

EDB Committee

From: Mariah Espaniola <rapanot3@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2019 7:55 AM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: 100% Affordable Hana Housing Project

Aloha, I am great support of Habitat for Humanity to want to build and support our community of Hana. I am an educated born and raised native Hawaiian from Molokai who feels there is a great need for more assistance from Habitat for Humanity for my community on Molokai. I do feel strongly about my cousin Lanre Kekoa a recent native who became a successor of Hawaiian homes in Ho'olehua Hawaii on Molokai. I do feel she would be greatly appreciated to be able to move her family of 4 with the addition of her siblings children and trying to relocate her elderly grandmother from Oahu to Molokai. Lanre works full-time to support her family, she currently has the help of her boyfriend to assist with daily chorus while away from home. It is difficult trying to keep a strong loving foundation for her entire family while living in a bus without electric. She does has running water and they use a generator for evening hours. However, due to not having full guardianship over her 2 nieces and 2 nephews they are endangered of child protective services from removing these children from her care. The kids have had perfect attendance and she does her best with what she has to give them the best life. Without electric she is forced to drive approximately 8 miles each way just to shop to our town and wash clothes multiple times during the week. Despite all of these overwhelming obstacles Lanre continues to lend out a hand to anyone willing to ask for help. Currently at the moment she is trying to relocate her ill elderly grandmother here, searching on Facebook for a free wheelchair and affordable 1-bedroom place for her grandmother. Lanre's biggest downfall is, asking for help herself.

Throughout life Lanre and her three siblings were stolen of a wonderful childhood. In 2000, at the age of 10 and being the youngest of 4 her father killed her mother and then himself. Prior to the murder and suicide of both parents Lanre saw violence and abuse as a norm. However, the evil of those events never damaged her loving and caring heart. I hope the Habitat of Humanity board can see what great things you could do for my cousin Lanre. Whom I love like a sister and have grown to always support her with or without her asking. Mahalo for your time.

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