BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: Antonette “Tony” Yamamoto

Antonette Yamamoto grew up in Molokaʻi, and attended school there until going to Lahainaluna in 1981 where she became the first girl boarder from Molokaʻi to graduate. She speaks about growing up in Molokaʻi with her family, and getting recruited for Lahainaluna and eventually getting in. The transition from Molokaʻi to Lahaina was rocky for the first month, but eventually got much easier and enjoyable with the help of friends. She recalls going to Keʻanae with her roommate’s family, and the extracurricular activities that she participated in in the boarding department other than her jobs in the swinery and in the dorms with the matron. She speaks to the life skills that she learned at Lahainaluna, and some of her most memorable takeaways are going up to the L on Puʻu Paʻupaʻu, hanging out with her friends on Front Street at Lahaina Wharf. She now lives in Molokaʻi with her husband and children, and works as a substitute school nurse.

Tony Yamamoto at the Molokaʻi Education Center in Kaunakakai on June 21, 2023.

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Antonette Yamamoto (AY)

June 21, 2023

Kaunakakai, Hawai'i

BY: Davianna McGregor (DM) and Wailana Medeiros (WM)

DM: Okay, So I'm just going to do like an introduction here and everything. Okay. So mahalo for sharing your experiences with us. And so today is Wednesday, June 21st, 2023. It's the summer Solstice Day, Ke Ala Polohiwa a Kāne, and we are in the Molokaʻi Education Center in Kaunakakai. And so we're the interviewers are Wailana Medeiros whose a Graduate student with the UH Mānoa Center for Oral History. And helping us with the camera is Danny ʻĀnela Smith, an Undergraduate Research Assistant. And helping with the interview is myself Davianna McGregor, the Director for the UH Mānoa Center for Oral History, again, thank you so much. And the time is 1:50 in the afternoon. Okay, so if we could start, please, by having you give us your full legal name.

AY: Antonette Yamamoto.

DM: Okay. And what do you go by?

AY: I just go by Tony.

DM: Tony, Okay. And then when and where were you born?

AY: Born and raised on Molokaʻi. Um, yeah, born and raised on Molokaʻi.

DM: And so who is your mother?

AY: My mother is Harriet, Harriet Lariosa Escobar.

DM: Okay. And where is she from?

AY: Also born and raised on Molokaʻi. She's from Kamolō.

DM: Okay. And what was her life's work?

AY: She worked in the cornfields. She's a laborer.

DM: Oh, okay. Well, that was Monsanto, or. . .?

AY: Back then was Hawaiian Research, and she just retired, what, two years ago? And it was just—still Monsanto. The thing just didn't change over to Bayer.

DM: Oh, right, right. Yeah, she just recently retired.

DM: And then who is your father?

AY: My father is Jose Escobar. He was a licensed practical nurse at Molokaʻi General Hospital.

DM: Oh, that's amazing. And so can you tell us on your father's side, who are your ancestors?

AY: My father's side. . . My father was born and raised in the Philippines, so he came over. . . Oh, my goodness. He came over in the. . . he came over in 1934 to work in Honolulu in the plantations. Then he, from there they moved him, transferred him to Lānai to work plantation fields there. Then from there, I don't know how long he lived there, but he came to Molokaʻi, and that's where he lived his whole life here. And he was an ambulance driver. He used to drive the ambulance before and the hospital used to be located in Hoʻolehua before. And back then, my mom used to work there as well too, way back then.

DM: So it's called the Shingles, Shingle Hospital?

AY: I think so, yes. Then I guess he used to drive ambulance. Then he worked his way up, became one licensed practical nurse. And he worked at the Molokaʻi General Hospital in Kaunakakai, where he retired there, of thirty-one years of service.

DM: Hmm. Impressive. Yeah. And so what part of the Philippines was he from?

AY: Ilocos Norte.

DM: And do you still have family there?

AY: I have family there, but I have never gone back there. I have never. I think I'm just too afraid.

DM: Oh (laughs).

AY: I mean, we have property there. That family property. But, yeah, having never gone back there, I don't know if we—I know my aunty used to live there and she has her kids and her, some of her kids there, but most of her, my auntie's family went to the mainland. So they're like nurses and engineers. So I think there's like several of them that live—like one in Canada and the rest in California and Portland, Oregon.

DM: Oh, okay. And then on your mother's side, where were her ancestors from?

AY: My grandfather is from the Philippines. He came here as well too. Became a citizen, worked on the plantation pineapple fields. My grandmother is born and raised here. The Akiona family from East End. And, yeah, that's pretty much. . . .

DM: Mmhmm. And the Akionas, what kind of things—What are they known for? What did they, what kind of work did they do?

AY: Um. . . I don't really know that part. I know my grandmother's brother them. I think they used to work in a plantation before and two of my grandmother's sisters, actually one, two—three of my grandmother's sisters was—back then you call them the Kahu, where they ‘um—They’re Hawaiian priests?

DM: Oh, the Kahu. Yeah.

AY: Yeah, the Kahu.

DM: Oh, okay. They had a church out there.

AY: They actually. . . the Hawaiian church in town by Church Row.

DM: Mmhmm. Mmhmm. Oh, they were the Kahu for that.

AY: Yes.

DM: Interesting. And then how many siblings do you have?

AY: Just my um, my dad had, the older daughter, she lives in Mililani [O‘ahu]. She's like 20 years older than me. And with my mom, just my, my brother and myself. So I'm the oldest and my brother's two years younger than me.

DM: Ok. And, um, so, um, what at what age did you say you went away to Lahainaluna. . .?

AY: . . . Lahainaluna. I was. . . When I graduated. . .

DM: . . . Or what grade were you in?

AY: Tenth grade. I was a sophomore when I entered Lahainaluna.

DM: Okay. And so when, before that, growing up here and Moloka‘i, what was it, what was it like growing up here, with what kind of stuff? Where did you live here on Moloka‘i?

AY: I lived in Kaunakakai. We lived in—I grew up, I was born in, in a house. My dad delivered me in the house—Mango Lane. And I grew up by where the Teacher’s Cottages is.

DM: Mmhmm.

AM: Kukui Lane in there. And then I think in 1978, my dad bought us one house, up Manila camp. So that's where I was—I grew up the rest of my life there.

DM: Mmhmm. Mmhmm. And. And so you grew up with other, so there was a lot of children in the neighborhood or. . .

AY: Yeah, there's a lot of children in the neighborhood. Like my uncle *'dem*, The Habons used to live there. Uncle Philipo Solotario.

DM: Oh, yeah.

AY: And James Boswell used to be our neighbor. And Alex Pua, Pua'a. He was also our neighbor. Had Mr. Lee, Wilfred Lee. He was also the neighbor—another neighbor.

DM: Yeah. Yeah.

AY: So we lived in Moai Loop. Yeah, in that circle. And pretty much everybody who grew up around there was around the same age.

DM: That's nice. And you folks kind of grew up like, 'ohana style or just with your own family.

AY: Um, everybody knew everybody around the neighborhood. And so, you know, we used to put up on the telephone poles we used to put up one, what is that? —the basketball hoop with the backboard, pound 'um with the nail.

(Laughter)

AY: And it used to stay there for a while, so we used to play on the streets right in front of my house, play and we used to play basketball, or ride skateboard, ride bikes or roller skates. You know, back then, I think in the back of the Post Office, they used to have one skating rink, in the back there.

DM: Wow.

AY: Where you could go on weekends. I think it was Friday, Saturday nights we used to go ride around, used to have 'um, play music and used to go down there and go ride skates down there.

DM: Was there a theater there too? In town, not in Kaunakakai, no?

