

## Written Direct Testimony of Sarah Puaola Kihoi

I am Sarah Puaola Kihoi, I have an educational background in Sociology BA; I am a certified Ho'oponopono practitioner under the teachings of Malia Craver; a licensed lomilomi massage therapist in the State of Hawai'i; I have worked 30+ years with alienated youth dealing with social and emotional grief patterns with YMCA, Kamehameha School and Bishop Museum; I have worked with the State Correctional Office as a Youth Correctional Officer; I am currently on the Coalition Team "Families Against Domestic Violence"; I am presently developing programs for incarcerated Native Hawaiian women who have/are experiencing deep social, emotional, and psychological trauma; and for the past 20 years, my position as a Community Builder Facilitator for the Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center I develop cultural, and educational programs specializing in intergenerational enrichment activities.

13 years ago, my daughter, "Mehana", and granddaughter, "Tali", was involved in a horrific incident, which left my daughter with broken bones in her face, jaw, eyes and neck. Tali was just 7 months old and was inches away, in her mothers arms when this happened. They both fell to the ground. After surgery, we all needed to find a place to hide for our safety. This was a week before Thanksgiving. My daughter could not eat, since her jaw was clamped shut. I was thankful that they both were alive.

Your Honor, it still brings me to tears to write this. We haven't had time to deal with these deep wounds. We have been trying to survive and deal with life. As I reflect over thirty plus years of service and as a cultural practitioner dealing with historical trauma, that has developed social, emotional, psychological struggles amongst our people. Nothing... could have prepared me to deal what was in front of me. My most precious daughter, and grand daughter was so close to death.

What did come into LIGHT was my background as a Lomi Lomi practitioner, oli, my knowledge in medicinal Hawaiian plants, and most importantly, the power of prayer. Through these modalities, my daughter does not have a single scar on her face. Although, she healed physically, deep inside her spirit was still broken. It has been 13 years of dealing with this broken spirit, needing to be filled.

Then, Mehana found her call, her "kahea", to go to Mauna Kea. Sometimes she would leave before dawn and come home late. From Honaunau to the Mauna that is a hike. As a mother I continued to worry.

As our ohana, with genealogy of thousands of years, Mauna Kea has housed our iwi, bones of our Kupuna. It is by no mistake that, this Mauna Kea, continues to heal my daughter in her spiritual quest.

I am honored to share some of this mo'olelo (story) with you, Your Honor, with continued hope that you will not only see, but feel the pulse of this testimony.

Any questions, I will be glad to accommodate you.

Written with the spirit of aloha,  
Sarah Puaola Kihoi