

Cultural Identity Essay

By Mikayla Holm

My parents are both what some people would call “ a mixed plate”. My mom has multiple ethnicities: Hawaiian, Filipino, and Portuguese. My dad is also made up of multiple ethnicities: Palauan, Norwegian, and Irish. Since I inherited both sides of my family, I have a lot to learn about my cultural background.

A lot of people haven't heard of Palau and about the culture there. I feel grateful that I can say I have been to Palau and got to learn more about where some of my roots come from and the culture there. When I was younger, I always would say that I am just Hawaiian, I would say this because I didn't know much about my Palauan side and I knew that people would wonder what that is, I would not have known what to say, so it was always more simple to say that I'm only Hawaiian.

I know more about my roots here, in Hawaii because I'd always come here for summers when I lived in Arizona throughout my childhood. I felt proud to be so connected to my roots here. Learning how to hula, how to plant kalo and harvest it and all the things that the plant could be used for, learning about the land and our ancestors' land that they'd take care of in Halawa which we take care of now.

But I still feel the need to learn more about my other ethnicities, I never really asked much about my Norwegian and Irish sides that I get from my dad, just like how I don't ask much about my Portuguese side from my mom. But I am hoping to learn more about them now.

Although I have been to Palau, I got to see where my dad grew up around my age and it is a completely different lifestyle than I have experienced. In Palau, where my grandma's house is, in this village called Ngardmau, it is one of the older villages in Palau, there is a dirt road about a mile or more long in the village, and once you get to the street, it leads you to town, the town is located in Koror, Koror is actually quite large, it has multiple supermarkets and restaurants, a few hotels and some tourist attractions.

I plan to learn more about my Norwegian, Irish, and Portuguese background so that I can be more in touch with all of my ethnicities and learn about the culture of where my ancestors are from. I hope that one day I can travel to all of these places.

My Cultural Identity

By Kamauwaihi Pali-Pahupu

Everyone has an identity usually tied to their culture or upbringing, That's what makes everyone unique. For my culture, Identity is Asian and Hawaiian. I lived in Hawaii where Asian culture is Influenced in with Hawaiian Culture.

I grew up with many different cultures in my life. I would learn many Asian cultures with my Grandma from my mom's side of the family Like the food, The Language or Cultural customs. I learned many Hawaiian Cultural things from my family, like how to make Hawaiian types of food or a bit of the language. My father always tries to teach me important cultural skills like how to fish, Hunt, or he even informs me of places we are and the Original Hawaiian names. I've always felt pretty proud of my culture, never oppressed. I don't really have any culture style ethier i usually just wear the style of Hawaii like board shorts and a shirt. I think it's good to explore your culture. I always find it interesting when I find out more about my family.

Important things in my culture are Music and food. I think music is important to Hawaiians because they can express themselves and share it and can also make for a great time. I think Hawaii is one of the only states that share a Local state music which is Hawaiian music. Hawaiian music mostly contains Traditions and Practices; it can also speak of love and other things. Dancing is also very important to the Hawaiians such as Hula, Hula is usually like a visual story being told through dance. It normally dance to a Chant or Oli. I don't really know anything about Kporean music or dances. I only know they have a very popular genre of music called Kpop.

Another thing that is important to my cultural identity is food. Food is very Important. Hawaiians mostly eat Fish, Poi, Pig each coming from farms, the mountains or the sea. There are also more foods like haupia which is made from arrowroot and coconut cream. It is a dessert and one of my favorites. There are other foods such as Lulau, Kalua pig, Poke, Lomi Salmon (lomi-lomi salmon) and Chicken long rice. I also have a bit of a background with my asian culture of food. I don't listen to Korean bands or artists but I do enjoy some of the snacks and foods. A dish my grandma makes and is common in Korea is Kimchi. Kimchi is salted and fermented vegetables. Spicy foods are very common in Korea. Other foods I enjoy are Dumplings not Korean food but still an Asian dish.

Why is culture important to me ?. Culture is important to me because it's who I am and has things that are familiar to me that make me feel at home.

In conclusion you should feel proud of your culture and who you are no matter what culture you are from just be proud and confident. I am very thankful that my family taught and helped me discover my cultural identity.

