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Life in Hawaii is surrounded with great cultural diversity. However, the Hawaiian culture and the concept of ohana have influenced the way I see the world. Ohana's literal translation means family, but it expands much farther to include my community, friends, and every organization that I'm involved with. My ohana has supported me in all of my academic, extra-curricular and athletic endeavors, making a significant impact on my desire to take challenges and succeed in life.

Being the youngest child in my family, I have had many examples and role models to follow. My parents have shown me, as evidenced by their successful engineering firm, that with hard work, commitment and the pursuit of excellence, I can achieve many goals and accomplishments. My brother and sister have reinforced this message, both attaining master's degrees in engineering, securing employment with very promising futures, and enjoying professional and personal success.

In every aspect of my life, from academics to competitive swimming to personal goals, I have come to expect nothing less than to do my best. This ethic has turned me into an ambitious person and has impacted me in taking on new challenges and experiences. My family's endless support has also engrained permanent messages in my mind: When I have setbacks, it doesn't mean I failed. Stay positive and try again.

There is no doubt that my family background has influenced the way I see the world. It is a world of diversity with boundless opportunities and incredible possibilities.

Stimulated by the theories and explanations of natural sciences and the challenges of math, engineering is the perfect course of study for me. Although I am undecided of the engineering discipline or specialty I would like to pursue, I am very

interested in electrical engineering. I am fortunate to have been recently accepted to Stanford University, where I will be attending school in the fall.

As I reflect on my past, present and future aspirations, there is one important rule that I will always remember as an Eagle Scout: "Leave a place better than you found it." My career goal is to contribute to the research, development or creation of new technologies that would improve the efficiency of everyday life. As the world faces more and increasingly complex problems in all areas of life, the next generation will need to find solutions to problems created by this generation. The challenge of developing new technologies or finding solutions to global problems appeals to me and is what engineers do that is important in making this world a better place for society and future generations.

After graduating from Stanford University, I have a big dream to return to Hawaii to apply the knowledge I accumulated and be part of the solution to make our State a better place to live and visit. I will always remember to "Leave a place better than you found it."