



## THE COUNTY OF KAUA'I

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### News Release

For Immediate Release: June 8, 2020

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### **Committee on the Status of Women announces students placing top honors in the 2020 Women's History Essay Contest**

The Kaua'i Committee on the Status of Women is proud to announce students placing top honors in the 2020 Women's History Essay Contest.

The Kaua'i Committee on the Status of Women awarded second place to Kirra Lindman. Kirra is the daughter of Jessica and Cole Lindman and is a senior at Kapa'a High School. The committee was touched by her grandmother's positive influence and the impact it made on her childhood years.

"Ms. Lindman shared her personal connection with her grandmother. We experienced a glimpse of her childhood and touches of her grandmother's values," said Chair Darcie Yukimura. "Ms. Lindman is from the Class of 2020 and graduated from Kapa'a High School. We send our fondest congratulations and wish her much success."

In celebration of Women's History month and to mark the 100-year anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment (granting women voting rights), the committee opened the contest to all Kauai public, private, charter and home-schooled high school students. They were asked to submit a one-page essay about a woman who inspired them and how. Prizes were awarded to the top four and the remaining entrants were awarded a consolation prize. The theme of the 2020 Women's History Month was "The Valiant Women of the Vote."



Third place was awarded to Mosiah Bautista and fourth place to Autumn Lee. Their essays will be featured in following press releases. This is the second in a four-part series highlighting the students that wrote the winning essays. First place winner Darian Martin, was featured in a previous press release.

The Committee on the Status of Women is part of the County of Kaua'i Boards and Commissions, and the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women, which develops and promotes education, interactive opportunities on issues relating to women and girls, prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls, and encouraging health and wellness awareness. You may visit the Committee on the Status of Women Website at [www.kauai.gov/kccsw](http://www.kauai.gov/kccsw).

For more information please contact the Office of Boards and Commissions, Ellen Ching [eching@kauai.gov](mailto:eching@kauai.gov) or Sandra Muragin [smuragin@kauai.gov](mailto:smuragin@kauai.gov).



Photo caption: Kirra is the daughter of Jessica and Cole Lindman and is a Senior at Kapaa High School.

Kirra's essay is featured below:

My mother's mother was born in the city of Seoul. Her upbringing was full of fast cars and smog, and long workdays and then long nights caring for her young siblings. Many times, she would be the only one at home, working to clean the house, study in school, and be a strong leader for the other children around. She emerged independently through the smoke to be a strong and valiant woman, having two girls of her own, and now 4 grandchildren. I was unknowing when growing up watching her move gracefully, working, cooking, cleaning, teaching, and supporting our family. Now I see her, shining with beauty. Her once porcelain back now covered in sunspots from working in the garden, and hands scarred and beaten from decades as a commissary cashier. Her hard work does not go unnoticed anymore. When I think of strength, I think of her. She inspires me in all of my actions and I try to make her proud of everything I do.

It took me many years to understand the full weight of her presence in my life. I learned many things subliminally from her that now in my 18th year of life I can identify. Once, we were walking to her friend's house to pick flowers to make a lei for the afternoon. She has never been fond of driving, so we walked almost everywhere we would go to play. This time I was around 6 or 7 years old, and I can vividly remember passing by so many flower trees; gardenias, hibiscus, pikake. Her rough hand in my small one, strolling down the sidewalk. When we arrived, I could not contain my excitement! I wanted to pick every flower I came across, and take them home to cherish them and gaze at them. My grandmother encouraged me to save the occasion to pick the flower for when we would need it. This memory may seem small and of no importance. I believe that I still remember it for a reason. For so many years I've driven past the same route we would walk almost daily and think of how it would feel to walk the same path again, to feel the rubbery petals of hibiscus and yearn to pluck it from its bush. My grandmother imprinted the simple satisfaction of taking a stroll in the sun underneath the protection of a sun hat and a sun umbrella. She never failed to remind me to be full of grace, to enjoy the simple things, and to be grateful for everything. She taught me to stop and smell the flowers, instead of picking them, to preserve and cultivate their beauty instead of taking them away from this world.

Some days I imagine her sitting with her glasses poised, calculator and pen in hand, balancing her checkbook. Some days I imagine her squatted on the floor of the kitchen, hovering over a bowl filled with kimchi ready to be massaged and bottled. When I see her over school breaks or when she visits, she reminds me of a beautiful flower I used to want to pick and hold close. As I am older now, I know that every life is too precious to be plucked from existence, and flowers must be left alone to blossom, mature, and grow wise. Without her, I would not be the woman I am now. Now I am ready to face the world. Ready to blossom, to live every day with hope, grace, a smile, and maybe a stroll.

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