My Cultural Identity

By Jantzen Mahiai-Paleka

Growing up in a perfect family-sized house, I wasn't really much of an outsider. I have been put into places where I tend to lose track of who I am most of the time. Living with three siblings, two parents, and two grandparents, I can not be lucky enough to have these blessings in my life. Everytime I look back at those times where I was in need of help due to stress at school I could always count on my family to pick up the slack.

During my lifetime I hoped of finding a solid human being to share my thoughts, ideas, and feelings to to hopefully find out if they match or at least have a similar cultural identity as I do. As time went on I realized that I have all the people I need in my household to share everything and anything with. My struggles were not easy to overcome by myself and of course when I turned to my family, they never failed me.

At some point in my lifetime, I was doing great work at school. I felt like I was unstoppable with my schoolwork and could do anything with just time management, but then I realized that time slows down for no one and really held that slogan with me ever since. Until then, I have been motivated by those specific words and tend to follow them for the rest of my life. At the end of every day I get to sleep happy knowing I used my time wisely.

I personally feel like my cultural identity evolves over time when I'm with my family. When I am near those I feel loved by, it makes me feel like I belong to the environment of my bloodline. The times we spend together, the food we eat, the liquids we drink, and even the ups and downs we go through, I don't mind any second of it because I wouldn't trade it for the world .

In the end, time slows down for not a single person and everything we do, I hope to use my remaining time wisely and thoroughly.

Live life

By Liam Davis

What is cultural identity? To me, the cultural identity about me is hunting. My dad is different; his cultural identity to him is fishing and diving. This is the argument of me and my dad arguing about wanting each other to go with each other and do one person's cultural identity.

My cultural identity is hunting, I think that Hunting is my cultural identity because hunting is what I'm known for and hunting is my passion. I always enjoyed hunting because of being in the mountains and being in nature. I really enjoy doing it because I get to provide for my family and friends. Everytime I'm hunting and in the mountains I always feel a sense of cultural identity, From smelling nature to seeing how beautiful it is up in the mountains and living on Molokai. Hunting with my dogs wasn't a tradition for my family, I really didn't know why they didn't like hunting with dogs as much as I do. They'd rather either fish or dive like my dad. My dad loves fishing And diving. To me I feel like I started my own cultural identity of hunting with dogs for my future generations.

But there was always an argument when we both wanted to do our cultural identity. One day I wanted to go hunting because I got a chance to go Wailau and hunt and have fun but my dad wanted me to go diving with him. "Hurry up, we go Diving", My Dad said. "I was going to go hunt backside (Wailau) with my friends," I said. And we went on and on arguing about what I wanted to do and what he wanted me to do with him. That day I didn't get to do anything, I only got to stay home and do chores. I was really mad seeing my friends posting all their catches on social media from fishing and hunting when they went on the boat to Wailau. But I can't complain because I live a life that a lot of people dreamed They could.

Me and my father always argued but now I feel like I regret it because of what I have in life like my family, my friends, a house and most importantly my cultural Identity. I love hunting but when it came to doing things that my father wanted to do as a father and son kinda bonding thing I'm down to do it now because of how much times I got to do things I like to do and not do things with my father.

In conclusion, this is my story of cultural identity and what happened in my life that I thought could compare to cultural identity. I really love hunting and I think that hunting to me is going to be my new and ongoing for my new generations cultural identity. From this experience I learned how to stop our conflicts and start knowing that I should start doing things with my father and learn what he loves to do because you should never take anything for granted.

A Vast But Small Culture

By Chevy Bush

Growing up on a tiny island in the middle of nowhere, you are bound to know many things regarding the island's history and culture. With Hawaiian ancestors and Hawaiian traditions, I

could say that my cultural identity is hawaiian. With learning stories and traditions, I think that alone shouts the word “culture.”

An item I can relate to that shows my cultural identity that I can think of is called an emu (an oven made from the ground that uses heated up rocks to slowly cook meals in a slow fashion). I say that because my ancestors used it just like me. Knowing how to set it up and what to put in it shows Hawaiian culture. By finding rocks, or breaking banana trees, you can provide for a lot of people too. “The Hawaiian oven” is good in all types of ways. Like how it tastes way better than an electric oven and the taste of that hard work that you put in.

I can relate to hunting and fishing too. The Hawaiian ancestors did that to provide for a family or a whole village. They had no technology, Only their brains, and hard-working hands. With education, they even made their language. They read the waves and studied the moon phases.

