BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: Haunani Kaʻanoʻi Haia

Haunani Kaʻanoʻi Haia was born in Kailua, Oʻahu in 1976. Haunani grew up in Waiʻanae, Oʻahu, playing with neighborhood kids and family before making the transition to Lahainaluna. She started boarding at Lahainaluna her freshman year of highschool, where she participated in sports, FFA, and other extracurricular activities. She reflects on her time in Lahaina; the fun and the hard, and how it shaped her life and the direction she took in her career, and how she shares the same pride that many Lahainaluna Boarder Alumni still hold onto today.

Haunani Haia during her interview at her home in Waiʻanae on March 29, 2023.

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ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Haunani Haia (HH)

March 29, 2023

Waiʻanae, Oʻahu

BY: Wailana Medeiros (WM) and Micah Mizukami (MM)

WM: Um, we are in Waiʻanae, and this is Wailana Medeiros and Micah Mizukami, the time is 2:58 p.m. Okay. Aloha.

HH: Aloha.

WM: Thank you for sitting with us today. Can you please state your full legal name?

HH: Haunani Kaʻanoʻi Haia.

WM: So when and where were you born?

HH: 1976, in Castle, Kailua, Oʻahu.

WM: Who are your parents?

HH: William Haia and Joanne.

WM: And where are they from?

HH: My dad is from, he grew up in Kailua. He was born in Kaʻū. And then my mom was, is from Philly.

WM: Philadelphia?

HH: Yes.

WM: What did they do? What were their occupations?

HH: My dad was a welder at Pearl Harbor, and then my mom was a stay at home mom, like, until me and my older sister and brother got to about six or seven, into school. And then she was a secretary. And then she went into construction.

WM: So who are your ancestors on your father's side?

HH: Um, his mom is Violet Keanu from Kaʻū, uh, Hawaiʻi Island. And then his father is William Keahi Haia from Lahaina, Maui. Mm hmm.

WM: And for the ancestors on your mother's side?

HH: Oh, I'm sorry. My mother's side is James. James Gaffney and Francis Carter from the Blue Ridge Mountains in Pennsylvania. Yeah. Okay.

WM: And then how many. . . . can I ask?

MM: What is your family's connection to Lahaina?

HH: To Lahaina. So my dad's grandfather and grandmother, or grandfather I'm sorry, is from Lahaina. Moses Haia or Moses Kekai. And then his father and mother is both, their family generations back is from Lahaina also. Pili Kekai is is my great great great grandfather. And Meleana Kaʻohie is also from Lahaina as well. So.

WM: So how many siblings do you have?

HH: I have three sisters and one brother.

WM: And then who are they?

HH: Um, my oldest sister is Krystal, she also works at Pearl Harbor. My brother is Mahoe, he was a boarder, also at Lahaina. But he only went like, a year and a half and then came back to Waiʻanae. He works for Hawaiian Airlines. And then my sister, April, she also was a boarder for one year and then came back to Waiʻane and she also works at Pearl Harbor. And then my youngest sister is Koleka. She lives in Hilo, and she's a kumu at Nawahiokalaniopuʻu. Yeah.

WM: Awesome, and where are you in that order?

HH: I'm number two. Yeah.

WM: Where are the places that you've lived?

HH: In Waiʻanae, in this hale. Um, and then I went to Lahainaluna, and then I came back home, and then I went to UH Hilo. So I lived in Hilo for a little while during college, and then I moved back to Oʻahu, Waiʻanae. And then I moved to Washington for like almost five years. And then here.

WM: Where in Washington?

HH: Um, Marysville, which is north. About an hour north of Seattle. Yeah.

WM: All right. Um, and do you have a spouse?

HH: My kāne passed away about a year and a half ago. Yeah.

WM: I'm so sorry. So have you children. What about your kids?

HH: I have two keiki, and then my kāne has a daughter also. She's an adult, so she's. Yeah, She lives in California also. Yeah.

WM: Alright. So where did you go to elementary school?

HH: Right across the street, Lei Hoku Elementary. Yeah. So we had to walk. Yeah. Yeah, that's. That's my elementary school.

WM: And the Intermediate?

HH: Intermediate was Waiʻanae. Yeah.

WM: So when or how did you decide to go to Lahainaluna?

HH: So I have a aunty that's the same age as me. We were super close when we were growing up and so we made plans to, um, my grandparents live in Lahaina, and so we had planned that we'll go to school together. And so my mom wouldn't let me live with my grandparents because they had, you know, a lot of people there, their children and their spouses and their grandchildren living with them. And so my mom said the only way that I can go is to be a boarder at Lahainaluna. And so that's how I got to Lahaina.

WM: What was it like to leave home and be away?

HH: I think I missed a lot that I don't, I don't even know about. But yeah, I think I missed a lot. They did a lot of things. My family was, my parents were our coaches growing up and whatever sports we were playing. And so our family was pretty tight knit. And I just think that I missed a lot, but I don't know a lot. Yeah, I was homesick a lot.

WM: How often did you have to come back home?

HH: On, like, Thanksgiving? Winter break. Spring break. And then if we had something here on Oʻahu and it was a long weekend sometimes, but normally just those long breaks and then summertime.

WM: Can you describe what it was like to arrive to Lahainaluna for the first time, in your dorm for the first time, and how you felt?

HH: Yeah, I know. I still remember the first day I cried and I told my mom, please don't leave me. And she said, you'll be fine. Yeah, we, she brang me to the dorms. Helped me, you know, unpack everything, set up my bed. My roommate, my freshman year was Uʻilani Keliʻikoa, which she's from Waiʻanae also, she was a senior, so she's really, you know.

To have that familiar face it was good, but I was still scared and homesick. Yeah, but. And then, then my mom left, and then I cried. Yeah, I was like 13 because my birthday is in December. So that was the first time that I was ever away from home. I mean, we spent our summers with our grandparents, but away from anybody, you know, that I knew besides my roommate. But she's much more older than me, so I wasn't like we were, like, close. I just knew her family. Yeah.

WM: So what were your living conditions like? What was the dorms like?

HH: Our room was small, so we had a roommate. One roommate, and we had, like, a twin sized bed, a closet, like a small closet, dresser, which had, like, three big drawers and then two small drawers, and a desk. And yeah, I can still picture the black laminate flooring. We had a small window. Yeah.

WM: So what was it like to be in that dorm full of girls? What was that dynamic like? Was it welcoming when you first got there?

HH: Um, I think. I think, yeah. Like, it took a little getting used to to being away for the first time that, you know, not having my parents or my grandparents or even my siblings. Getting to know like, other teenagers. So it was, it was scary. And yeah, I just remember it being so scary the first time. And then by the time I was a junior and senior and then it was you know, it was it was okay. Yeah, I got used to it.

WM: So what was your daily schedule like? Can you take us through your daily schedule?