AY: Yeah. The old post. . . the new post office, that used to be the theater before.

DM: Oh.

AY: The old theater, Kaunakakai Theatre. But then, by the Teacher's Cottage, had one theatre there, one old theater, Kukui Theatre back then, so had like two I think, two or three theaters in Kaunakakai.

DM: Did you folks go like matinee or evening time?

AY: I remember going to the theater one night and the thing was open. So, whoa you could hear the mosquitoes–was so dark and the mosquitoes, go buzzzz, and we going, slapping and it was like crazy. Yeah. I remember one time we went to the theater and you could hear only hear, you hear a movie playing but you can hear the mosquitoes buzzing our ears (laughs). Yeah.

(Laughter)

DM: And then who's your husband? What's his name?

AY: Joe Yamamoto. He's a retired principal at Maunaloa School.

DM: Oh, okay. All right. Is he from. . .

AY: . . . He's from Oʻahu.

DM: From Oʻahu, oh ok. And then he moved here, too?

AY: Yeah, he moved here. He used to, he used to be—in ʻ84 he left Molokaʻi. He came in ʻ81. He used to be the shop teacher at Molokaʻi High School for four years.

DM: Oh.

AY: Then he moved back to Oʻahu, where he continued his education, got his Master's Degree in Administration, in Education. And then we moved back here in ʻ95. And we stayed here always since then.

DM: And you raise your children. How many children do you have?

AY: I have six.

DM: Oh wow.

AY: I have five girls and one boy. So the three oldest, the two oldest, is girls. My son is in the middle and my three youngest, is girls.

DM: And they're they're all going to school here at Molokaʻi?

AY: They all graduated here from Molokaʻi, except for my eldest daughter. She decided to spread her wings and do something else. But other than that, my other kids, my five other kids just graduated from Molokaʻi High School. My youngest just graduated this year. . .

DM: Congratulations.

AY: Thank you. And she will be attending Lake Regent College, State College in North Dakota. Her other two sisters went there. The ones–two above her, also graduated their Liberal Arts and continued their education. So, my oldest daughter, second oldest, went to MCC [Molokaʻi Community College 12:37] She got her—became a dental assistant. My son went to UTI [Universal Technical Institute], graduated and majored in Auto, Diesel mechanic. My third daughter graduated with her Bachelor's degree in Education. So she's teaching, right now, preschool. Then my second youngest, she's home here, taking classes all online, studying to become a registered nurse.

DM: Oh, mmhmm.

AY: She wants to get into the nursing program. And my youngest, she's undecided what she wants to do. She said she's thinking of becoming a psychiatrist. But I told her, you know, you have to get your Doctorate to practice because you cannot just do—go into psychology or, with a Bachelor's degree and not even *da kine,* you going have to need a little more education.

DM: Mmhmm. And so for yourself, after you were graduated from Lahainaluna, what did you do after high school?

AY: After I graduated from Lahainaluna, you know, I went to MCC and, like, you know, you go school and you did things, you're like, you know. . . I went to college and I partied a lot and then I partied continuously. And then I said, You know what? This wasn't for me. So I ended up coming back home. I had my oldest daughter back then, with me, raised her until she was two. Then my parents adopted her and then when I moved back, then I decided to finish, continue on my education. I became a certified nurse's aide, where I worked for a while. I worked in care homes like that for a while, but then also I moved to Oʻahu with my husband and I worked in the nursing facility, Maunalani Nursing Center.

DM: Mmhmm. Yeah.

AY: In Kaimukī. I worked there for a while and continued school. Then my husband had his—he got his degree. He had a job offer here on Molokaʻi. He interviewed at, he had his interview and everything. He got the job, so we decided to move back here, and he's been working here, and then I started working, you know, as a nurse's aide. I used to do—I used to work two, three part-time jobs because I did chore service as well, too. So I work part time at the hospital and I worked for, um, actually, a Medical Center, you know a care home. And I worked as a chore service as well, too, and raising my kids and trying to go to school part-time. But like anything, something had to give. So I quit school. I ended up just working and taking care of my kids. And like anything, when you work as

a nurse's aide because the job is so hard on your back, I hurt my back several times and then I stopped working for like three years. And then I continued my adventure at working at Island Air.

DM: Oh.

AY: For nine and a half years until they closed.

DM: That's probably where I saw you too.

AY: Yeah. And that's how I remember you. And then from there, when they closed, my husband said, he told me I don't have to work, you know, I should just stay home and focus on the kids and spend more time with the kids. Because my kids are getting older and they're involved in a lot of sports because we come from a baseball-softball family. So my kids played a lot of softball and baseball when they were growing up. And some of them, actually three of them got softball scholarship to go to North Dakota and play.

DM: Oh, I was wondering why North Dakota.

(Laughter)

AY: And my daughter—my third daughter moved on to Mayville State University, where she got her Bachelor degree in Education and she continued also playing softball there too, for four or five years because we had COVID as well too yeah.

DM: Yeah, yeah.

AY: Yeah.

DM: So you're retired now?

AY: No. . . I actually Sub [Substitute Teacher] at the school as a school nurse.

DM: Oh. . .

AY: Yeah. So I go to the different schools if they need somebody for Sub, I sub there. And I'm also going to school full-time and working on my Bachelor's degree in Sustainable Science Management.

DM: Oh, wow. Is it online or on?

AY: I do everything online. I do have some live classes, I do take. Like this past semester I took small engine mechanic and electric.

DM: Here at the Maui, Molokaʻi Education Center.

AY: Yeah. So I've been taking some classes and like, I took Plumbing-1 and Plumbing-2, so I can actually fix my own plumbing. I can do my own plumbing. I can pretty much do some of my own electric work. Cool. And with said with being said that, you know, with the small engine class that I took this past semester, I was able to fix my own chainsaw and two of my weed eaters.

DM: Wow. (AS/WM: Skills.)

AY: Yeah.

DM: That's a good idea. Maybe that's what I'll do.

(Laughter)

AY: I mean being—because we live here, on Molokaʻi, you don't have too much. You got to be able to do a lot of things on your own. If you don't, then you *jam up*, you can spend more money and *kine*. And so we had to—I figure I learn all these other trades, and and once in a while I'll get my hands really greasy and dirty and go in my own truck and help fix my own truck as well too, if need to.

(Laughter)

DM: Very good. All right. So when I ask you about your life experiences. Oh, first, before we get to Lahainaluna. And where did you go to elementary school?

AY: Kaunakaki Elementary.

WM: And then Intermediate?

AY: Intermediate was Molokaʻi high and intermediate back then. The thing wasnʻt split.

WM: So do you—what are some highlights from your elementary or your middle school experience that you can remember?

AY: Besides getting bullied in school?

WM: *Aiyah*.

AY: I remember getting bullied in school and I hated it. But, you know, I was one quiet kid. I never did get in trouble. And I mind my own business, you know, just go home. And my brother and I, we just walk home because we used to live right across the Teacher's cottage, was right in town, cause Kaunakakai is right there, the school. So, you know, we still do our own thing, go play on the weekends or my, my auntie and my grandfather used to come pick us up. So we used to go holoholo in the ocean where I learned, you know, go by paepae net, go throw net, you know, (inaudible) crabbing, fish squid. And

back then we used to have ‘ōpae in the rivers and then, you know, you could go get your own then. Yeah, I had a fun childhood growing up. Yeah.

WM: So how did you decide that you wanted to go to Lahainaluna?