The history behind Hawaii is very important. To people, to traditions, even food. To the people of Hawaii, taking pride in their culture, this shows that the culture is still alive. With sports like makahiki (basically the Hawaiian olympics) you compete till there's a winner.

Molokai keeps the culture alive by having a lot of people believe in Hawaiian culture. Some people do gatherings and unlike Oahu or Maui, this island is so small that everyone knows each other. By showing aloha and speaking the Hawaiian language the people of this island knows how important Hawaiian culture is to this island. In my life I express Hawaiian culture by speaking pigeon and studying Hawaiian history.

To summarize this story, my cultural identity is Hawaiian by learning the history of doing my ancestors' things. Many people in Hawaii take pride in being Hawaiian and I think that's a really good thing. The culture is dying because of all kinds of stuff happening. The island of

Molokai has a lot of culture left and is one of the remaining islands that doesn't even have one tall building, even streetlights.

My Culture Identity

By Teaho Poepoe

_____What is cultural identity? For everybody It is different for me it's how me and my family always make kalua pig, dropping nets and fishing with my dad, and just growing up and living on Molokai.

Making kalua pig with my family is like a tradition for us. We always do it either for sale, for graduation, or for parties. But no matter what it is, the family always comes to help. Every time I help I feel a sense of cultural identity in the way that Hawaiians in the past always did this and it obviously still is a thing for Hawaiians to this day.

When we kalua the pig it all starts with the pig which is usually a pig we raise or it someone else's pig they raised. We kill it, clean it and while we clean we also set the imu up. We already have the rocks and the wood in and we light the imu about five hours before. After the pig is cleaned with no fur and no guts we put it in and wWe put banana leaf, a banana stump, and put wet burlap bags on the top of everything we put so far and then cover it with a big satellite. Then we wait until the next morning to take it out and most likely my grandma and aunty made lunch for everybody.

Making kalua pig always gives me a sense of cultural identity, it makes me feel closer to my Hawaiian ancestors and the culture of Hawaii.

My True Culture

By Saydee Kaahanui

My cultural identity, as I know it, is Hawaiian. My culture can be expressed through food, religion, language, the community, family time, sports, music, dance, or art but there is one I feel has influenced my cultural identity the most...family time!

I was born in Oahu and raised on Moloka'i, the last child out of eight actually. My parents always wanted a big family, and so they did. For eight years straight, came eight kids. My mom was annoyed to see that she got mostly girls, but still loved us all as much as possible. As did my dad, he's the most hardworking, caring father and I couldn't be grateful enough to have him as my dad. I'm glad I got to be his last and little girl. Them both as my parents is the best thing in my life of everything.

My siblings on the other hand, of course I love them. I've watched as my older sisters all graduated. The smiles they had all plastered onto my parents faces as they were graduating from Moloka'i Highschool. I want that! As I am going through my highschool days, they also live their own individual lives as adults with children of their own. One who made it out of Hawaii and is succeeding in college at this moment. Although my two brothers, I am pretty close with. My brothers were both born, leaving me last and separated from the line of my sisters. Or that's what it felt like, but it didn't really matter because as I live my life, I can watch from my siblings and learn from them. In their mistakes, accomplishments, and apply it to my life and have hope that I can succeed and make it to college as my sister.

Besides all this graduating fuss, I always look forward to having family time. It's what I feel is most important in my culture...having my family and cherishing the good memories I have with them. The beach days are always the best for me. Having a big

family also comes with a big truck or multiple cars, and so we pack everything we need and head up to my dad's favorite spot up East end. My mom makes sure we got the grindz and everybody's stomachs are satisfied. That being rice or buns with hot dogs, raw fish and poi, chips n dip, snacks, and drinks. Simple, yet ono! Being with my family makes me feel safe, loved, comfortable, and happy.

I've always thought that because I am the youngest in my family, I had some kind of purpose. A purpose to make my parents proud for the last time by seeing their last child graduate highschool. I watched as their faces lit up throughout the graduation years of my siblings from the oldest and on. I have faith that I will succeed and make them proud as well. As I see my true cultural identity through my family, I wish to continue making endless memories with them!

My cultural identity

By Talamoni Togia

When I was born my parents were Hawaiian-Samoan. I grew up sharing the Samoan culture because I was around mostly the Samoan side at a very young age. At age 6 I was taught to share and get used to the Samoan culture so I can get along with other people like my culture. Many people did not like the way I was raised because my culture was really different from many other cultures. I grew up becoming a Samoan-Hawaiian and sharing the Samoan culture with other cultures like Hawaiian culture and Japanese culture.

