Reflections on the Hōkūleʻa Homecoming
The experience I had at the Hōkūle`a was amazing. Since I was researching all about the Hōkūle`a for the past year, I had a connection with being on the boat and seeing the crew in action. In helping my community, my friends and I tracked up Pu`u Kukui`i and planted Koa trees that can make wooden material. The memories I had at Hōkūle`a will last a lifetime.

Sincerely yours,

Patrick Doan, 7th grade

I had an amazing time last weekend at the Hōkūle`a. We planted a lot of trees including one that will become a Giant Koa which I hope will be used to make canoes and guitars someday.

David Fontes, 7th Grade
I write as a Mom of two 12 years old kids, a boy and a girl, that attend 7th grade at Sacred Hearts School in Lahaina. Something different was going to happen on that Friday, August 18th. The kids were excited and asking us if we could take them and theirs friends to Honolua Bay early Saturday morning because Hōkūle'a would be there. Of course we wanted to go anyway, after reading the Hawaiki Rising book wrote by Sam Low. We already knew about the Hōkūle’a story, but the kids also really wanted to go, they felt it would be great.

They invited some friends to sleepover. They packed snacks, water, lunch and they left everything ready to go on that mission, early on Saturday. I know how kids are when sleeping over, but that night, I just had to tell them once to go bed early because the next day would be long and we had to be there before 8 am. They were really committed in going to Honolua Bay that morning on that historic and memorable day. We arrived at 7:20am with no problem. Everything was perfectly organized, with parking places and lots of volunteers helping.

What we experienced was much more than we expected. We watched the Ceremony by the Bay under a light rain, which made it even more magical. It was like time travel or a movie, so surreal hearing the Hawaiian language being spoken and watching the two Canoes in the middle of the Bay, strong Hawaiian voices, songs and dance.

Then we went up the hill were the ceremonies continued in an atmosphere of peace and working for a better world, " the Canoe is my island, the World is my Canoe ". We went to the field and all together and at the same time, planted several trees, I don’t know how many, to become future Canoes and to help to preserve our Canoe.

What a day!! After coming down the hill, we again went to the Bay where a small canoe took us to Hōkūle’a, for a guided visit. They told us about the boat and showed us the Eddie Aikau plate, telling about his story. Everything was fantastic, epic! All because of a Teacher that inspired them and made the difference. Mahalo Mrs. Mary Anna Grimes, your seeds are already blossoming...

Carla Fontes