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He Ali‘i Ka ‘Āina; He Kauwā Ke Kanaka

I kanaka no ‘oe ke mālama I kanka; you will be served when you care for the person who serves you. Clarence T.C. Ching gave back to his community by founding Kukui Garden, the Cultural Plaza, and much more. His foundation is even supporting my school, St. Francis, in building a new gymnasium. Mr. Ching’s servant leadership brought our community together.

In the summer of 2012, I attended the program Kūlia I Ka Pono Hāna which is sponsored by Kamehameha schools. Hāna, Maui is much more rural and isolated than the urban cities here on ‘Oahu. In Hāna, I had the opportunity to experience working at the community farm. *The purpose of Mahele Farm is to maintain the agrarian continuity of our community by creating a productive, integrated farm that serves as an educational and sustainable, healthy food resource for the isolated Hāna, Maui region.*

I recognize rising food prices as a current problem in Hawai‘i. 80-90% of our food in Hawai‘i is imported. To lower the food prices and percentage of imported foods we can create community farms. We can still support our local farmers, who can be supported by families who don’t have time to work in the farm. Having a community farm can help feed the homeless. “Give a man a fish; you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish; you feed him for a lifetime.” The farm can help the homeless learn to work the land and be able to sustain themselves.

He ali‘i ka ‘āina; he kauwā ke kanaka. The land is the chief; the people are its servants. This proverb is saying that if we take care of the land; the land will take care of us. If we nurture the crops, the land will bless us with harvest. Community farms are one

way we can feed the community without having to pollute our kai from imported food and paying for overpriced food. 'A'ohe hana nui ke alu 'ia; no task is too big when done by all. Community farms allow people to work with one another to get a job done. It brings the community closer as an ohana like Clarence T.C. Ching did.