AY: I *nevah*. . . was my father starting to say, “You know what, we going send you away.” And I was mad and sad. I was a big crybaby when my dad, when my parents left me. But I could understand why he wanted us to, wanted me actually and my brother to get one better opportunity in life. But from, you know—I don't know if you call that one better opportunity in life. But it taught me discipline, to be independent. And, you know, you don't, you don't have to depend on anybody. I can do a lot of things by myself. And I just and I'm very grateful for that. Being independent where I don't have to depend on anybody and learning to do things on my own. And that's what it really taught me.

WM: How how did your your dad hear about Lahainaluna boarders or. . .?

AY: I don't know, you know, like, I think he was talking to his friends or something and he *wen* hear about ‘em. So he decided to go to the counselor at the school and ask for an application. So he he got the application in, when fill ‘um out and I, I had my interview. I think it was from here, um with the counselor, last name was Diez. I forget what his first name was but, you know, I remember him doing my interview back then.

WM: Um, can you tell me about your first time being on campus?

AY: Lahainaluna campus?

WM: Yeah.

AY: I was scared. The campus was big. There was a lot of steps. Oh, my Gosh, I never seen one campus get so much steps, (WM laughs) and, you know, being that we had to wake up early in the morning and, you know, every morning we wake up, you know, I have to set my alarm clock cause you had to. . .

WM: What time?

AY: I had to set ‘um at 4:30 in the morning, 4:30, because we had to be down by time clock. So you work for about an hour, so 5:30, you start work at 5:30 in the morning. You working and then the clock ring, uh 6:50? Yeah, 6:50, so you get 10 minutes to run up back to the dorms, shower, change, you get your, your school clothes and you know, back then when you get one belt loop, the pants get the belt loop, yeah, you got to always have a belt on. So some of our guys used to be smart, they used to cut their belt loops so they don't got to wear belt. (WM l
aughs) But yeah, so. . .

WM: What kind of clothes did you guys have to wear? Girls, specifically.

AY: Nothing super exposed. So if you wear one spaghetti strap, you've got to have one cover on, because it wasn't allowed, you wasn't allowed to show, you know, your. . .

WM: Midriff.

AY: Yeah. And up here, couldn't show cleavage, nothing, was just, you always had to wear sandals, you couldn't be wearing slip on sandals like this. It had to have straps. Covered toe shoes, nothing open. Long pants—make sure the thing is neat, not wrinkled.

WM: What was it like your, you talked a little bit about your daily schedule. What was your daily schedule like after that? So you guys would wake up in the morning, you'd go get ready for work?

AY: You wake up in the morning, you make your bed, you get ready for work, you brush your teeth, you get ready for work, change your clothes. Hurry up, get down to the time clock, clock in, grab your tools and um wherever you assigned—Because back then I used to be assigned by the laundry room. That's by um Hale Pali. Get time clock and that. . .

WM: Hale Paʻi.

AY: Yeah. Hale Paʻi. I used to be assigned that area. Clean the yard, pull all the ti leaves, the dry ti leaves, rake up all the leaves. Pick them up, throw them away. And you know dark time you cannot see nothing, yeah, what you going rake? (WM laughs) You just standing there, you go find one place to go take one short nap, cause dark!

(Laughter)

AY: You cannot see *nothing*. So when the sun started coming up in the morning or you gotta act like you working. But that's all was in—I think was like—you change assignments twice a year. So I know, I remember working at the dorms with Mrs. Lindsey, where you know, we had the paint, fix the— I learned to fix jalousies, when the jalousies broke you, you know, you cutting jalousie, you changing screens, painting the bathrooms, painting the hallways, and make sure you put the sheet out because you don't, like you can not have paint droppings on the floor. Because if you do, you're going to have to scrub the floor. And then I also remember waxing the floors—where the floors had to be shiny. Had to always be shiny, because when we come back from breakfast—after we go make the line, we go to breakfast, we've got to hurry up come back, make sure our rooms are tidy, and make sure the hallways is cleaned in the dorms. And right after that, you better be off campus by 7:45, you off campus heading to class. before the bell rings and then after school, you run back to the dorms, change your clothes, get back to time clock by 2:30, cause that's when the bell going ring and you go to your assignments and all that, wherever you assigned in the yard or wherever picking the—either you going agriculture up field or down field or you assigned piggery, the chickens. My first year I worked in the um, I worked the piggery. Oh, my gosh, that was horrible.

WM: Why was it horrible, what happened?

AY: Because you had to scrape—clean out the, the poop traps, the canals and make sure the thing clean. That thing was stink—that was stink, but we had to shoot ‘em down, feed the pigs, water—make sure they get water. You doing that twice a day And then you doing that, then you got to go up. You're working in the chickens, cleaning the chicken crap, shoveling ‘em out, pick ‘em up. Then wheelbarrowing it downside. They use them for fertilizer, the gardens. Picking eggs. Grabbing the eggs. And we used to ‘um actually, we used to collect all the eggs, take ‘em to the—there was a building right next door where we check if the eggs is good. And then we used to carton all the eggs and that’s what used to, we used to eat, our own eggs.

WM: And what about the dairy, what about the, the, the cows. You guys would. . .

AY: Back then we never have cows. No, we never have cows.

DM: How many pigs were there usually?

AY: Oh, there was plenty pigs. I think about twenty something pigs back then, had baby pigs too. And the big pigs.

DM: Uh huh, yeah. And then they would sell it for meat?

AY: Yeah, they would sell them. They would sell them and graduation like that.

DM: Oh.

AY: Actually wasn't graduation, it was David Malo's Day. They would kill so much pigs. I don't know how many, I forget how many pigs—they would kalua [cook] the pig or make laulaus and they would sell plates on David Malo’s day, cause we would celebrate David Malo's day, back then. Yeah.

DM: And then the chicken, I mean, like, how many coops or how, how extensive were the chickens?

AY: Had this ‘um, had this big building, big white building, and had three off the ground cages, wire cages, hanging by cables.

DM: Mmhmm.

AY: So when you push the thing, the whole thing, the cage, all will move. But every set had um chickens, every single one. And then the eggs and whenever they laid egg, it rolled down to the front. We would collect all the eggs and clean ‘em up, carton them. Check it, put them in water, check um under the light, if got chick or not.

DM: Yeah.

AY: Yeah.

DM: They would save the ones with chicks?

AY: No, they would throw them away. We would discard them. Yeah, we had plenty, had plenty chickens Aunty, ho.

DM: (laughs).

WM: So you guys would eat those eggs that they made, and then the pigs would be for fundraiser.

AY: Fundraisers.Yeah, would be for fundraisers. Or they would sell them.

WM: Oh, what about the vegetables.

AY: Vegetables, the beans, *Ho,* I used to hate the beans.

(Laughter)

AY: We used to always have green beans. I mean gosh. . . we used to have to bring—they bring in the beans by boxes and the cafeteria people [would]—because I remember working Cafe [cafeteria] too—clean the beans, break up the stems and you know that's what we going eat or have for dinner.

WM: What else would you, what else kind of things would you guys eat for meals? Like for breakfast, I know probably for boarders, yeah?

AY: Yeah. We'd have regular breakfasts, like you getting, you lucky get portuguese sausage so. . . you lucky if you going have bacon. So we just—like breads, cereal, eggs, fruits. Um, and on the weekends, we would have your left-overs for breakfasts on the weekends, Saturdays, Sunday. And Sundays would, we only have brunches for the whole day, that's all. You're going to have brunch. Well, actually, brunch and dinner, and that's it.

WM: What kind of stuff would you guys usually have for dinner?

AY: Um, we would have pizzas or beans—chicken, all that chicken.

WM: Was that the chicken that you guys had from there? Or would they. . .

AY: No. Sometimes, yeah, but not all the time. The kine, simple cafeteria food. But everything was fresh though. It's just on the weekends, we would have leftovers.