HH: Yeah, our daily schedule. . . . was I had to text my friends, like, make sure my timeline is good, but yeah, it's pretty crazy. So we woke up, Monday through Friday at 5:45 a.m.. You know, brush our teeth, brush our hair, put on our work clothes, and went down to time clock where we checked in and we worked from 6 to 7, and then the bell would ring and then we had to run back to time clock to turn in our tools and run back to the dorms to shower and put on our school clothes. And then we had to be in a line by 7:15 to walk to breakfast. I mean to walk to the cafeteria. And then we ate breakfast. We had morning announcements first and then. And then and then breakfast. And then we had to be back at the dorms and, you know, grab all of our things for school, finished getting ready by 7:45. And then we had school and then school was done 2:00 Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. And then we would end in 1:10 on Wednesdays. And then again we would change into our work clothes and then go down to the time clock and we'd work, you know, check in, and then then we would work from 2:10 or 2:15 to like 4:10 or 4:15. We would work 2 hours after school. And then after that, you know, we had break or I mean, free time. And then if you had sports and you went to your sports, um, and then we had dinner at five and then free time again until study hall was like at six, 6 to 7, and then 7 to 10, 7:10 or 7:15, I think there was a break. And then again study hall, another hour, study hall, and then free time and clean dorm or clean dorm and then free time and then lights out at nine. And then Fridays, I think lights out was at 10:00 and then Fridays and Saturdays, if we stayed in the dorms. If we went out then like we had one weekend where we, one weekend a month where we could go and stay with our sponsor

or whoever. And then one, I mean one whole weekend, so Friday to Sunday and then like three overnights. Of course if we were not, if our grades were up and if we didn't have any major hours or anything. Um, and then if we were in the dorms, we had to work Saturday mornings, I think it was at 7:45 or 8:00, and then again 2 hours I think we worked or an hour and a half I can't remember. And then, and then free time. Free time for the rest of the day after, after work. Then we could go downtown or go wherever. And if we were staying in the dorms, then we just had to be back Saturdays, I think it was at 10:00 or 9:00, and then Sundays it was free all day. We didn't have to work and then we just had to be back at the dorms by 5:00. And then we had to study at six, six, seven, same like the weekdays. Yeah. So.

WM: Everybody we talked to, they had this schedule so pa‘a.

HH: Oh, yeah, because for four years, right, wake up 5:45 every single morning, be at the time—like it, it's pretty much like the military. Like of course like maybe 5 to 10 minutes off. But yeah, like I actually thought it was 7:30 that we had to get down because I was like, no ways we could get down there in 15 minutes, but we did. So I asked my, you know, my friends Amber and Kapeka and Dolan and Sarah, and there were like no, 7:15! And I was like, Oh my gosh, all that. And then we had to be out of the dorms and off to school by 7:45. I was like, how the heck did we do that? Good thing we were young because we had to run. Like everything that we did, we had to run because if we were late oh, we would have hours. So they had this thing where you had hours. I guess it's kind of like I'm grounded. Being grounded at home. Yeah. And if you were late for anything, then you got like 5 hours or whatever. Then you had to work it off outside of our normal work. Yeah, Pretty crazy.

WM: You talk about sponsors, so were your sponsors your grandparents?

HH: Yeah, my freshman, my freshman, through my junior year with my grandparents. My grandfather passed away when I was a freshman, and then my grandmother passed away when I was a junior. And then so my senior year I had older, two older twin cousins. They were like two years older than me, but my mom trusted them more than she trusted others, I guess. Yeah. So. So my cousin that was still living in Lahaina, she was my sponsor my senior year. Yeah. And so the sponsors would sign our papers so that we could go out for the weekend. Yeah, it was just somebody that like a guardian. Yeah, that was in Lahaina town. And so or the students that were from Maui that lived on like Wailuku or Kahului side. I don't know if, if they're just their parents were their sponsors because they're closer than like outer Island students. So I don't know.

WM: I guess kind of backtracking, what were your jobs? What was your work like? What did you do?

HH: Um, so freshman year, everybody has to be. I think they broke it up in some by semesters, so everybody had to work one semester of yard and one semester of garden. And then our sophomore year, everybody had to work in the cafeteria. And then outside of that, there was a time clock. Um, the coaches kids were the, the boys were normally

like they worked the ‘opala truck in the mornings and gathered all the rubbish and whatever. And then they did like the big jobs, like, I dunno, blowing, cleaning the parking lots. There was AG, I worked on AG most of my including my freshman year through my senior year. And then there was dorm. Some people worked in the dorms and then there was some people that worked in the office, the office girls. I really don't know what everybody else did, like in the office and what the dorm people did. Um, but yeah, those are pretty much all the jobs, I think.

WM: Did you have a favorite?

HH: Um, yeah. I worked AG and I loved AG because mostly it was kind of a cruise job where we, we had some days that we, we bust our butts, but for the most part it was, it was pretty cruise. And because there was like there was only like 3 to 4 people that worked on AG. So there was two teachers, so 3 to 4 for one teacher and 3 to 4 for the other teacher. So I worked for Miss Spencer, which is, um, she's Miss Magno now. Yeah. Did you guys, um, interview her? So, yeah, I liked working on AG.

WM: Awesome. So what other students did you work with that you remember in AG or other jobs that you, I don't know, I guess became pili with?

HH: Yeah. So, down AG, I worked with Lani Kane. She's one of my best friends. She's married to my cousin, and we still keep in touch, but so had me, Lani, Ryan Taniguchi, and then Jay Thomas. And yeah, I think the four of us worked there for, like, at least two years together. Um, just because Ryan is like, a 96 grad. So by the time he came in, we were, I was a junior, Lani was a senior, but the four of us pretty much worked like years together.

WM: You also talked about working under Miss Spencer. Were you also in the ag class?

HH: Yeah, yeah, yeah. So when we were going there, all the boarders had to take AG. Um, now I think it's like a elective or it's not mandatory. But yeah, I had AG from my freshman to my senior year. Um, I had a lot of Miss Spencer, so there was three teachers in AG at that time. Spencer, Ideoka and then Boss Kawamura. Yeah, yeah. So I took a lot of Ms. Spencer's classes. I took one or two classes from Ideoka, which was tractor, tractor driving. That's pretty fun. Yeah. Like what other school? Right. Besides Ka'u or I don't know, Leilehua, over here on this island has tractor driving or AG. Yeah. And then for, like, Ms. Spencer, I had horsemanship, we had horses that, and so during work too, we took care of the horses, like fed them, clean them, move them from pasture to pasture or arena. Yeah. Yeah. They don't, they don't have horses anymore. I think Ms. Spencer is the one that actually started horsemanship. I think, I believe so. But yeah, because before like our freshman year there was horses, but then by time like our senior year. So I think our freshman year had like one or two horses. And then by the time I graduated there was like six or seven horses. And so it was a class, the horsemanship that you could take. And then of course, there was limited seats in that class because there was only like six or seven horses and it was only a semester.

