

HARK!

Patriotism is the leader of America's beginning. Aspiration is the director of new inventions and ideas for improvement. However, optimism is the captain of the ship that is navigating into the future. We cannot expect a perfect world nor can we try to fix an imperfect one, but we can believe. Believing in a brighter future alone will unite us as a community so that we may have hope together. I imagine the people of Hawaii coming together where adults are socializing while their children are running around on the playground, in the backyard, or on Hawaii's beaches. Everyone is together to appreciate family, friendship, fellowship, and to embrace Hawaii for what it is now and the hope of a brighter future.

Optimism is a powerful thing in which I would like to establish in our community's values. HARK club, or Hawaii's Acts of Random Kindness club, is based on optimism, encouragement, compassion, and inspiration which can be carried out into the public in many different forms. It is a vision that will encourage high school students to have a better perspective of the future, to maintain that perspective, and inspire others with acts of kindness. It will prove that we can impact someone even with the simplest and slightest thoughtful deed.

Joining members will learn about kindness, service and generosity through fun and engaging activities. This will instill good moral values into their everyday behavior, in their conversations, and in their personal character. I hope that they will carry out their experiences from the club and apply it to their everyday lives and future endeavors.

In order to contribute their share of kindness to the community, the HARK club will include organized scheduled dates when the club members go out in public to tell sweet, harmless compliments to random people. They could also do simple acts of service such as opening doors for bank customers or for busy coffee shop patrons. It can also be conducted into something similar to a scavenger hunt, where participants complete a given act to receive another one until it is accomplished,

then receive a reward. The reward may be a simple “Thank you!” from the recipient(s), a pot luck, or a dinner and a movie. However, the greatest reward is the impact of a grateful smile from the people upon the member’s heart and mind. Not only are the students encouraged to resolve problems, but they also affect the people they encounter with their compassion and kindness. Furthermore, kind acts of service or compliments usually inspires others to do the same for someone else.

If HARK is followed through, the year 2020 will be brighter than it is now. Spreading aloha and happiness is an aspiration for the HARK club. I see aloha, unity, kindness and compassion in everyone’s hearts. I believe that is Hawaii’s true potential. Problems may not ever be fully resolved, but they can be prevented from becoming worse. We must see the problems and difficulties now only as something that can be improved or changed for the better. HARK, to the sound of Ohana spirit!