WM: And a lot of the vegetables. You guys grew up right there. So what was the campus? What did the campus look like? I know right now it's kind of dry because a lot of fires, yeah. And then a big difference is the plantation.

AY: So where the orchard is right now, we used to have beans, used to be growning up there, used to have a lot of beans. That's all I remember, was all beans out there. They had some eggplants, but mostly was a lot of beans—beans.

WM: Was there fruit trees at all?

AY: Yeah, had fruit trees, had lemons, limes. But other than that, I know had some mango trees up there back then. Downside—they used to grow a lot of beans too, but some of the fruits um, the vegetables that was grew, also be marketed to the Masakos, I think was. Yeah, back then. . .

DM: Just the string beans or the long beans too?

AY: The string beans, yeah.

WM: Kind of switching back to your, in the dorm life, what was it like to live with a roommate and what was your space like? What did it look like?

AY: The room is big. You get one single bed—two single beds, two dressers, two desks, one medicine cabinet, it's right there and one closet and one up-area, where you can store your um, your suitcases and what not on the top. And was real small. One small closet. We just, you know, you had to bring your own hangers, everything, and, you know, hang your own clothes. And sometimes you did your own laundry and sometimes girls ask for borrow clothes, back then. So, you know, my clothes would go out for borrow. Some girls used to ask me, I'd say, "Oh, yeah, that's fine."

WM: Would you get it back?

AY: Oh, I get them back—I get 'em back (laughs). I used to get them back, um back then. I used to make sure I get all my clothes back because back then they had this store called Miki's at Ka'ahumanu Mall. I used to, so I used to buy all my corduroy pants from. And so that's all I used to use was corduroy pants. Once in a while I had Levi jeans. I had like a couple of Levi jeans, but I used to like using my corduroy, my corduroy pants because they were comfortable. But, you know, used to use those. But the ones that I never used to let out and we always had to have—you always had to have—one white pants, always had to have a white pants and black pants.

WM: What are those for, the white and black?

AY: The white and black pants is when we used to go for footballs.

WM: Oh.

AY: So your upperclassmen would tell you what you going wear for football games. We used to go football games um Friday, every Friday nights we used to go football games or

Saturdays. For Friday nights, there's still football games. So football games, Friday nights, they either telling you, you using red and white or black and white, back then.

DM: What are the school colors?

AY: Yes.

DM: What was. . .

AY: Red and white.

DM: Oh, red and white school colors.

AY: School colors. So we used to go, we used to wear white shirt or red shirt, white pants. And you would go to the football, they used to bus us to Maui Memorial, which where, that's where all the games was held at, to go watch football. So, yeah.

WM: What was that—What was it like, also just living in the dorm with girls?

AY: Too much personalities. (WM laughs) Too much personalities, attitudes and bossy, you know.

WM: Mm.

AY: But you got to—You had to know that, you know, even though if you're an upperclassmen or you one underclassmen, you know, you could have been disrespecting them, whatever they want you to do, you got to do 'em, so that they would go clean the floors or that you got to go do 'em.

DM: And then when you're an upperclassman?

AY: You do the same thing with the underclassmen—tradition. Yeah. They tell you for the wash their clothes, you go wash their clothes, that's how was before.

WM: What were some other, like, problems that happened within the dorm?

AY: Some um, I remember um, back then, the boys used to take some cracks, mean, cracks, the underclassman. We used to feel sorry for them. You know, I was an upperclassman and my brother was a younger, underclassman. He used to take some cracks. And back then, the females no more really too much say. Eh, if you're one underclassman, the guys going always overpower you, what you say, so I used to get, I used to get mad. When they used to pick on my brother. I used to say something. But you know, you live and learn, back then. If you—back then if you think about it now. I totally understand why they did what they did. But as far as the hitting the underclassmen, sometimes they overdo it—they overdid it.

WM: But was there ever problems between the girl boarders and the boy boarders?

AY: No, no, not usually. We had one floor, all girls and three floors with boys. I mean, the boys really, actually had I think—like anything, you got to get used to it. So they when treat the girls like boys. You going get treated like a boy no matter what. What the boys do, you're going to end up doing ‘em too.

WM: That’s what I was going to ask if there was any difference in the level of chores or work, you know, you guys did the same ?

AY: We did the same thing.

DM: You were saying earlier, your (inaudible). When did they start to bring girls and you were like, you were saying, you're the second.

AY: Yes. So I got there in the 80s. So, 19, 1980s, 1980 was the first batch of girls, that came.

WM: And you were the year after?

AY: I was the year after. After ‘81.

WM: And you're the first Moloka'i girl. . .

AY: The first Molokaʻi girl to graduate.

WM: Wow. So when you went for your interview with the, it was pretty much decided they wanted somebody from Molokaʻi, but they only took one from Molokaʻi?

AY: No, because I was the only crazy fool that when apply.

(Laughter)

AY: I mean, I heard stories. I mean, I used to hear guys who went to Lahainaluna and they *nevah* like it but, they never came back, they couldn't handle it. And I guess I never, like, wanted to put that stigma on my parents, you know, “You one quitter.” So I stuck it out and I stuck it out all the way through, even though with the hard times and whatnot, I stuck it out.

DM: How often could you come home?

AY: Long breaks. So, Christmas break and Winter break and Spring break. That's the only time we come home.

WM: What about for the summertime?

AY: Summertime we came home too. So right after in May, we would pack up all our stuff and we have to ship them back home to Molokaʻi. And you would have to figure out how you going go to the airport. So, you know, you get taxi or you get family. Back then, my first year we taking a taxi, to go back, and had Royal Hawaiian, yeah?

DM: Oh yeah, yeah.

AY: Kaanapali side. Had Royal Hawaiian back there and Air Molokaʻi. So that's how I going home. So my third, my second year there, I used to go to the Catholic Church where form, my uncle was the the priest at the Catholic Church. Father Lane. He was on the—So he would pick me up on Sundays and take me to church when and if ever I got off. And then, but he would take me to the airport so that, my brother and myself to the airport to catch the plane—drop us off.

WM: What was it like being home after being away for so long? Like when you would come back home to your family.

AY: Had to adjust. You've got to remember that. But you stay home with your parents and they tell you something you've got to do ʻum or, you know, just, you wasn't—My parents never bothered me too much. But I was, I had to remember, you know, you get a curfew, you got to come home. You cannot stay out all night and play with your cousins and hang out with your cousins, yeah. Was okay. Was fine. Just had to adjust, and remember, you stay home, eh?. Sometimes was boring because, you know, during the summer, I never used to work during the summer, but I think it was my junior year, my sophomore year I couldn't work, but I used to just hang out with my cousins in town, go walk in town. We would go Drive-in and go eat. Back then, had Drive-in. Yeah, but go beach, when you could go to the beach.

WM: Was it, when you were at Lahainaluna were you ever homesick?

AY: Oh yeah. My first year.

WM: Mmm, Really. . .

AY: I was so homesick for at least one month. I used to cry myself to sleep at night. But after a while, you got, I got used to it—made friends. My first year, my roommate, Sissy, she took me home to Keʻanae. She was from Keʻanae, and that's the first time I ever went to Keʻanae. Oh my gosh, that trip was mean, was the drive, was crazy. It's like, what?

WM: Did she—What family is Sissy from?

AY: Frame.

WM: Frame?

AY: Yeah, her last name is Frame.

WM: Were they also taro farmers? Yeah?

AY: Yeah. They were taro farmers because her mom is Hawaiian—Kimokeo family. So her mom and the Kimokeo, I think. Was braddah-sistah or sisters, I forget. But they were all family. The Kimokeo family um they used to manage the taro patch down Keʻanae.

