

I just want to begin to tell you what a precious, energetic, helpful, respectful and empathetic daughter I have. Ku'ulei has always been so loving, caring and helpful at home, church and school. She has always been involved with school activities, trying to go to all the football games, some soccer and lacrosse games to support her friends, peers and school. She has always participated in "Spirit Week," dressing up in silly outfits showing her full support. She plays volleyball about 5 times a week, she loves hanging out with friends and staying active yet would always maintain a 3.0-3.5 grade point average.

Ku'ulei had a very rough year last year. She came down with severe hives which left her in constant pain and discomfort. They were having problems figuring out what was causing it so she had to go in a couple of times before finally finding a combination of medication to give her a little bit of relief even though the side effect of the medication made her drowsy so this made it difficult for her to focus. When she finally seemed to have a little bit of relief after weeks of trying to find a solution, she came down with Gastritis. She was continuously vomiting and unable to keep any food down which led her to lose 5 lbs. in a week. She then was unfortunate enough to break her arm which led her to be put on pain medication and was unable to take her ACT tests. Since she had missed all this school, her grades were drastically affected. She was unable to make up the work and she was failing her classes. Ku'ulei has never received an "F" in any of her classes.

Ku'ulei fell into a very deep depression. She was not eating and constantly sleeping or having difficulties sleeping. She did attempt to return to school a couple of times and spoke with her School Counselor but her Depression was just too severe and she ended up not returning to school for the rest of the year. She wasn't playing volleyball or hanging out with friends. She was even refusing to go to church or participate in any family activities. She was very withdrawn and finally shared with her School Counselor that she was having suicidal thoughts. Her Counselor advised Ku'ulei to speak with us and recommended that we contact her Primary Care Provider. We immediately did so and her Primary Care Provider recommended that she be put on antidepressants and for Ku'ulei to see a Therapist. We immediately made an appointment with a recommended Therapist. I was able to sit in on the first visit, which The Therapist shared her concern about Ku'ulei's severe condition. She began seeing her once a week and since her schedule was full, she made an effort to come in an hour early just to see Ku'ulei because she was so concerned about her wellbeing.

Even though Ku'ulei is nervous about returning to school and having to explain why she missed so much school, I was so happy to hear how excited she is to be returning to Westview. I know one of the reasons being is Volleyball. She has been looking so forward to playing with the team all summer. It was so good for her to see all her old friends and to play the sport she absolutely loves. So much that she is one of the very few who will always help set the nets up and take them down. Please, give this precious girl a chance as she was feeling so hopeless and helpless last year. She didn't think there was a reason to return to school especially being under the assumption she was not going to be able to graduate on time (which is not true). I am a Group Life Coordinator at Hillcrest Youth Correctional Facility and see so many youth who have given up on Society and only care about their own wellbeing. I am surrounded by such negative and sometime harmful youth and adults since we keep them till they are 25 years of age. Please give my daughter a chance, I know this will greatly impact her life. Her future is in your hands so please consider what the outcome will do to this precious, energetic, helpful, respectful and empathetic young lady.

Mahalo Much,  