WM: Were you also in FFA?

HH: I was, I was, I was in FFA four years. I was a chapter reporter my junior year and then State Sentinel my senior year. So what that means is that we got to travel, um, as a state officer, I went to Kansas City for the, the National FFA Convention, which is pretty cool, being I think that might have been like my first time out of Hawaii besides being a baby and going with my parents. But yeah, it was, it was cool and I think it was like a week, a week long convention and we visited other schools that had, um, agriculture. But they had like, you know, they would I remember going to one school, I can't remember the name, but, um, they had sheep and so they would shave the sheep and make, you know, sell the wool outside. They had cows and they had, you know, different stuff than, you know, like Hawaii, has agriculture; growing plants and that kind of stuff. But yeah, and then every year we had the FFA. It was a competition. Like we entered into different categories, horticulture where they or, horticulture where they made rosettes and flower like they had to do, yeah. And they got judged on how pretty their, and how good it held up. You know like they make corsages and stuff and different ornaments or whatever. I was in parliamentary procedure, so like running a meeting and you know, like we had a script, but it was like all the official, like all the if we're voting on something, all the I's say I, all the no's say nay or whatever, and I second the motion like that kind of stuff. Parle pro. Facilitating, Yeah. Facilitating a meeting and stuff. So yeah.

WM: Cool.

HH: Yeah.

WM: Were you in any other extracurriculars at Lahainaluna?

HH: Yeah, I was also in. So all the boarders had to be in boarders chorus. We didn't have a choice, which is good. Right. Um, and then I also was in Hawaiiana, the hula we put on or we danced for David Malo Day, yeah. Which is like a May Day, I guess other schools are May Day programs, but we had David Malo Day.

WM: And that was under Aunty Lori?

HH: Aunty Lori and Uncle Phil. Yeah. So they were the two. Uncle Phil, you know, handled the boys and taught them Miller and hula and stuff. And then Aunty Lori was the, the girls. Yeah. And they were also our boarders chorus leaders too. So they had a lot of involvement in with the boarders.

WM: Would you perform off campus too, or mostly for David Malo Day?

HH: Yeah, mostly just for David Malo Day. At least I did. I don't. I think there might have been I don't know if yeah. Some of the other, that are students went off campus and did programs or not. Not that I can remember.

WM: Anything else that you were involved in?

HH: Oh, soccer. Yeah. Yeah, I played soccer. I played soccer my first through my junior year. My senior year I didn't because I was stupid. I thought that. Yeah. I thought I was smarter than the coach, but yeah, so I got kicked off the team so stupid. Yeah. Yeah. High school kids, right? Like we thought was, we knew everything.

WM: But speaking of discipline, what was that like? I know you talked about, um, getting hours and stuff, but who would be the ones giving out hours?

HH: It could be any of the, so like, any of. Like, any of the AG teachers, any of the dorm counselors. Any, anybody working in the caf. I think, like if we were if we were doing something that we were not supposed to. I'm not sure if any of the teachers, I'm sure if they were to say something too like, somebody that was a part of the, the boarding department, that oh, so-and-so was doing this or, you know, something that they weren't supposed to. Pretty sure that we could have got hours. Any of the office ladies. But yeah, mostly, mostly the counselors the dorm counselors or like Coach Watson, Mr. Manzano, who was in charge of the garden, who ran the garden. And then Ms. Lindsey. She was our dorm matron.

WM: Can you talk a little about Ms. Lindsey?

HH: Ms. Lindsey, yeah, she was like our, she was our dorm matron. And then so kind of like our mother away from home, right? Like she made she kind of like, kept us in line. If we had to, if we were sick or needed to go to the hospital or anything, she would be the one to take us. Um, yeah, I kind of didn't have, unless I was sick. Have too much run-ins with Ms. Lindsey, but. Mary Helen, I didn't realize this, but her mother, I think, is Aunty Pua Lindsey, Right. Like she was a hula. I think she was a hula teacher. Or she's. She's somebody that is in that like she's somebody big in that community and not until I went to college and learned about different stuff. You can cut this out. But yeah, they realized that her mom Aunty Pua Lindsey is like a and she is like a Hawaiian cultural like. Yeah, actually I seen like, I know this because Eddie and Myrna and one of their interviews, they interviewed her, and then had a bunch of people that was talking about her in their interviews. And I was like, Oh my gosh, that’s Ms. Lindsey's mom. So. But anyways, yeah, yeah.

WM: No, it's it's interesting seeing all the connections. So there's a lot of connections.

HH: There is. Yeah. And the sad thing is, is that I didn't learn about this stuff until after high school when I was in college. Like, like David Malo, we knew him as he was one boarder, and but we didn't know, like, why he was so important to, to our history. Yeah. Until I went to college and learned about him. And then even now, still, like, I mean, I'm not in school anymore, but my job, the things that I do, like I come across a lot of people that talk about David Malo and, and Kamakau and, you know, Kepelino and all of these people that are so important to to our Hawaiian culture and history and stuff. But yeah, I keep saying that I think that they should teach about David Malo and Kamakau in school

and all of Lahaina should know about these two people right. I mean more people but, especially those two.

WM: There's a really big rich history.

HH: Yes.

WM: Speaking of David Malo, um, can you talk about David Malo Day?

HH: Yeah, it was, it's exciting. And yeah, we prepared, right? Like we, we learned dances and Uncle Johnny, um, John Lake would come from Oahu with his, you know, several people from his halau to come and teach us song, dances and, and stuff like that. And then they would, we would have like a workshop. I think it was like a weekend, a weekend workshop. And then we would learn all of our hula and then we would go over it like months, you know, we would prepare for it, practice months and months and months and then prepare for David Malo day. And then we would perform in front of, um, yeah, the school and the community. The boarders, I think that was a boarders fund, one of the boarders fundraisers. We would have laulau or kalua pig and sell plates. And then us as boarders, if I remember correctly we had to make the laulau, sorry, make the laulau, and and kalua pig or whatever it was that we were selling. And then we would, yeah, make all of it we had to make lei, make our own lei. We had to find somebody. So my mom did mines and my aunties outfits for David Malo Day. But we had to make all of our lei. They had certain people that would go up with, up to the forest and pick liko, whatever. You know, whatever else they picked. I just remember liko lehua and stuff, or we had to go and get our own laua‘e, and make our own whatever lei, kupe‘e, you know, leipo‘o. And then. Yeah. And then. David Malo Day came and we performed. And yeah, I don't know, it was, it was exciting. It was something that I didn't think about until just now. You asked me, right? Like, um, being in that. Yeah, that environment. I guess it's a kind of not as big as the Merrie Monarch, I guess. But, you know, that was our Merrie Monarch of. Yeah. Yeah. I think it's if I think about May Day in like schools, elementary and stuff, David Malo was at night. It was at nighttime and it was. Yeah. I mean, we had a stage it was called boarder, on Boarders' Field. Yeah. And then, you know, it was a hula pa, which, it was beautiful, nice grass. There was rock wall and, and the seating where the boarders sat, behind the stage was rock, was the rock, was like one rock wall. Yeah. It's beautiful. You know. Of course, now we appreciate things more than when you're in high school. Yeah, you know, everything. But yeah, that was. David Malo Day. And then, of course, we took turns. The boarders chorus would sing some songs, and then. Then the hula, the Hawaiiana club would dance some songs, boys and girls together. And then some songs the boarders would sing. And then the, and then the Hawaiiana club would dance. Um, yeah. So.

