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Simply put, music is life. So when I sat down and thought about what I wanted to do with my life after high school, the obvious answer for me has always been music. To fully immerse myself in a career that I am both talented at and passionate for is my idea of a perfect job. I found this equilibrium in the degree of Music Technology. I have a level of determination in my heart that sets me on my goals and aspirations like a lock-jawed bulldog on prey. With this resilient determination I hold these goals clenched within my heart. This determination has helped me to achieve in several areas of my life including, success in my varsity cross country league, winning my high schools annual debate, and steady progress through promotions at work. I intend to set this determination on a music degree next, while still holding my imagination inspired creativity that I have preserved from my childhood.

Growing up in Hawaii, I feel that the culture of the land has passed down to me certain strengthening values, which include love, kindness, and a level of openness that I believe is a part of the essence of Hawaii. These values persisted even under the dark veil of my parents' divorce and the loss of a few good friends. They turned the solitude I sometimes found in my life into a positive force that drove me to flip my B/C grade average to all A's during my senior year. They pushed me to go beyond high school and take some college classes to supplement my high school education. They sustained me through two part time jobs during high school. Lastly, they have helped fuel the hours that I have put into sports, volunteering, and music.

I can call upon the lessons that I have learned in the past to help me adapt to the ever-changing field of music. As musical equipment becomes smaller and cheaper, most projects are being moved to home studios and becoming self-produced. I am going into this field with the knowledge of this development and with a plan to find my own niche in the music community. While jobs available in recording studios are decreasing, bands are touring more than ever and with that comes job availability in music venues across the country. I hope to build up a reputation as a "sound guy" while I am still in college by getting a job or internship at a local radio station, music venue, or campus music department. I am convinced that the combination of college music classes and a music centered job will help me leave college as a competent, prepared Music Engineer.

With the proper technical education being a necessary aspect for this career, I searched for a place that offered both a diverse music scene and a college with an impressive music program. My eyes fell upon the west coast and focused on one school in the California State school system: Chico. I found that this school offers a music technology degree that sounds both enjoyable and challenging. I look forward to the challenge element of these colleges because I know that this is the road to my personal progress. In high school my Political Science teacher

challenged me to find my voice and speak out on things that I was passionate about. At the college, my English teacher challenged me to not settle for the ordinary and to accurately portray my emotions through my writing. Finally, my Music professor challenged me to seek out the spirit of music, not just the best sound.

When I envision myself five years after all the excitement that comes with college, I see myself comfortably working behind a mixing board someplace in California. I hope that through this career I will have a chance to work with the bands and artists that inspired me to get into music in the first place. I also hope that it will give me the chance to impress my mark of influence upon some upcoming gifted bands. I believe that sites like Youtube and Vimeo hold vast resources of untapped talent that should be exposed to the world. One day I will use my education to put records under this talent and give these artists a chance for exposure. This talent is often hidden in areas like on the backside of Youtube, with sometimes less than a hundred views to its name and a computer mic backed vocal. However, it is in these sorts of videos that I see true potential and deeply rooted passion that only comes from people who perform with a sense of authenticity and with a genuine portrayal of themselves. With the proper publicity this music could sell incredibly well, while hopefully revolutionizing the pop music scene with an abundant source of creativity, craft, and sincerity. With the right audience and outreach, this music has the potential to be the start of my generation's own musical revolution. It sounds like a long shot but as the famous anthropologist Margaret Mead once said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

While music is life, my friends and family make that life meaningful. Moving away from Hawaii for college is different than in most other states because you leave your closest contacts an ocean away. Despite of this, I will keep these contacts as well as forge new ones while in California. I plan to build a family of my own upon the same foundation that I was raised on; with a unifying sense of aloha and unhindered imagination. I will teach my kids to love unrequited and find the happiness present in any situation. I will pass on music from previous generations to help them push past their own obstacles. Most importantly, I would like to pass down to them a concept that I have learned very well from in Hawaii; it does not matter how big or small of a place you come from, there is still an entire globe around you. You cannot just forget about the rest of the populace based on where your feet stand. We are divided physically by oceans and mountaintops with the tools needed to cross them. We alone, divide the countries, not the inked boundaries drawn on any globe or map. Music is truly the universal communicator; bringing not only people together but also entire cultures and social classes. It asks for acceptance and when it is given, it becomes a bridge between musicians and the human race. To grasp just one bit of this powerful tool and to truly utilize it, is the change that I am pursuing with this degree. My journey begins with a little hope, a plane ride to California, and ends with the influence of a planet at my fingertips. I'm strong, but I'm also smart enough to know that I can't make this journey on my own. In this world it's not enough to just ask for funding and

expect it to appear in our bank accounts; it has to be proven through achievements and through the results of our actions. I will prove this value to those who can help support me. This is the sort of change I can't simply wait for; this is the sort of change that I will have to create.