

LU Committee

From: Jeana Naluai <director@lomimassage.com>
Sent: Monday, September 04, 2017 8:56 PM
To: LU Committee
Subject: Letter of support- Ho'omana Hawaiian Spa and Cultural Education Center
Attachments: Letter of Support - Jeana Nalua'i.docx

Jeana Iwalani Naluai
Founder and Director, Ho'omana
Get my FREE guide "10 Practices to Ignite, Reclaim and Maintain Your Personal Power!"
www.hoomanaspamaui.com/10-practices/

Aloha.

My name is Adam Mahi'ai Dochin. I am a student of Jeana 'Iwalani Nalua'i, and a former Ho'omana employee. I began a lomilomi apprenticeship under Jeana 'Iwalani Nalua'i in 2010, which culminated in my acquisition of a massage license in 2012. During the lomilomi apprenticeship, Jeana and Justin gave me the opportunity to work at Ho'omana as a landscaper on the weekends as a way of supporting myself while I attended UH Maui College as a full-time student. Jeana also offered a scholarship for kanaka maoli students in her apprenticeship program, of which I was a recipient. Had it not been for Jeana and Justin's amazing generosity towards me during those years when I didn't have much money, I would not have had the opportunity to receive an education in the Hawaiian healing arts.

My job as a landscaper at Ho'omana involved the planting of native and non-native food and medicinal plants. These include tī, mamaki, kalo, 'ape, hāpu'u, lavender, lemongrass, avocado and various citrus trees, 'ōhi'a, succulents, liliko'i, and even some rarer plants like lehua 'āhihi. Those plants were often gifted to students or prepared for folks who visited Ho'omana, so that they could have some fresh fruits, tea, or medicinal plants to take home. Justin taught me a lot about the plants that we worked with, their medicinal uses, and how to properly care for them. The time that I spent there provided me valuable experience and knowledge that I have been able to use in my daily life and in other jobs, such as working at Ka Papa Lo'i o Kānewai, the taro patches at the UH Mānoa campus.

My time in the lomilomi apprenticeship taught me a lot about myself as an individual, but more importantly, I learned about my kuleana to serve the broader community using the new skills that I had acquired. From the very beginning of our apprenticeship, Jeana regularly planned trips that encouraged establishing connections with people from our community such as hula practitioners, hale builders, and carvers. Last year Jeana invited me to travel to Moloka'i with several other students to offer lomilomi at Moloka'i's annual makahiki celebration. People from all over the island came together to celebrate the makahiki season, and we spent the weekend at Keawanui fishpond doing lomilomi for the Moloka'i community. Jeana did not, and does not, charge money for these trips which she calls "community outreach." Rather, it is a gift to our community and ourselves to be able to give freely without the expectation of being compensated with money. Those lessons in serving the community have shaped the way I interact with people in other aspects of my life, from being a kumu at Pūnana Leo o Maui, to my current work in student services at UH Mānoa.

I currently support myself through other avenues outside of massage, but I still very much enjoy sharing my gift with my friends and family, and I look forward to being involved in the upcoming community outreaches that Jeana has planned. Just yesterday, I was able to help my Hawaiian language kumu from UH to relieve some of his back pain before he travels to Kaho'olawe this week. It is truly gratifying just to be able to help others feel better. While I do not rely on lomilomi to support myself financially, I feel very fortunate to have my massage license and to know that I could support myself through lomilomi should I choose to do so. I hope that Jeana and her 'ohana continue offering these opportunities to other young Hawaiians, to people from all over Hawai'i, and to people from all over the world who are looking to develop their skills as healers and to grow as human beings. Being a student under Jeana and being a part of the 'ohana at Ho'omana has undoubtedly changed my life trajectory for the better, and I

am immensely grateful to Jeana and her 'ohana for all that they have done and continue to do for me, and for the guidance and support that they offer to other healing practitioners and to the communities that they serve.