WM: Was there a big community turn out?

HH: Yeah. Yeah. At all. I think they still have it on the Boarders' Field still, which is nice because now they have like our graduations was on Boarders' Field as well, but now I think they have too much graduates that they can't have it on Boarders' Field, So they

have it on the football field. But I think having it on Boarders' Field, there was just a little bit more it was more, I don't know, like in yeah, more intimate and just that feeling of right, like having the hula pa there and on the grass. Nothing like green grass. Yeah. In, in your toes and the green grass and that athletic and the athletic field. Yeah.

WM: Um, I guess another aspect of David Malo, going up to Mount Ball?

HH: Puʻu Paʻupaʻu. Yeah.

WM: Can you talk about the L?

HH: Oh yeah. So boarders every, two times a year, we had to go up to, to lime that, we called it liming the L, but only the boys lime the L. And then the girls we went up to the top where David Malo, and David Malo's buried there and then his dog Hoapili. Yeah. And so the girls would clean, clean like around the grave and, you know, put fresh flowers, and then the boys would lime. And then when the boys are done, they would come up to the top of the mountain and then we would, you know, sing, sing some songs. Yeah. And just I didn't realize it then, but I guess honor David Malo, right? Yeah. So, you know.

WM: I mean, it's, it's, it's a beautiful tradition, right? Lahainaluna is so rooted in so many different traditions. Yeah. Yeah. It definitely shapes a lot of.

HH: Yeah. Yeah.

WM: So could you maybe talk about how these kinds of traditions shaped your worldview or how you see the world?

HH: Oh, um.

WM: Maybe in pertaining to Hawaiian culture?

HH: Oh, yeah. Well, first, um, there's no pride like Lahaina pride, I think, right. Like. Uh, yeah. I think everybody that went to Lahaina is, you know, they're so proud of Lahainaluna. And yeah, but anyways.

WM: Thats a theme that we get too.

HH: Yeah. Yeah. My kāne, all he wore was Lahainaluna shirts, Lahainaluna hat like, we have a Lahainaluna flag. You guys see it right, inside the garage. Like everything, he is, Mr. Lahainaluna. Um, but I think everybody that graduated from Lahainaluna has that. But as far as it shaping my world view, I think because it's so Lahaina Town, Lahainaluna High School is so old, and it's, I don't know it steps back into that that time you know, that history. Um, and then I think it's I don't know cut this part they like. Sorry. Can you. Can you ask me that question again?

WM: Oh, I guess I was just asking how the values that you learned at Lahainaluna kind of shaped you as a person, or what what values you took away, and you said, pride.

HH: Uh huh.

WM: Pride is definitely a value. And I was wondering if maybe any of those values, um, were connected to, um, how you see yourself as a Hawaiian or like, Hawaiian culture, in a way.

HH: Mm hmm.

WM: Because, if I'm not mistaken, other public schools don't have that kind of connection to somebody so big in, I guess everything with our Hawaiian culture.

HH: Yeah. And history. Yeah, I think my values. Well, yeah. Pride. Not only in Lahianluna High School, Lahaina community, but in being Hawaiian. I think that when when we were in school, that, that there wasn't, there wasn't a question if I mean, what I'm trying to say is that we didn't know a difference between being Hawaiian and not being Hawaiian. I think that there's a lot of schools that have that question or being proud of being Hawaiian. Um, I don't know. And I mean, I don't think we realize it at that time. I think now looking back and then of course, going to school and what we did, we did this at Lahaina, you know what I mean? Like learning, going to a Hawaiian, Hawaiian, you know, being in Hawaiian studies, Hawaiian Pacific studies, and, um, now being, you know. I, you know, I, I think we learned a lot more than we actually knew. Um, I don't know if it's my, the career path that I took or. Because I'm involved or, you know, I, I work in archives and we, Bishop Museum archives, at that right, everything is Hawaiian or Hawaiian Pacific. But we, there's a lot of stuff that I learned from Lahaina, and there's a lot of stuff that I use in my jobs now that I, I carried from Lahainaluna. Please don't ask me what it was, because I know that. Yeah. Anyways, does that answer?

WM: Yeah, yeah. I was just asking because I know you work in archives. We also did some archive digging in Lahaina too, so maybe you can relate.

HH: Yeah, I kind of wish that Lahainaluna has. I mean, I think that they should have their own archives and know that they have a lot of stuff, a lot of my friends, Lori, she was a day student, she's a year older than me, but, um, she's kind of working with some of the alumni or faculty and getting that archive up and running. And I, you know, it's the oldest school west of the Rockies, it's the oldest school here in Hawaii. I think that they should have an archive and they have Hale Pa‘i, you know, they alone should. I think they do. It's in the basement. Um, I think that they could use a lot more funding for space, like more space to, um, but yeah, anyways that's archives.

WM: So I guess we can try to transition a little bit to more, um, fun, you know? What did you do for fun? What was your off campus life like? What did you do when you went downtown? Who was your sponsors?

HH: So a lot of the boarders we used to go to the wharf. We used to hang out at the wharf, and we would either go watch movies or eat or Fun Factory. Um, yeah, we. There was this one place Gosh, I can't remember the name of. There's like, certain places that all the boarders would go. Like one was TCBY, which is a yogurt, they don't have that anymore, like anywhere. I don't think they exist in Hawaii anymore. It was a yogurt place, the country's best yogurt. Um, but that was one place that every weekend, almost every boarder went there. Baskin-Robbins. They had these two pints for $10. So like we would right before we went back up to the school, you know, buy ice cream. And then, of course, we had to write our names on it, or it's a community refrigerator or freezer, so people would end up eating ice cream. But those are like two of the things. There's a restaurant, I can't remember this restaurant. And then of course, there was a text that went out, "Oh, what is that restaurant that was always eat?" I can't remember it now, but, um, fun factory. It was another thing that we did. And the movies at the wharf or walk down Front Street. One thing that I did a lot with my, my ʻohana my grandfather loved going to the beach. And so every Sundays, if I wasn't with them, I knew where to find them. If I wasn't with them already, I knew where to find them. And we always went to Wahikuli beach. And yeah, that was the thing. That was a thing that we, you know, all my grandparents and all my aunts, uncles and cousins. Yeah, that was something that was pretty special. Sundays. Yeah, it was every Sunday. So all my cousins guys and my grandmother tried to continue that after my grandfather passed away. I think we did it at least as long as my grandmother was still alive. And then after that it was kind of sporadic. But my cousins still go, you know, cousins that still live out, that live in Lahaina still, and and my aunties and uncles on Sundays, not every Sundays as much as we went when my grandfather was alive. But most you know, a lot of Sundays they'll go around to Wahikuli and just, you know, chill barbecue and stuff but.

