

The Kona-California Scholarship

"Helping the youth of Hawaii broaden their horizons"

Since I was five years old, I would always sing karaoke at the Filipino parties I attended. In second grade I answered, "an Actor," to the question, "What do you want to be when you're all grown up?" When I entered intermediate school, I started dancing hula in the school's halau (hula club) and throughout my life, I have always enjoyed performing. Also, helping others, making someone smile, providing opportunities, and creating a change in at least one person's life have always been goals of mine. By volunteering to act as a voice for others through my abilities and skills, I have grown to be an accepting and understanding individual. I want to major in Theater to help me attain my dream to professionally perform and provide opportunities to future students in Hawaii, who have interests in performing arts.

My dream is to work in Broadway shows, whether it be performing on stage, working backstage, conducting the lights, or designing costumes. By majoring in Theater, I will learn not only the performing aspect, but also directing, editing, producing, screenwriting, cinematography, and various aspects of theater. Rather than fame, I seek belonging and happiness. Rehearsal after rehearsal of my first production I was involved in, increased my love of musical theater and the process of a theatrical production. My passion for theater grew, not only because singing and acting on stage in front of a crowd made me feel amazing, but because working with people who possess the same interest as I did made me happy. Then, in the summer of 2011, I was blessed with working with extremely talented singers and voice teachers at the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival summer program, where I gained more knowledge about musical theater. Like with the cast and crew of the first production I was involved with, the people involved with the summer program were so genuine and brought out the best of me. Besides my passion in performing, the support and generosity from talented people gave me another big reason for me to pursue a career relating to musical theater.

Being raised in Hawaii, I have learned about many different cultures and people. I have learned different mannerisms and how to interact with different people. I know how to tolerate others and accept their differences, which prepares me for life as I meet and respect various

people in my future. Besides my dream of performing on Broadway, I aspire to teach acting in a school or through workshops for communities that lack performing arts opportunities. Because I come from a very small and isolated community where theater opportunities are unavailable or distant, I want to offer these types of opportunities to students who are also interested in these arts. The RENT production and Hawaii Performing Arts Festival I was fortunately involved with took place outside of my hometown. However, it always saddened me to see so many talented students at my school with similar interests as mine, but who were unable to foster theirs due to the lack of opportunities. I would love to be able to render that opportunity to students who are like me and have an interest in performing through acting or singing.

A college education is necessary for me to attain my goals because it will teach me skills, not just in my major, but also life skills, such as being independent and responsible. Earning a bachelors degree would better qualify and prepare me for a career, not just a job. It will show that I am determined and dedicated to my goals. To me, receiving this scholarship would bring me one step closer to my personal goal of changing someone else's life. I will continue to genuinely set positive examples and help others. I hope to motivate others to pursue their dreams and make choices that will bring them closer to their goals as well. With that, I continue to be a voice and hero for myself and others. Receiving this scholarship will help me obtain a college education in my major and share my experience and knowledge with students and communities in Hawaii. This scholarship will help finance my educational pursuits, which in the long-run I hope to return to Hawaii with to share my experiences and knowledge with students and communities here on the Big Island.