WM: Yeah. Did you get in there?

AY: They took me down there.

WM: Yeah.

AY: We used to talk about how you eat the escargot from the taro patch, the snail, the snails from the taro patch. It was pretty cool. I remember when I first, the first night I got to Keanae, we had stew and limu ʻeleʻele and from that time on that is how I used to like eating my um [stew] and poi. But now you can't even get, hardly can get limu ʻeleʻele. But I eat stew and lomi salmon. That was, yeah, I remember that—first time. And fresh, actually was fresh poi, right out of the patch—So we used to go um—I remember that one, the Saturday morning, waking up, going down to the taro patch and they all would be in the patch, the family would be working. That's crazy. The water was super cold in the patch. (WM aughs).

WM: Yeah. Yeah. And did you go to Keʻanae often with your roommate or just. . .

AY: No, not only that, twice I think I went to Keʻanae twice, but she graduated. She was a senior.

WM: Oh, she was older than you.

AY: Yeah.

WM: Oh. What about your other roommates that you had?

AY: My junior year. . . My junior year, my roommate went home. I had to whole room to myself. I had two beds for myself, so I put the two beds together and and that was it, you know, I had two beds, so I made sure my room was clean–everything. I never have to worry, put the desk, everything together.

WM: Double decker (laughs)

AY: I also remember, you know, we used to, I used to put the bed with the window. I used to have my desk right there, because every night you get room check. You know, the counselors would come down to check every single room. Shine the light if you stay sleeping. Because in order to stay up and study, you got to get permission. So you would have to go see the counselor, sign one paper, and you put um up on top of your door

because the door would have a small little window where you hang things. And if you're studying late or whatnot, or you going um vacation, going home, whatever, you got to put one sign up. let everybody know where you went.

WM: Oh.

AY: Yeah, That's how used to be, before. I think then my—was it my senior year had two Molokaʻi girls came, one was Sandra Cabral and Ranette Raydelis. There was, they–there was the second batch of Molokaʻi girls that came to Lahainaluna. And after that, I never know any girls from Lahainaluna from Molokaʻi.

WM: Did you room with any of those girls your senior year?

AY: Well, yeah. Sandra was my roommate my senior year, but I never used to bother.

WM: Yeah.

AY: I wasn't the one like telling them what for do too much, only small kine things. But as far as washing my clothes, *lai dat, ho,* I wash my own clothes (WM laughs) I no like anybody washing my clothes. And when you do wash your clothes, you going to make sure you be there for pick them up because the guys would take them out because the laundry room was um, the first floor level. And that's all the boys yeah, the first floor level. And um, the boys, just take your clothes out, throw them on the dryer, throw um on the table. But the, the dorms had bars on them, so you really couldn't escape from the room anyway. You couldn't get out the window.

WM: I think I saw the the bars on top the room. . .

AY: Yeah, still get the bars, I think to this day. Had bars on the window.

DM: That from the beginning when it was first built, they put bars.

AY: I don't know, you know.

DM: After a while. . .

AY: I remember has two bars on the window.

WM: And you talked a little bit about after school. Did you do any extracurriculars? You played sports?

AY: I ran track, but after that I quit because I *nevah* like the coach. He had favorites and I don't dig favorites. He was one—something else. Yeah, that's the only thing I did.

WM: Yeah. You're involved in the FFA [Future Farmers of America] or none of that? No?

AY: No, I wasn't involved in FFA. I wasn't involved being like cheerleader because that's too much girly for me. (WM laughs) I just. I just my my own business and do my own thing.

WM: Can you tell me a little bit about the the dorm counselors, though? Do you remember who your dorm counselors were and then your dorm matron?

AY: I remember Lance Lanad. And Mr. Diaz, um Mrs. Domingo. Oh, had this other lady, I forget her name. I can't remember her name and this other guy.

WM: And what was their kuleana, what was their role?

AY: They're counselors for the dorms. So during the day when the boarders would be off campus (inaudible) to school, you know, they would have their own kuleana. You know, your phone, free time to do whatever they wanted to do. Then as soon as we finished school, the counselors would be back on campus. And they would live, they would live on campus too. I think um rarely ever, they take breaks, if they do, then it's like couple of days and then they would be back on duty.

WM: What about you had (inaudible)?

AY: Who?

WM: Mrs. Lindsey?

AY: Oh, yeah um. . .

WM: Or who was your dorm matron?

AY: Oh was she, No, Mrs. Lindsey was—She was the person that took you, took us down to go doctor, and she would maintain the—would make sure we maintained the dorms, like the showers, everything was all cleaned. She wouldn't live on campus. Mrs. Domingo is the one of them was living on campus. And the other lady, I for—I can't remember her name. She was living on campus. They would live on campus five days or seven days a week.

WM: Were they strict, these ones?

AY: Oh, yeah.

WM: Yeah.

AY: You couldn't do whatever you wanted to do. We had one TV room. Every um, David Malo and Hoapili had one TV room where you would go in and everybody watched TV and usually the upperclassmen pick whatever they like watch and usually would be sports or something, yeah.

WM: Oh I see. I know you guys had officers too yeah, the boarding offices

AY: Yah, the boarding officers. The President and Vice President and Treasurer. The secretary, Sergeant in arms.

WM: Was girls involved in that at all?

AY: Yeah, had girls. Some girls involved in that. Oh, you know that—those are the ones who held our boarders together and called the shots. And you know what we going talk about, what we going do and all that. So they would be the ones calling the meetings if we needed to, so whenever we needed we had meetings, they would call us down all the way to David Malo TV room because that was the bigger one. So we would all sit down there, you know, and listen to what they had to say.

WM: Um, what—say if you got into trouble, what would happen? What was discipline like and what happened to the people who disobeyed the rules?

AY: You either get kicked out or you're getting um, you gotta work hours. So you would get your weekends taken away. You would be—weekends would be working off some mean hours, and that's including digging guinea grass. So in order to work off all those hours, doesn't include your work. So after Saturdays, that's the only time you can work your hours. The weekdays, if you're not playing sports, you work at least one hour or on the weekends. You can work off your hours and you get punish, you, you no more weekends period, until you work off your hours. Once you do that, you clear because you can get your name on the board, how much hours you got to work off.

WM: What what would people mostly get in trouble for?

AY: Hmm. . . Beds not made good, um your room dirty, or you talking back, um. . . you got caught smoking or drinking. But then, with that said, yeah, um, you would um, you would probably get expelled or kicked out of the dorms, if they did that. And most of the time you seeing other kids doing whatever they did, drink, smoke–the upperclassmens and all that, you no squeal. You just walk away, no say nothing. Better to avoid the trouble and the drama.

DM: Do they smoke pot too, or just smoke—regular smoking?

AY: Cigarettes, pot, drinking on campus, we sneak um in. Back then, I mean, they not going card you too much, they never used to card people too much yeah, back then. And people knew how to get liquor so, they would let you buy um. I did, I admit I did. It was my Junior year I bought one bottle Mickey's. (DM laughs) I drank um, but I never did get caught. I was smart enough not to get caught and just stayed away from people. And then when I got back to the dorms, I sign in, go back to the room and sleep. (WM laughs) and not bother nobody. Because back then I had my own room. So I never had to answer to nobody. Brush your teeth and make sure you get to bed before everybody in the dorms. You back by one decent hour, before everybody, because most the guys come back, you

know, right in, the nick of time, like two minutes before curfew over, they all coming back in. So you just smart enough, you just avoid everybody, brush your teeth, go to bed and you know, you don't bother, you lock your door.