WM: So this was mostly weekends. Did you ever stay with your grandparents for breaks?

HH: No. I always yeah, I always came home because I would spend the weekends when, you know, when I could when I could leave the campus, I would spend the weekends with them or overnight.

WM: Did you ever go with your friends to their houses?

HH: Um, in Lahaina, I mean, on Maui. Yeah, sometimes. Yeah, we had. So Lori, the friend that I was talking about. Yeah, we. I remember staying at her house a couple of times. Um, she was a day student and she lived in Lahaina, and so we had a couple of weekends, girl weekends where, you know, we just, I don't know, ate ice icecream and a lot of junk food, and stayed up and talked story. Um, where else? But yeah, pretty much. I think it's just Lori's house. We also, when we did stay at her house, there was a lot of times that we went hiking, um, at these falls on the other side. Um, sorry, Hāliʻimaile, but I can't remember the name of the falls that we went hiking and stuff, so.

WM: Your friend was a day student. What was, was, was there a certain dynamic between boarders and day students? Would they tend to stay together, the boarders?

HH: I think they're. Yeah. For the most part I think, I think the class of '93 and '94, I think we had a lot more day student/boarder interaction than probably any other class as far as I remember. Um, because even those two classes as boarders, um, you know, a lot of us '94 hung out with '93 I think because we were mainly because we were underclassmen together, you know, our freshman and, and their sophomore year. Um, and then class of '94 we, yeah, we had a lot of day students friends that we hung out with. And then of course they were the ones who would pick us up on the weekends right when we got older. Um, and then, yeah, in fact, kāne's two, two cousins are our, is our classmates. And you know, they were both day students, Eric and Kenui. We, we hung out a lot with them our senior year and then yeah, that's how we all got close.

WM: Um, what about the dynamic with the boy and girl dorms, was it. . .

HH: . . . I think it was, it's kind of like how I grew up over here. Me and my sister were the only two girls in the neighborhood, and so we had a lot of boy friends. Um, and it was the same with the boy and girl boarders and not so much like boyfriend girlfriend, but more like brother sister. Um, yeah, definitely. Like we, we still keep in touch with, you know, our, our, the boy boarders, the great our class. Pretty much everybody keeps in touch with each other.

WM: So everybody's really close.

HH: Yeah.

WM: Girls are close. Guys are close. But like everybody.

HH: Mhm. Yeah. I think class of '95 is like that too, and '93. Um, but yeah, I'm not sure about everybody else but that's how we are.

WM: What about the dynamic within the girls dorm? Did that take some time getting used to. Was there some pilikia, sometimes?

HH: Yeah, I think so. I think that's just the nature of females. Right. Like, it's easier. I mean, I don't know, I, I don't know if it's because that's the way I grew up. That's why. Because I grew up with all boys and me and my sister. In my family there's a lot of girls, but in our neighborhood there's a lot of boys. And so, um, we just got along better with boys. Um, I mean, but then the dynamics within the girls dorm, I think there could have been catty stuff, but. . . . I didn't really. . . . Yeah, but I think still there was, of course, like, everything clicks and, and there's good friends and there's people that are, like, on the outskirts. Yeah. I don't know. I think that.

WM: Oh, good. Um, so, yeah, so boarders and non boarders got along, the girls and guy boarders got along. Was there difference in chores or work between the girls and guys?

HH: The only thing that I can remember is that the students that worked with Coach Watson, so he was the he was the yard leader. You know how like Mr. Manzano was the garden,

coach Watson was a yard. And so they took care of like pretty much the whole the school, the whole grounds of the school. But, but he had girls that worked in time clock for him. And, you know, they checked in everybody for work morning and afternoon and on the weekends and then on Saturdays. And then if we needed to check out a tool, then they were the ones who did that. And then the guys that worked with them was the ʻopala. They, you know, they did the ʻopala truck. They did certain certain jobs around the campus that needed like, I guess more macho stuff. Like they built a dressing room during, you know, David Malo time. They helped coach with that if there was like, I guess if there was like trees that needed to be like, cut down, like, you know, like that kind of macho stuff. So that's the only difference. Other than that, I think everything was like pretty fair, like girls and boys worked in the yard. Girls and boys, you know, worked in the garden, school, chicken shit, both boys and girls. Yeah. So it's it's just down in that time clock, I think was the only you know.

WM: What were your classes like?

HH: Classes, I know boarders slept a lot. I did. I slept a lot. And it's like if you can always tell a border because they're the ones sleeping in class. Luna is probably on in school, I guess that have that has students sleeping in class like during class time and that was a border. Normally our classes was. I don't know. I guess. I guess, uh. Yeah. I don't know. It's just like. Yeah, there was a lot of AG. And so I think the thing is that, uh, I had to get dirty, and then you got to still go to another class right after that. But nobody cared. At least I don't think anybody cared. Like, Oh, they're so dirty, sweaty and dirty. But yeah, it was fine.

WM: Um. Yeah. So. Um okay. Was there any recruiters that would come around?

HH: Before? Before? Yeah, before. Like recruiting people to go to Lahainaluna? Yeah. I remember in eighth grade I was at Waiʻanae Intermediate and then there was a recruiter that came. I don't think they do that anymore. Yeah, I forgot that they, they did that. They went around to schools on. I mean, yeah, on Oʻahu. I'm pretty sure the other islands too, Hawaiʻi and Lānaʻi, and Molokaʻi.

WM: Did that recruiter have any um, push for you to go to Lahainaluna, or you were already set, because of your ʻohana.

HH: I don't remember. Yeah, I think I. I think I had already made my mind up when they. . . . And then when they had come, I was like, oh, yeah, I heard about this school. That's yeah, I remember them coming to Waiʻanae Intermediate and then we meeting in a, in a, so we had to fill out the application and then they came back for interviews. So they came as a recruiter and then handed out applications and then I filled it out and then they came back. Somebody came back again for interviews.

WM: Do you remember your interview?

HH: I, I don't. Yeah, I don't remember. It's like so long ago.

WM: And so sports. You. You played soccer?

HH: Mm hmm.

WM: What was that like in your schedule? How did you balance the sports and the work? All of your kuleana?

