

Micah Tanoai

Education

Name of High School and GPA: Hawaii Preparatory Academy 3.08/3.6 at Makua Lani
Name of Prospective University and Major: Palomar Community College / Fire Science

ESSAY

This fall semester I am attending Palomar community college in Oceanside, California. I plan on getting my fire science degree and EMT license. I know that acquiring a job, as a firefighter is very competitive so I want to increase my advantage of becoming a firefighter by completing my EMT license and fire science degree. While at Palomar I am going to be competing on the Palomar football team as an offensive/ defensive lineman.

I am looking forward to earning my fire science and EMT degree and learning the fundamentals of what it takes to become a fireman. With this degree I aspire to return to Kona and help out the community by becoming a fireman.

On the subject of football I have been given the opportunity to play for scholarships at numerous schools outside California but declined them because I know I want to attend a school located in a place that I would enjoy. I feel that California would give me that opportunity while providing the specific education for my career.

While growing up in Kona I have been able to identify my passions and gifts, one of my passions is canoe paddling, which has taught me much about loyalty and commitment to my teams. It has helped me preservers through tough circumstances as I competed in long 18-mile races and one man runs with dangerous wave conditions. It makes you search deep inside and endure. Through my paddling career of 7 years I have experienced the benefits and rewards of serious training, I have reaped the benefits of dedicated training and received many gold medals and race titles. But I have learned something more important than gold medals will give me, experiences and wisdom. I know this will all help me stay focused in my college career. When I transferred schools two years ago I was not able to compete in high school paddling my junior year. So coming into my senior year I was really stoked to compete. This year we ended up winning two BIFF titles in the mixed and boys varsity races. So basically

Kona taught me to follow my passions and work hard to accomplish you goals, because that is when you will be the happiest.

I think the most important thing I learned from growing up in Kona is kokua; helping others out when they need it. In Kona I feel that it is a tight nit community were everybody knows each other or at least know a family member of them. Because of growing up in this community from an early age it doesn't really surprise me when multiple families show up early to offer help in preparation of events such as baby lu'aus, weddings, graduation parties, and birthday parties. I learned the meaning of kokua from an organization that my dad along with my church created called Kalamaku. Kalamaku is a group that

teaches physically disabled people how to paddle canoe. It gives them a chance to engage in a safe outdoor sport and gets them in the ocean. We hold this activity once a month and I am always amazed at all the support we get from people who want to contribute and share their time and knowledge of the ocean to others. I hope to bring that feeling of aloha and kokua to California, I

want them to be able to see those different character traits and recognize them and see that there is something different in me. I want to make a difference and have people know that people of Kona are different.