(Laughter)

AY: Cause nobody else can come in the room, yeah.

WM: So you guys all kind of looked out for each other then, like nobody, like ratted on each other and nobody squealed.

AY: Nope.

WM: So. . .

AY: . . . Back then we just, we was family. Back then, that's what, that was your family you had, you know, Yeah, you get your ups and downs. You don't get along with people, you know, like certain people, whatnot, and the way they treat other people. But basically back then, that was your family. Because we never have our parents there. We never have our siblings there. And, you know, we would hang out on Sun—sometimes we don't even go out on the weekends because some of us no more money. So we just hang out at the dorms and like we would have our own snacks like that, saimin—I remember living off saimin and *da kine,* Vienna sausage. To this day, I hate Vienna sausage.

(Laughter)

AY: I refuse to eat Vienna sausage. But yeah, used to be like that before.

DM: What about dating among each other in the dorms? I mean, between boarders.

AY: They had.

WM: Yeah?

AY: And, you know, you used to see the girls sneaking in and the boys sneaking in, you know.

WM: Really?

AY: Oh, yeah. You know, you no say nothing. You just mind your own business, you get caught that’s your fault.

WM: Mmm, (laughs).

AY: You know what I mean.

DM: Was it more with the Day students and Boarders or just among Boarders mostly?

AY: Among Boarders. Yeah, among Boarders.

WM: You guys had Boarder's dances too yeah?

AY: Yeah. Yeah, we had Boarder dances. We had two boarder dances a year, where we got to invite, you either can, you can invite the Day students or go out with your, one of your Boarder members. Invite them to the—so, upperclassmens never used to have to bring dates. We never have to bring dates. Underclassmens, we had to bring dates.

WM: Mmhmm.

AY: I hated bringing dates. (WM laughs) I had, I remember my sophomore year, Michael Bates was my first ever asked for um, I *wen* invite him and the the Day students used to look forward to getting asked to go to the Boarders dance. And my second boarder's dance, I asked was Corey Kukahiko, he was a junior. He was a big football player, big teddy bear, a nice guy, one nice guy. Yeah, was a big thing I remember, it was a big thing, the Boarder's dance and we had to dance.

WM: What kind dance?

AY: Um, they do slow dance, fast dance. I hated dancing. I hated those slow dances because, you know, we had to do it, and was like "Agh", like, Oh, gosh, this is killing me, was crazy.

WM: Did you guys also have to decorate the gym for the Boarder's dances?

AY: Yeah. We had to decorate the gym for Boarder dances.

WM: What did you guys decorate with?

AY: Um, the officers like that, would go get the um, would go figure out what kind of decorations we would get and they would decorate that. But basically decoration was like live– was regular plants, was plants that we put around. It was always held in the gym and nobody could go in and out of the Boarder's dance, we were all locked in. I think like Boarder's dance was over like ten o'clock. So, when the dance is all over, um the Day students would leave because they could bring their own cars and we would just walk back to the *kine*, the dorms. The dorms was right there. Yeah.

WM: What was it like if you didn't have a date when you were an underclassmen?

AY: Oh, you going to be dancing with a mop.

WM: Ahhh, I heard that before, I wanted to see if it was the same.

AY: Oh, you going be dancing with one mop. The whole night with the mop.

WM: (Laughs).

DM: They made you do that or. . .

AY: No, if you didn't have a date, you never had one date, they going make you dance with the mop.

DM: Oh my gosh. (WM laughs).

AY: As an underclassman, you had no choice, you had to dance with the mop. I felt, so sorry because some of these guys, these young ones, the freshmans like that, you know, you never know what was girls like that so, you know, they *nevah* like ask. So. . .

WM: Did the upperclassmen used to help some of the underclassmen get dates?

AY: Um, sometimes.

WM: Sometimes.

AY: Very rare, unless you get one good roommate. (WM laughs) I *nevah* like. I said, you know what, I going to ask and if I get turned down, that's fine. If I have to dance with a mop that's fine. But that was embarrassing, f you had to dance with the mop, was crazy. (WM laughs) was real crazy.

WM: I know, there are some other traditions, too, was the L.

AY: Yeah. So our fresh—the beginning of the year, I think would be like, maybe the second. . . . I think was like maybe the third weekend of the month whenever we started to get back to school. So you would go line the 'L', in—was in September, we would go line the 'L', you go up, line the 'L', clean um up or whatnot, and then um, then graduation, they send a bunch of other people, send the alumnis and some of the underclassmens and upperclassmens go up and go line the 'L' with the new year, the graduating year. It was hard work. I remember some of the upperclassmens, they rode up with the trucks because they was carrying the lime, but to one certain point, but we all had to walk from the bottom of the class, was by the library area in the back. We walk all the way in the back there, walking up all the way on the side of the mountain, and then we're passing through the cane fields and whatnot. Then we walk, as soon as you walk to the hill, that steep hill, the guys used to be, had to carry the lime bag up, for lime the field, the um, the 'L' and that thing was heavy. And then we had to bring back down the rubbish and David Malo's grave up on top of the hill. So we'd go up on the top, was the 'L' and then little further up, you would get David Malo's grave on the top of that hill looking down on everything. And they would go clean around that area too. And by the time we finish, was like maybe about 12:30, 1:00—we running all down the hill, to get in

the doggone showers cause was so hot. (WM laughs), Was one beautiful, beautiful view, one beautiful experience but *ho*, that was hard work.

DM: What did you folks learn about David Malo? What did they tell you about him and what, why was he significant?

AY: He was the one that opened the school. That's what I heard, I never you know—To this day, I've never researched, but I know the school was opened in 1831 and the dorm was named after him, the David Malo dorm. I remember um, on the weekends like that, if you guys been to Lahainaluna, you know, get the gullies yeah, where the—the canals. . .

WM: Yeah, yeah. Mmhmm, runs to the school.

AY: Used to full with water before and now to this to this day—and used to have crawfish inside there too—to this day, I guess they *wen* block off, they *wen* stop the water flow, yeah. No more water going through that now, only get weeds and look so horrible looking.

DM: Mm.

AY: Yup. (Crosstalk)

DM: Were they like ʻauwai [canals] going to taro fields before.

AY: No.

WM: The irrigation. . .

AY: The irrigation to the *da kine*, the cane fields.

DM: Oh, oh-oh.

AY: At these we used to jump in that (laughs) and play, better not get caught but, (WM laughs), but that's what we used to do, jump into that. Sometimes we fall in by "accident".

(Laughter)

AY: Because we trying to make it, to make it to the *da kine*, back on time for curfew.

(Laughter)

WM: You fall inside (laughs). . .

AY: Yeah.

WM: What else would you guys do on the weekends for fun?

AY: Just walk around the um Front Street. Hang out Front Street, hang out at McDonald's, go eat. Once in a while, you know, if you get car, you get money, you go taxi, you go beach, down Kāʻanapali side. Yeah, that's what we used to do. Or go watch movies, down Kāʻanapali. Catch the taxi—Taxi was handy back then.

WM: (Laughs) Did you guys used to split the fare?

AY: Yeah, we had to split the fare, but um, had—my senior year had the four of, four girls—me, Lori, Ala, and um. . . was this other girl, another girl with us. The four of us we used to go—oh the other girl named Lori, had two Lori's, but we had to go, we had to um–we had each other's backs. We just calling it close. So they would would be running because, you know, we no more money. So we just go, hang out. We spend our money, save our money, spend our money, go buy food *lai dat*, go eat McDonald's. But we had to run back up to the dorms. Oh, man. Running up that hill, we truckin' up, you know, all running. And some of us tired, so we kind of, so our friends, my friend Lori, I remember she used to get our backs, she used to be the track runner where she used to run up the hill and we stay partway–where the football fields stay–we stay hanging out over there, huffing and puffing. She would run up there and clock us all in, sign us all in and make sure somebody stay in the way blocking because the counselors sometimes they stand there, watch us, so we distract the counselor, (WM laughs), and somebody else stay over there talking story with them, and block us off and we signing them all in so nobody get punished, get their weekends taken away.