HH: Um, of course. I think it was easier for boarders to balance all of that because we had specific times set that we had to go to do anything else, like we had to stay in our room at our desk, we had to sit at our desk and we had to was like, so what else are we going to do, right? To study? And I wasn't a good student, but and so I think it was a lot easier for a boarder student athlete than a day student. I just couldn't imagine. I mean, I can't imagine what like when they set times, I mean, unless they had to. Anyways, we had to, we had to have we had like specifically 2 hours every single night to do homework. And so I think now, like, I think if it was me now, I would be so tired. I'm already, you know, it can be tiring going to work full time and then, you know, whatever sports or coaching that I'm doing. But in high school I, I just don't remember it being super hard. And I think mainly it's because we had specific times that we had to study. Um, sometimes sports. What you got out of work a little bit earlier than, than everyone else. Like if you had practice, especially if you had games because I remember soccer games being Tuesdays, I think it was Tuesdays and Saturdays. So Tuesday's definitely we got out of work because we left in the middle of school and then Saturdays we got out of work because it was on a Saturday. And then sometimes, yeah, we got to leave work earlier than everyone else. Um. Yeah.

WM: That's why people like to play sports?

HH: I think so, yeah. To get out of work. Anything to get out of work. Yeah. That's funny.

WM: I forgot to ask, what was the dating scene like?

HH: Oh, uh, there was a lot of boarders. That was. Yeah. You know, couples that were both boarders. Uh. I can't remember too much. That was like a boarder/day student, at least the years that I was there. There were some. Not a whole lot. I think there was more. More both of them. A couple was both boarders. But yeah, not. Not a lot like I think. I think you would think that because we all live together and we see each other all the time, that there's a lot more couples that are boarders. But I don't, I don't think there was a whole lot. Not as much as you would think, because we all live together. I mean, but, you know, the boys and girls dorms are separate. But no.

WM: So there are boarders dances?

HH: Yeah.

WM: Hmm. Do you remember some things about the boarders dances?

HH: We had to. We had a date. You. You know, you asked somebody to be your date. Um, and then it was pretty much in the gym, but we all got, you know, we got, like, dressed up, like girls found dress. You know, it's kind of, like, not as much as prom, but maybe, like, a banquet. Yeah, everybody found a dress, and, you know, girls did their hair and makeup, and you got dressed up more than you would like a regular school dance. And then our senior year, the seniors, they have the second—so they think they have two boarders dances, did somebody mention that?

WM: Think so, yeah.

HH: So there was two a year and then, um, the second boarders that year, their senior year, we went to dinner and we could bring our date. Um, my senior year, my friend was a day student, um, Ryan Casco. He was, I think he was a sophomore at that time. But yeah, we were like really good friends. And, and so, um, he was my date. And then every, every year the seniors go and eat at um, I can't remember the name of the restaurant, but it's at the Plantation Inn, which is across the wharf. And then so they go to dinner and then they go back to the boarders at the gym. And then seniors has they, they have like these, do you, the—bequeath you want to bequeath to underclassmen like and you fill out this valiant of, I don't know like questions, questions you fill out of your your years you know, what you remember, memorable time and is a memorable memory, least favorite whatever memory, and then things that you want to bequeath to any other classmates and stuff, underclassmen. And then they actually, they actually like made it like in this certificate like and print it out and give it to you after, I don't even remember if I have my mine. But yeah, boarders dance was fun. Yeah.

WM: You guys were the ones to decorate the gym?

HH: Yeah, yeah, yeah. There was a committee or whoever wanted to. Yeah. Volunteer to help decorate the gym. Yeah. I don't remember who, like set up the. I remember getting a for the dinner. The seniors. The second boarders dance for the seniors. I remember getting like, you can choose. I don't know, chicken or beef or, you know, like, that kind of stuff on the menu. Um, I don't know who who was, who took care of that, like, coordinated that stuff, but yeah, yeah, it was a mostly the girls that decorated the gym and and got everything ready for boarders dance.

WM: Speaking of food and dinner, what was food like at Lahainaluna?

HH: At Lahainaluna. So back then we had like orchards and so we had oranges and avocado and grapefruit. So like, sometimes we would pick the oranges. It was good, sweet. Sometimes it was sour, but. Yeah, I remember, like, picking that stuff. Sometimes we're not supposed to, I guess, but take it back to the dorms and eat it. In the caf, the breakfasts, what I remember, is they made their own bread buns and stuff, and so they would make peanut butter and put guava jam and mix it. Yeah. And then the butter was like, I don't know if it was it was like butter and real butter. And so they would give you, you can either have like peanut butter and butter or they didn't really give us jam because it was

mixed in a peanut butter. But it's super sweet and it's so good. But it was, and then you mix it with the butter. It's so good and bread. Um, yeah, they made their own buns. Um, my friend and I, my friend Val and I used to take rice, hot rice back to the dorms, and we opened like a can of tuna, and then we'd take limes from the orchards and just that's what, that's what we ate outside of whatever the caf had. Um, yeah.

WM: The boarders are always hungry.

HH: Yeah. Boarders are always hungry. Yeah, well, had saimin. I mean, it was always somebody had, everybody had saimin. Um, and then, yeah, we had to make it. The boys, I think, had a stove, but the girls didn't. The boys had like one kitchen and then so they had a stove, but the girls only had microwave and a refrigerator freezer. And so we made our saimins in the microwave. Ice cream. Most, most boarders had ice cream. And then I remember having, like, poi like we always somebody always had poi. And so that's where I learned how to eat, like rip, like make a, or rip the edge, the corner, I mean the corner of the bag and just squeeze the up, squeeze it like that straight into our mouth. And then, um, if we're not gonna eat the whole bag, like, wrap it up, tie it. Yeah. Save it for later. Um, my grandmother would take me whenever I would sleep over her on the weekends her house, she would take me food shopping before I went back up to the dorms. Um, yeah, So I remember always having, like, Cheetos, cheese balls and, you know, the the pick, the picnic. It's like, it's like french fries, like super thin french fries, chips. But yeah, I always had had that. And saimin and tuna, those were, those are the staples of a boarder. But yeah.

WM: We talked to other people and they said that some of the arguments that would start was because people are stealing each other's food.

HH: Yeah. Yeah. Ice cream. That's so, earlier I said, like, make sure you put your name, but it didn't matter. Put your name on it or what somebody would still, you know, like, you know, maybe they didn't have, yeah. Food, or someone close that would take them, like fortunate I had my grandparents and then, you know, my aunties that would take me food shopping so I didn't have to use my money, or the money that my mom sent me to go buy food. That's another thing, too. Like we had a bank, like a bank account at the dorms. And so they would, our parents would like put money, so much money, or whatever every month. And then we could take out money from our accounts that they have at the– we had to go out–it was at the the boys dorm of course, because the boys dorm is bigger. So they had more room. So they had, like, the office. It was called the office. And you would go down there, fill out a slip, and then they would give you money. So yeah, we had our own bank accounts when bank accounts when we were in high school.