My culture was a really strict cultural identity because so many people had to do a lot of things like speak the language and had different food from other cultures. My culture was strict because they had to survive from the land so they had to sacrifice some things and get the things they needed. For example they needed to get bananas and taro so they could eat and survive instead of making money so they could eat. They spoke a language different that was

similar to Hawaiian language. For example, Samoans say their vowels are different. Also some of their words are spelled the same as Hawaiian words but said differently. People who don't know the language don't say it right and will say it in a Hawaiian way instead of saying it in a right Samoan way.

Some other ways my cultural identity is different from other cultures is because they have different sayings of the food but made the same. For example, they cook the food underground in Hawaiian and in Samoan they cook the food above ground. But they say in Hawaiian it is imu and Samoan it is called amu but both mean the same thing and they both taste different to some people. For Hawaiians the meat is shredded and for samoan the meat is in chunks and has a little crunch. But the Samoans have to have a clean hand but Hawaiians don't need to have a clean hand for making the pig. Samoans ate pig too but cooked in a different way than the way Hawaiians cooked it.

There are so many different cultural identities in a Samoan culture. For example, some other cultural identities are the way they live and how they dress. Samoan were really strict about what they do and how they present themselves. Also sometimes they have a different thing than other cultures. But many don't know and want to learn more about other cultures that people carry.

My Samoan cultural identity was a very strong identity to me because when I was a little girl I was taught to do things in a Samoan way. Also my Samoan cultural identity was a very honorable culture because my dad was a respectful person to his culture. So my dad passed his Samoan culture down in a respectful way but passed it down to me when I was a little girl at age 7. Many people grew up in a different culture then I did so I respected theirs and mine. A lot of people were raised differently and born differently.

What inspires my cultural identity

By Cyrus Wright

To me, cultural identity is very important. The author in the story we read about multiculturalism tries to help us understand that she doesn't identify as one culture because she has multiple cultures. I can really relate. She uses a word that she learned from Hawaiians called "Hapa" to identify herself. Even though she knows she is a quarter Filipino and the rest is Swedish, she doesn't want to identify as one culture so

she uses Hapa to identify herself. Growing up in Hawaii and having more than two cultures is hard but I don't care and love all of my cultures and would gladly show them off.

My cultural identity being mostly Hawaiian and my cultural place being Molokai, my family are the same. In thinking of the Na Hopena A'o, I feel some type of responsibility to help them. I also feel like I need to focus on my total well being with myself and focus on school and get good grades. I also have a sense of belonging to this culture because I try to help the environment and community the best I can.

In the Story Multiculturalism The author felt like she had many privileges because the tone of her skin, it was more on the light side. But felt like she had criticism stares walking around with her black boyfriend. And for me and my culture being Hawaiian, Chinese and German. I really didn't have any problem with anything in the real world because my skin tone is more in the middle.

But when living in the real world sometimes I get criticism for the way I talk because I live where everyone's language is mixed and it is called pigeon. But when the author was trying to get the message to us people, that is mixed to show us that you should not have any worries and should be proud of all of your cultures. I feel like I was proud to be a person that would grow up in a multicultural place.

My culture identity i mostly go by is Hawaiian and our culture is a very respectful culture that the ways of teaching were by watching. Another story that was very interesting to me was the story of frida kahlo and her trial's she had to go through. Frida Kahlo was a very kind person that drew amazing art just for herself. Frida did not care about what anyone else thought. She struggled with cultural identity all through her life

by having a mexican heritage and then all of a sudden moving to america where everything is different and she looks different and no one knows who she is. But she fought through and did not give up. This really inspired me to know that even though I might be Hawaiian and come from a totally different area you can still take a lot of criticism but still fight and make it through any trial you face with racism.

When you really take the time to look at what the author was trying to say and the word she used to identify herself she wanted to be proud of her own culture. Sometimes I use the word hapa to identify others but not myself. And when you really take the time to look at the meaning behind the word's being "a bunch of culture's" and her push to not care for one culture you come from but many cultures you come from. To me and based on the story's i gave of cultural identity I'm very different because everything I have faced was not as critical as all the trials Frida Kahlo and the Swedish girl have faced.