WM: You look out for each other.

AY: Yeah, we used to do that a lot.

WM: Oh, so I don't know if you've been back to Lahaina town any time recently, but. . .

AY: I just was there this past year.

WM: How has it changed?

AY: Drastic—a lot. Yeah, a lot. Well, they got a new softball field. They get one school on the bottom, cause they never used to have one school before. Used to be all um fields, yeah before, cane fields. The solar panels, the field used to be all—All fields, used to be all fields. They never used to have all that before.

WM: What about downtown?

AY: Town when change. I remember that corner by the gas station. This two sisters, actually three of them used to live in that corner. They was heavy set, but they used to live on that corner, um Hawaiian, these Hawaiian sisters. I forget their names, but, they used to live there, they used to um, actually drive up to the school. They graduated I think in 1981, I

think they graduated. But now the thing is like, I think a bank over there or something. In the corner used to have the mango trees too um—the gas station is still there—but, I never, used to have the shop too yeah, fix car over there too yeah. And then had the trains, the sugar cane train used to go—run a lot. I remember the thing running through the—you would hear ‘em. You'd hear ‘em during the day, every day, on the weekends, whatever, you hear ‘em. Certain times of the day, I think it was like midday. You would feel the thing running.

WM: Do you have any other or can you tell me any more than highlights about like your leisure experiences or experiences as a boarder or some of your favorite memories?

AY: I remember one time hanging out on Hoapili, in the back, you jump over the wall, climb up on the back and go sit on the roof and just watch. And just–cause would be dark up there, you can watch the whole town, just lights, just look at the lights and just hang out there and just relaxing. Yeah, everybody yelling or what not, but the thing was peaceful. I used to hang out up there plenty with my friends. We used to just hang out of there, no do—just talk story or just, you know, just listen. Um, I have no regrets. I have no regrets going to, um becoming—When I went to boarding school. It taught me a lot. I mean, it made me who I am today, you know, and taught me discipline.

WM: Mmhm.

AY: You know, I miss the, you know, David Malo Day and you know our graduation, you know, one of a kind, we when graduate on David Malo field, you know what I mean, you don't get that. I don't think, I don't know if they still do that, but. . . yeah. Like it all, Yeah.

WM: Mhm.

AY: Yeah.

WM: Well also David Malo day they can you talk a little bit about your experiences with David Malo day.

AY: Ho that was. . . All I remember was, it was very busy. The Boarders would sing, would do entertainment. Um, the community would come up, sell laulau plates, I guess. Um, that was the Boarder’s fundraisers for us, to help pay for whatever, because we never have tuition. Our tuition was working it off. So we never have to pay tuition. So, you know, we would work and I guess with all that working hard and whatnot—yeah, we goof off and what not, but it taught me as an individual, to this day how to work hard and, you know, how to get things done. And, I instill that in my own kids. You know, it's not good being lazy. You have to work hard at everything you want in your life and nothing is going to be actually handed to you unless you rich, but even that, that’s what it taught me.

WM: Yeah. Being Hawaiian, was there any kind of distinction as a Boarder or anything uniquely Hawaiian that you can pinpoint? Or was the boarding program more concentrated full of Hawaiians as opposed to Day students?

AY: We had a lot of Hawaiians in the boarding department. I got to say that we had a lot of Hawaiians in the boarding department. We had couple (counting)---had eight Asians, had lot of Filipinos too, and had um guys from Lanai. But I think only had like three—Hutchinson—I think three whites and yeah, that was it. mostly was all Hawaiians and Asians.

WM: And that the Day student population, was that kind of the same or was it more so like the borders were Hawaiian, these Day students were like. . .

AY: Day students um, had a lot of white people and a lot of haoles. Not too much Blacks, African-Americans, had a lot of Filipinos, Japanese um, had Hawaiians too, quite a bit of Hawaiians. But, you know, wasn't racist or anything was just, you know, it had, had certain spots, certain people hang out. Like if you go up to Lahainaluna, that, get that one building, get the two steps up go up that way (gestures), that, that building, that's where a lot of potheads used to hang out, naughty kids used to all hang out over there, but they used to hang out over there on the top by the shop side, the automotive shop area, that place, you know and you would have the knucklehead guys hanging out over there, you know, like the tough guys and us would just hang out under the tree by the um, right in the back by the office area, but close to the cafeteria. We used to hang out, talk story, no bother nobody. Yeah, was different. Everybody would be talking. You never had cell phones and all that. So, you know, everybody communicating and having fun. Now days, you see the kids, it's like they don't know what is fun. All they know is Social media and social bullying and talking crap and causing—its like, why?

WM: Yeah, I do want to switch back on to something that I wanted to ask, in David Malo day you guys had boarders chorus yeah? What was boarders chorus like, for the girls especially?

AY: Um, like anything we would be singing—I used to hate singing—to this day I hate singing (WM laughs), And because I have no voice, we would sing um, and we used to practice with Aunty Lori Gomes, Gomez, practicing in the band room every—I think was like, every Wednesdays or every Tuesday night, we down in the band room twice a week, in the band room—or was it once a week? I forget now, but we used to practice in a band room, and if we no get the songs, on the weekends, we got to get up early, before we got to work, we go to stand in front of the cafeteria and be singing there, or we be running steps to get the songs right.

WM: What was it that those songs you performed at Boarders, at David Malo. . .

AY: David Malo.

WM: Oh-ok. You guys would dance too or just sing?

AY: Um , we just sing. Had some dancers like Auntie Lori had her hula hālau, that would dance, when we would sing but yeah.

WM: Mmhmm. Would you perform at other places other than David Malo?

AY: No, only David Malo and that was it.

WM: Cool. Um, I guess we talked a little bit about how Lahainaluna impacted your life trajectory. Do you think it influenced any of the career choices that you might have made or your work ethic within your career?

AY: Mmm. . . It taught me to work hard. Yeah, that's the one key thing. It taught me to work hard and never give up.

WM: Mmhmm.

AY: I stuck through things, and I seen it all the way through, so yeah.

WM: Mmhmm. Um, how often do you get to see your classmates or your fellow Boarders?

AY: Oh, not often. Yeah. Facebook or, like, the class president she usually texts me or when I'm in Maui. She stay—we usually run into each other. Or if get softball game, she'll come up and check it out. That's the only time I would see her, but yeah.

DM: But you also said you guys are kind of like family, so with the time that passes, is it any different when you come back together?

AY: I, I only went to my fifth year class reunion, and, you know, after that, I've never gone back to any of my class reunions and um, the hundredth year David Malo day, I never did go back, you know. I actually stayed away for awhile. And my classmates, they see me, but I meaning family wise, well, our family was the Boarders in itself. We would be family. Get this guy, he's older than his Albert Rollins brother's gas station. He graduated from Lahainaluna, he used to be a knucklehead. I used to hate him, big time. But to this day, him and I is friends, we talk story. We talk smack to each other, like I'm the only one actually talk smack to him and he don't get upset. And before that, he used to get, he used to lose his head like crazy. He had bad temper and nobody make him any kine. But I make him any kine, I don't care. (WM laughs).

WM: So I really kind of touched on this little bit but, like, would you ever send your kids to Lahainaluna or your grandkids to board, no?