WM: Those are good life lessons.

HH: Yeah, yeah, yeah, totally. Yeah. So my mom would put in money, I can't remember, but, like, nothing like how now I, you know, I spent or my kids wants to spend money, right? Like, nothing. Not nearly as much, so. Yeah, we had to, like, be careful. Careful with our money. Yeah. Like, luckily, I had my grandma, my grandma, she would, you know. You

know, Grandmas right they're the best. Take you, buy you whatever you want. Yeah, but I still had to be careful with my money.

WM: So. I guess maybe we'll transition to after. What did you do after you graduated?

HH: Oh, after I graduated, I got into a huge fight with my mom because, again, I thought I knew everything. But I didn't. I didn't prepare for college and stuff, like when I was in, when I was a senior. So I didn't fill out any applications for school. And so, of course, when I get home, my mom asks me what I'm going to do. And I was like, I don't know. So I didn't, I think I because I didn't, you know, think beyond high school. It's just so stupid, so stupid of me. But I didn't think beyond high school, so I didn't fill out any applications. I didn't prepare to go to college. Um, but anyways, I got into a huge fight with my mom, so I ended up filling out an application for Leeward. So I went to Leeward for a couple of years and then my sister was at UH Hilo and then my Auntie Eva, she's the same age as me. She also, she went to she went to Hilo right after school. And so I was like, Oh, okay, well, I'll try. Let me try Hilo. So I so I went to UH Hilo. Yeah, graduated.

WM: What did you major in?

HH: Psychology. Yeah, psychology. And I took a lot of Hawaiian, Hawaiian study classes. And so I could have minored, but I didn't. I think I needed, like, one more year of language, Hawaiian language, and then, like, one more elective or like, I was super close, but I was like, in a rush to go nowhere but in a rush to get out of there. So I didn't. I just yeah, so I have a bachelors in psychology. And then after that I moved back to O‘ahu. I was working for a title company and title researcher. That's how I got into researching and archives and that kind of stuff. Then I moved to Washington and missed home again.

WM: What did you do?

HH: Like up in Washington. So when I first moved up there, I worked for a title company or escrow company actually, and I, they didn't have a title department, but I did title stuff. So like the recording and stuff. And then I worked at a casino. Then, and then I came home to Hawaii, move home. And then a few years later, I was pregnant when I came home. I mean, I just found out like, the I think I moved home on a Friday, and I found out on the Tuesday that I was pregnant with my son. And so nobody's going to hire a pregnant girl. I worked, like, temp jobs. And then. And then after I worked for a trucking company. Yeah. And then I had my daughter. And then I went back to school. I was like, I'm not going to work for this trucking company forever. And so I went back to school and got a second bachelor's in Hawaiian Pacific Studies.

WM: From?

HH: UH West O‘ahu. Yeah. And then I graduated and then went into the master's program at UH, Library and Information Science. Yeah. And then. And then I started working for ‘Ulu ‘ulu. And then. Now that I was bored, but I was like, you know, throughout I was

throughout the years that I was going for my master's we went to Bishop Museum and the state archives to do research projects. And so when I was at the Bishop Museum, Crystal, her name is Crystal but, she was in my classes, but she at for the library information science. She had said that there was a lot of stuff in Bishop Museum, that a lot of stuff that still needs to be opened. Like, you know, they have a lot of stuff in there that, they don't know a lot. They don't know what it is. And so there's a lot of work in, you know, cataloging all of that stuff. And so I was like, oh, okay. So when I went to, so I was working for ʻUlu ʻulu, and I was only working part time because I had to, you know, take my kids to school, pick them up and whatever. And then so I was like, oh, a position opened at Bishop Museum, but it was through the, it was a nūpepa. And so in my interview, they had asked if I was they said that they would give me the position, but if I wanted to be work for the Bishop Museum library archives instead of just specifically on nūpepa. And I said yeah, so that sounds, you know, that sounds good. So I took it. So that's so I work part time for ʻUluʻulu, and then part time at Bishop library and archives.

WM: That is pretty cool.

HH: Yeah, it is. I love it. I guess. You know, it took me. I don't know. How old am I? Like, in my forties. Took me that long to find something that, you know, a career that I love. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, I did, finally. And, um.

WM: Yeah. So do you think you can talk about, are there ways in which Lahainaluna prepared you for the outside world?

HH: Yeah, maybe not directly. I mean, yeah, it definitely did. When learning to get along with people, even though our views may not be the same or values may not be the same. We're humans. We all, right like, we have to get along and we have to find a way to to get along. So Lahaina really, because you're living with a bunch of people that you've never met before, you have no idea their home life, where they come from, what values their family has, or what values they have. But you have to live together. And so, yeah, that's one that's probably one of the the biggest things. And then, of course, figuring stuff out on my own, right? Of course, my mom is a phone call away. However, she's not always, like, right there. Yeah. Or that security blanket like a lot of, a lot of kids, I think. Their parents are there through, through high school. And, you know, there's a lot of changes going on internally as teenagers are going into high school. Right. And yeah, we just have to we had to figure it out. Sink or swim, or swim and swim, swim and sink or whatever it is. But yeah, that, that helped a lot to in life. Like, um, knowing that if it doesn't work out, it's okay. But I have to figure it out.

WM: Were there, I mean, since you didn't have your parents all the time were there adults that you could trust?

HH: Yeah. Yeah. Ms. Spencer. Ms. Spencer was huge. Um, so our our freshman year was her first year teaching at Lahainaluna. Um, she was a boarder, so she knew. She knew what boarding life was. She knew what went on in the dorms between. Between, you know, girls. Boys, upperclassmen, underclassmen. And so she, yeah, she was one that we, I

think our class or our group of friends like, really, really leaned on Ms. Spencer. Even when my mom and I got into a fight after high school, she was the one that I, you know, I talk to because I was in Lahaina, actually, for a summer program. And she was you know, she was there. And I got into a fight with my mom. And then, you know, she was there to tell me that. It'll be okay. And, you know, you should listen to your mom because you, as a high school student, don't know everything. Yeah. Yeah, That was Ms. Spencer. We still call her Ms. Spencer, even though she's married. Her last name is Magno. And then another person was Ms Greer. Miss Greer. She was our dorm counselor. Then she came our sophomore year. Uh, she was another one that was, you know, was a good person to have in our corner. And not. Not that she favoritized, you know, favoritism us or anything, but she pretty much told us to, like, we don't we don't know everything. And, you know, but she was that support person that we knew that we could go to her if when we did need her and she was there in the dorms with us. So. You know, Ms. Spencer was always there during the you know, during school time. Oh. And then Ms. Greer was there at nighttime. Ms. Spencer also did, though she was a dorm counselor a couple of times because of some reason or another. I don't counselors, you know, had other stuff. And so she would substitute sometimes, too. So, yeah.

