that you cannot play because you got this. You able to play. You want to play? We going play. But I going make sure you get home by 7:00. Otherwise, that beeper going off in your probation officer going come."

There's all those different remedies I think Palama comes up with. And those remedies are here and these remedies will even carry these kids even into high school, even to college. I hear the stories when when they come back to basketball practice that some of them are at Vanderbilt and they're studying pre-med. Those kids, I had them when they were like six years old. Seven years old. There's some kids who are in Pacific University and

they're studying coding in computers. Their academic excellence have taken them--- they've taken themselves there. They've done the work. And I like to hear that. I praise them. I thank them. I always say it's always a privilege to coach you. I have the honor of coaching you, whether it was in the NFL or whether they're in premed. When I see them come back to coach, "Coach Francis, you got to talk to my son." Oh, boy. What's the problem now? (Laughter). Oh, but I'm always willing to go. You know, you need to take an extra step. You need to take the extra mile because these kids, they mean so much. They don't have to be family to me. But when they're here, Palama is a family. Our family values come into play. We don't leave any---in Palama, I don't like to leave any kid behind. I don't like to leave nobody behind. I keep them all. All of them we keep because they're all a part of us and all these parts, it makes the synergy even bigger. When the synergy is bigger, it's so important today. I think even the city needs to go and listen and come in and brainstorm, think tank how we can bring these communities even closer together. There's remedies out there. There's brainstorming. You can't dismember Kalihi or dismember Palama. But if you get together and---because the social woes, the economic disparities here, bring them back in here, bring them back.

Have a think tank, a brainstorming session on what we can do even further today. We saw what we did back then and it works. So how do we make it work even better? We're not changing the wheel. We're just making the wheel a little bit easier to run. Because it goes back. We see the process, where it goes. They won't dunk overnight. They won't become doctors overnight. But from sixth grade to high school, we have that that gap in time where the process---seventh grade, eighth grade and we can take this process that we've had here. For me, I'll give up my time. I'll give up this because the giving here [taps chest] is the accumulation of the generosity that continues on.

PR: Thank you so much for that. Thank you. There's a subject that has come up from time to time with you and we've never really sort of explored it at all, and that is music.

FG: Oh (laughs).

PR: You just kind of throw off the cuff, "Well, you know, I play music and my son is the new Bruno Mars." (Laughter) Can we can we talk a little bit about music in your life?

FG: My aunties, my uncles, whether it's the Aiu's---my grandmother used to play music with Helen Desha Beamer and Lena Machado, and they would travel to Japan in the 30s. My mom and my auntie, they both danced for Lena Machado, my auntie played music. Growing up in at my great aunt's house in Kapahulu---my other cousins, Skippy Kamakawiwo'ole and Israel Kamakawiwo'ole. When there was a big party, we would have to go to Mokihana Street in Kapahulu because their grand uncle George Kela'i, married my grand aunt Theresa Aiu and we would have to go and sit down, "We're going to dance The Boy from Laupāhoehoe." And I would look at my cousin Iz and I would tell him, "Braddah, you brought your paipo board? Okay. The first chance we get, we go out the backyard and we go down Walls."

So we would head out Mokihana Street, down on Kapahulu Avenue, and we go out Walls and we don't come back til night time. Oh, boy. We come back. "Okay, You going run to Uncle George. I going run to Auntie Kea, and I going hide by them," because otherwise

our mothers going give us licking (laughs). You know, it was growing up playing music. We had so much to, you know, to give---of learning Hawaiian music. When I went to Saint Louis and I was in ninth grade, John Lake, who was the Hawaiian studies teacher. He brought George Helm to one of our our classes, a Hawaiian language class. And all George Helm said, "I know you folks come to Saint Louis just to play sports." And really, I thought, that's what I did at Saint Louis, go up there and play sports. But George said, "You guys gotta do your homework. He grabbed the guitar and I heard this guy sing. This guy could sing. My other cousins, the Joe Reccas, they could sing. I was fortunate to go. I played music at the Halekulani. I played music at the Moana Hotel. I went to play with Greg Sardina at the Willows for about five years on Saturdays and Sundays.

My Aunt Kawehi, she was city clerk, Kawehi Keao. She was a city clerk at the City and County, Honolulu. When I went to go work for the city in 1977, she was the very one who said, "Music is your second job. Your city and county job is your first job." I've always held two, three jobs working through all my years and then even studying. But when I met my wife, who was a music major at the University of Hawai'i, and we started going out 26 years ago, I didn't really know how to sing until I met my wife. On breathing, articulation, projection, how you pronounce the vowel, how you pronounce the word. I would practice with her at Saint Theresa's, the Co-cathedral at Saint Theresa's. Little by little, I ended up going all the way to the back of the church and she'd be on the microphone, "I can't hear you." And I'd be working on say, something from Gounod or something from Schubert because she wanted me to learn the Ave Maria.