AY: No. I guess because I, as an individual, I lost the connection with my parents. So and I never, like, lose that connection with my own kids and sending them away. My kids are independent, but um, I never, like, lose the connection with my kids, even though if I know that I made them independent not to be able to do things for themselves. But just

the closeness and the communication that I have with my kids now, I wouldn't trade it for anything because I lost that with my parents. It took me a—um, for me to move back home, to gain that communication back with my parents, and especially my—I was close with my dad, I wasn't too close to my mom, but I was really close to my dad, where I could talk to him and tell him everything and anything. And yeah, that, that is one thing that I would never, ever trade with my, for my kids or sending them off to boarding school because I never like lose that that connection that I have with them to this day, that I lost with my own parents.

DM: What about the actual classes? What kind of work was there, like, was it college prep or was that, were there different tracks or what kind of classes did you, did you take?

AY: Besides taking the regular core classes?

DM: Yeah, they would just have the core classes, pretty much, The math, and the science. . .

AY: They never have like Health and all that, like they have now.

DM: Mmhmm.

AY: You'd have to, you was just trying to graduate and make sure you get, pass all your classes, trying to graduate. . .

DM: Did they have P.E. or because you worked you didn't have P.E.

AY: We had P.E.

DM: Oh, ok.

AY: We had P.E. but I think P.E. was one semester or something and then after that you had Health, was another semester but you just was basically trying to um make it and make sure we graduate because we're just doing this on our own. We never have family support. Our parents no can say, "Eh, I going talk to the teacher and whatnot. We had to do it ourselves. We had to make sure we pass our classes and make sure we go see our counselors and whatnot, to make sure we on task, yeah.

DM: So, were the counselors advising you in terms of postgraduate, what kind of. . .

AY: Yeah.

DM: What would they advise you?

AY: They would help us, you know, with how much credits we have, um, what college you like go to, if you plan to go college. What you want to do. They would help us with that and with financial aid and, you know, all those things.

WM: Were there teachers that stood out to you, that you remember that helped your life or. . .

AY: Hmm. I don't know, None of my teachers. Actually, um, Auntie Lori was good. She was helpful. She was strict but she was helpful.

WM: Auntie Lori Gomez?

AY: Yeah, I remember Mr. Kutsanai. He was our history teacher. I remember him because I used to hate history. I hated history, I used to fail his classes and fail his exams, and I just barely passing with one doggone 'D' in his class. And I admit, I wasn't that bright, but I hated history. So this one time we had um, one an exam and I when study for 'em. I when study real hard to get one 'A' in that class. I when pass that class. I had one 'A' on that exam I took, I had one 'A'. He was—was funny funny because somebody in that classroom when go steal the test and started passing the thing around. I never get a hold of that, but I when study for that class. So he came up to—so then so, what he did, he got a, he heard that, he found out about somebody when steal the test. So he made the whole class, I think two days after that, he made the whole class take the exam again. I took that same, I took the exam. He changed things around and whatnot. I took the exam again. I when pass with one 'A'. He came up to me, he told me, "I thought you was one of them that when cheat and took the test." I said, "No, I when study for that class, for your exam." He was shock[ed]. (DM laughs). He was one good teacher. He was a really good teacher, but he thought I was one of 'em who when cheat. I tell him, "Nope." He said, "I know, I was so surprised". He said, "You know, you failed every single—You always get these D's, D's, or C's but this one time you when take the test and you when pass two tests with an A.", He said, "I taught you when cheat, the first one". I said, "Nope, I never, I sorry".

(Laughter)

AY: Yeah.

WM: But what about the relationships between Boarders and non-boarders? Was that okay or was there like a distinction, like they never really hung out with Boarders, the Day students or. . .

AY: Some day students *nevah* like the Boarders, never hung out with the Boarders. The borders just hang out among ourselves, own selves only, unless you play sports and you got a close connection with the Day student, certain Day student, you know. They would come up, pick you up and whatnot. But other than that, um the Boarders stick together. Yup.

WM: Mm, Can you maybe speak on your best experience at Lahainaluna?

AY: I guess my best experience at Lahainaluna was going up to the 'L'. I never expected that. I mean, the first time I went to the'L', was, I was so amazed and just breath taken—I was just taken away by that, just to see. . .

DM: You could see home?

AY: That and you could see just everything, just from the, being up high. The winds are just, *ho* powerful. The winds are powerful up there—was beautiful. Was hard work, climbing and walking, long and hot. But when you get up there, was like, "Wow". I had no regrets just from looking down, was beautiful.

WM: And would you say that those are part of your fondest memories from Lahainaluna?

AY: Yeah.

WM: Yeah.

AY: And meeting all the different people and, you know, hanging out with your friends and trying not to get in trouble, but, yeah.

WM: Yeah.

WM: Um, so what do you hope for Lahainaluna in the future?

AY: I hope they—Well, things got to change. You know, I heard this one time about people crying about the teacher took the cell phone away. And why you need–to me is like why you need the cell phone in class, if you get one computer. Yeah, not every student can afford one computer, but, if you spend most of the time on your phone and not learning anything, you know. But I wish the thing would would be fully capacitated. You know, where they get the program back up and running, working and teaching the kids to work in the fields and, you know, and whatnot. You know, piggery, agriculture, you know, the poultry and discipline, you know. But I wouldn't take it too far in the discipline and depending on, you know, the level of discipline, what they do. But. I remember going to the principal's office when I was small, and you getting pulled by you hair over here, or by your ears or one slap, patty whack on your hands with the rulers. And I turned out okay. I turned out fine. And that's why now days, the kids just get away with murder.

DM: No corporal punishment anymore right?

AY: Yep. Which is too bad because we learned from it. I learned from it. And you never do it again.

WM: Do you have any final thoughts?

AY: No.

WM: No. . .

AY: Am I the only one you guys interviewing.

WM: No.

AY: Brent coming too.

WM: Mmhm.

AY: Oh, cool.

DM: And Chad.

WM: And Chad. [Inaudible]

AY: Yeah, I know Chad, we went to school together, yeah, up there. He was one underclassman, when I was one upperclassman. He took gas, (WM laughs), he took gas.

DM: Well, what would you say was your worst experience when, as a Boarder over there?

AY: I guess the way the upperclassmen used to treat the underclassmen and they used to go overboard and certain things. I never dig that, [phone rings] Yah, I never really dig that, the way they treated people.

WM: Did it get better?

AY: Ah, you know, eventually, they started taking in things and whatnot, but ‘um wait let me [phone rings], eventually it did get better because certain things got taken away, you know. But, like they could do whatever they like do and they never have work, like how we had to work.Get up in the morning, go work. They never have to do that in the morning. [Phone rings].

DM: You need to pause and take that? We're almost pau, but we can pause if you need to.

AY: I’ll call him back later.

DM: Hmm.

AY: Yeah. I mean, that’s sad because they really never ‘um, [phone rings]. They never um bring back—Like in the mornings, we'd get up early in the morning for go work—they took that away. I think they would only work in the afternoons and that was it.

DM: Why is that?

AY: I don't know that. I never know why they did that, but, but they did that.

DM: That‘s after you graduated, you're saying these are some current. . .

AY: I think like way after I graduated, not like the. . .

WM: Like the 2000s.

AY: Yeah, it was the 2000s.

DM: Oh-oh.

AY: Yeah.

WM: Because in the nineties they still was doing this.

AY: Yeah. They still did that in the nineties and, yeah. Yup.

DM: Okay. I think that is it. Thank you.

WM: Yeah, Mahalo.

DM: We learned so much.

AY: Yeah.