WM: Are there um, any specific values that you retain or that you now also implement in your own family life?

HH: Uh, yeah. So every morning we had dorm check and so our beds had to be made. That's one thing that I cannot stand if it's not made. So my kids are like, I'm like, get upstairs. I don't care if you fold your blankets or make your bed. Just make it. Every and then every Saturday we had, we had to clean our rooms every day. We had to clean our rooms. But every Saturday, it was like the upperclassmen would come into our room and actually, like, wipe if there's dust or anything. So that's another thing, too. Like my kids. Yeah, they have to clean. Good. Yeah, myself too. Like, I have to keep it, you know? I have to make sure that. Yeah, it is even. Yeah. Everything. Well, yeah. Most things.

MM: Um, can I ask what it's like being the only sibling who stayed all four years?

HH: Who stayed all four years, yeah.

MM: What about that dynamic?

HH: Oh, yeah, I will. So this isn't going to be, like, public on the website or anything, right? Yeah. Okay. No, it's. It's fine. It's nothing bad, but. So my brother, he went. So he's two years younger than me. So I was a junior and he was a freshman. So he went there, his freshman and then half of his sophomore year and then so as a sophomore, he, um, the reason he came home is he got into trouble during work time. He wasn't where he was supposed to be, and he was in a sugar cane hiding. And then Ms. Greer, they were making so much noise that Ms. Greer, um, she was on her walk, daily walk. Like everybody knows this. The same time, same place. She heard them playing, and they were hiding under a bridge, and so they got into trouble. So that's why my brother came home. However, my freshman year, I got into trouble for drinking, and my mom never

knew. I didn't know that. Um, no, sorry. My sophomore year. I told my dad he was up there that weekend, and so I told my dad, um. And nothing happened. I got a major, of course. So I had to work off like 25 hours. 30 hours, I think. But my mom never knew, and I never knew that. But my kāne, Lance, would always would always tease me like, oh, because and then so so he would tease me about that, that my dad didn't love me as much as he loved my brother because I stayed. He didn't. He did. My dad didn't want me to come home. And so. And then that's when we found out that he never told my mom. Because if he would have, then I probably would have come home and I wouldn't have graduated. And, you know, this is my sophomore year already, so I mean, only, only my sophomore year. So anyways, so my brother, like, he hates that, that I got to stay and he, you know, my, my, the offense was way more worse than his and, and but I got to stay. And then my sister she only went her freshman year but she like didn't get good grades, and so my mom kept her here. Yeah. After summer she didn't go back. Um, yeah, her and I, she's never really said anything about it. And, you know, that's not fair or she's never said anything about it. Um, but my brother like that, he told me that he's like, that's so not fair. And we got into a huge argument one time about it. But yeah, so that's kind of a sensitive subject, I guess. With my brother like, why I got to stay. He had to come back. But yeah, Lance. Lance would always tease me about that. And so I had to tell him, like, don't bring it up around Mahoe. Yeah. He was like, why? What he going do? I'm like, he's so sensitive about it. So. But yeah, that's, that's, that's what it is between us and yeah.

WM: Okay. I guess this is kind of a loaded question, but what does Lahainaluna mean to you?

HH: Oh.

WM: I had to disclaim that.

HH: Yeah, it is loaded. Um. Okay. Sorry. So, Lance. So I love Lahaina. Me, my older sister, my brother would spend our summers with my grandparents. So those are like the best memories. Besides Lahainaluna. And then I don't know. Just Lahaina has so much. Oh, gosh. Sorry. Lahaina means so much to me because my summers are my grandparents and, you know, my family. There's so much family over there. And so those are like the best times, best memories. And then, Lahainaluna when I went to there, they went there and I got to spend more time with my grandparents. I got to know more of my family, you know, besides my my grandparents and my aunties, my dad's siblings and uncles and cousins. I got to meet, like and know even more of my family. And then Lance he's a Kukahiko. So his family is from Lahaina. So he spent his summers in Lahaina, as well as a child with his grandparents. And then so like, so when we met in high school and then we both, we were friends. We weren't anything else. And then, like years later, we got together and then. And so because he was Lahaina. And so. Because he like Lahaina and Maui means so much to me. And he did the, his life path you know, as far as his childhood spending his childhood with his grandparents in Lahaina and then us meeting up after, everything about him. Reminded me of Maui, so. Maui is a little hard to talk about or to even visit these days because even after he would, he would go back to Lahaina to help his, so coach Watson is his uncle, his his dad. He called him dad. And his wife, Aunty Jackie, mom. Mom and dad. Right. And so he would go back every football,

every home football game and help Aunty Jackie run the food booth. And so, you know, the last before COVID, we spent a lot of a lot of time on Maui together, me and him, of course, the kids were here, but sometimes we would take them with us. But a lot of times it was us. And so, you know, the last so many years, it was he and I going to Maui. And that was our, I don't know, return home. And every time we had to come back to Oʻahu we'd always, it's like, oh, running, we run. We would run for our plane because we never wanted to leave. You know, we wanted to move back to Maui someday. Yeah. And so Maui is a little hard.

WM: But it definitely holds such a special place in your heart.

HH: Yeah, yeah, yeah, it does. Sorry. No. Yeah. Yeah.

WM: If you have anything else you want to share, maybe specific memories? Anything.

HH: Oh. Oh, I mean, after I started, after I had said okay, because I had read about it about this project and I was like, no way. I'm the one watching the interviews. I don't want to be in front of the camera. But when I was talking about Hawaiian Legacy Foundation, right, like and being an archivist, I can't, I couldn't say no. You know, these are, these are the, these are the proofs, right? The proof that our future has for whatever. I think the sad thing is, is that Lahainaluna boarding department, in our time when we were going there, right, like, there was no doubt that Lahainaluna would always have a boarding department. And within the last probably ten years, I think that's been threatened. So I was like, okay, I think it's important that, to try and get as much as much stories, as much memories of Lahainaluna. For if there was one day, hopefully not, because Lahaina has so much rich history, culture, pride and tradition. You know, I hope that that doesn't come. It doesn't, there doesn't come a day that Lahainaluna Boarding Department is no longer. So that's why I was like, look, I got to say yes. And I tried to get as much people as I know to, you know, to tell their story. Um.

WM: Well, we mahalo you for everything. Taking the time to sit with us, and step out of your comfort zone and be vulnerable. Yeah, because it's hard to do that, and we see you.

HH: Uh huh. Yeah. Mahalo. Mahalo iā ʻoukou for taking on this challenge. Yeah, Same thing, right? Like, not everybody is comfortable, and nobody wants to sit in front of a camera and tell our most darkest secrets that happened in in those years. Right. That. But, yeah. Thank you, guys.