That song I sung for a lot of Christmas, Easter celebration as the meditation and I've sung it--- there's a lot of old aunties there and they always request when they pass away, they want Francis Gora to sing the Ave Maria for them. I'll find time so that I can make their wishes. Because music is an art, but it's not an art unless you sing it from your heart. My wife would have all these songs from Beethoven, Mozart. I didn't know who---what's his name? Pavarotti or Placido Domingo or Carreras, who these guys were. But those guys can sing. My favorite singer is Andrea Bocelli. My wife's music student, first piano student, Troy Laureta, he's the music director for David Foster, but he has worked with Andrea Bocelli. He's another local boy. This local boy is the music director for David Foster. JJ Lin, Ariana Grande, [Nicole] Sherzinger. All this musical talent has come out of Saint Theresa's.

Even to add to what my son did, signing with Def Jam in February and having a five record contract and being the second Bruno Mars here. It's really the blessings that I am so happy to have are upon me. I guess with the blessings comes an insight on how we head to the future on what music can do for the student. What athletics does for the student. What the arts can do for the student. What the academic does for the student. Because not everybody play football and not everybody plays basketball. Not everybody play guitar or piano. But some of them, they act. They can dance. My wife, every year they have a musical production at Saint Theresa's. From Willy Wonka to Hippie Power, you got 30 kindergartners running around the oompa loompas in there and you know, this is all part of the arts.

- PR: Well, this used to be our music room and next door was also our music room. I'm really hoping that's going to come back.
- FG: Yeah, they used to have a---when this was there, there was a theater that went this way. When this building was over and they had the dramas inside there and they had hulas.
- PR: And movies.
- FG: Oh, they had movies too (laughs).
- PR: Yeah. So what would you like to see in Palama's future? We're 127 years old now, and we plan to continue a lot more years. How would you like to see that look?
- FG: I know athletics will always carry here at Palama, but I'd like to see how Palama can be a mecca or a place where the communities or the different communities can come in to--- how our different communities can come and brainstorm and think on how we can have a three year plan, a five year plan, a seven year plan. It's like buildings. Buildings have to get painted every so often. My houses need to get painted. My rental properties need to be maintained. In that, looking as the life cycle, Palama can be part of that life cycle that comes into play with even more the social help, the social aspect that it has in its mission. Because a lot of the communities out there, they don't have what Palama has, whether it's Kam IV housing---I know there are some programs that they have at Kūhiō Park Terrace. I know Kalākaua housing---you know, Mayor Wrights. But Palama has been established so long and what Palama has to offer out there to make it even grow.

I have a lot more ideas I can share. But I think we start looking at Palama's growth, Kalihi-Pālāma's growth and the children's growth. We could look at how we need to think about making the stew a little bit more tastier. How are we going to make, you know, the rice a little bit more fluffier? How do we cultivate even making our 'ulu trees grow? Because Palama is like the water. Always had water before that Palama came down, always had a stream on the side here, that came down before. There's not too many people that remember the stream that that came down from Kunawai. It came down through Kunawai and it came down to Saint Theresa's, on the side of St Theresa's. It ran all the way down on the side before they built the freeway and it ran down towards---right on the back part of Palama, there was a stream that went through. Palama had a small little 'auwai there. Because all Palama before was lo'i, taro patch. So when you look at how the taro needs to grow, because that's our keiki. The kalo is like the keiki. The kalo is there. It can nurture us, it feeds us. But how do we look at it that we can feed the minds of today's---right down to even the parents, too---how do we feed their minds with---wholesome?

But we grew up with Lawrence Welk (laughs). We grow up that way. We didn't watch Elvis Presley. We had to watch Lawrence Welk. That was our (laughs)---that was our entertainment. It had to be wholesome. I believe that Palama needs to go in that direction. We have a lot of intelligent people out there, very intelligent people. All that intelligence, whether we went to the moon, whether we put stuff on Mars---so how do we get the social woes and to the behaviors in society, you know, so that we can help our future, our children's future and their children's future for generation to generation. That's how I look at things. Not just for myself, but for my children, my grandchildren, and my next

generation and how I see, you know, what they need to go look at. Which is, one, you have to go to church. You live in my house, you live here, my grandchildren---you have to go to church. That's one of the rules. My son in the mainland, I call him on Sunday and I ask him, "What was the gospel today?" "Dad. Today is Easter. Hallelujah. Thank you." (Laughs) I'm like my dad. I'm just like my dad. He's---we always raised money, whether it was for Saint Louis, whether it was for Saint Teresa. Always had to. Saint Patrick's, Sacred Hearts Academy. My parents were that instrumental in bringing people together.

I think that's the thing too, is when you bring teams together, contact teams, financial development teams, the social teams. You bring representatives together and then you brainstorm it. I do it in my class of 1975. We've been out of school for 48 years. We still raised money. My classmates see me, they go, "Ho, da Hawaiian coming." (Laughs) Better get your checkbook (laughs). Because I don't want Saint Louis to close. I don't want Saint Patrick's schools to close. I don't want Saint Theresa's to close. I told my wife, you know, we going to do it, we'll get this done. The Lord will provide all that we need. That's how it works.

PR: Well, I think that's a very appropriate place for us to be, pau.

FG: Thank you so much, Paula.

PR: Thank you.

FG: Okay.

PR: This is great.