

# HAWAI‘S CHALLENGE TO DO THE WRITE THING

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## Why Violence?

### Family Guilt

A weapon held from a hand.

They truly never end, do they?

The thoughts, the imaginations

It should be left behind, but it can't.

It comes back like a stab in the heart.

The happiness flowing out like blood.

But each thump from the heart,

Is a thump of panic.

The way thoughts swarm around my mind like bees.

Thoughts that bring you back to reality.

Fear takes over.

The fear of a family death,

Will forever haunt me.

Like a ghost never leaving my side.

I can no longer hide it.

Why won't it leave my head?

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No matter how hard I try to erase it, it's stuck forever.

I wish I could,

Live in the present, not worrying about the past.

Bathroom fills with tears,

Tears of someone who never had to worry about anything.

I look up at my own reflection,

Disappointment fills up the walls.

I need to stop.

I try not to think about it,

“Have fun, don't worry about it.”

But it's always the same thoughts every time.

What will happen to them, are they going to be safe?

I can't escape it.

Trapped in a box full of fear and guilt.

It won't end, doesn't it?

Youth violence affected my life to the point where I can no longer do daily things. We had a lot of violence in Waianae in just one month. At the Boat Harbor when a 31 year old man was killed, Puhinalo Place up in Waianae Valley when a guy was firing multiple times at people, Ala Akau St when two teens suffered multiple gun wounds, and the family gathering shooting in Waianae Valley that killed 4 people and 2 injured, I've been scared for my own being. I can't even walk home without thinking that maybe at this moment, I won't make it there. When I'm sitting in the theater, I'm scared that someone will barge in and shoot my family. I hate thinking about it, but I can't stop. I

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don't trust my family going places by themselves because I feel like something bad is gonna happen to them.

In my personal life, teasing is what gets to me. Teasing is something I never take as a joke, I always take it very personally. A boy thought it was funny to point out the bumps on my forehead and that got to me. My relatives love to point out my physical appearance. Sometimes it's a good thing, most of the time it's a bad thing. I'm a very sensitive person, so I always take it by heart. That's why every time someone gets criticized about their looks or their work, I'm always trying to make them feel better by making them accept their looks and how their work.

Youth violence is caused by the youth having to live in a bad household. Along with bad households is having to live with bad role models, all of which can possibly lead to bullying. According to *The Heroic Journey Of Teenagers*, "Abusive parents or other adults, siblings that bully, or parents that are absent or providing little guidance can all be factors." It's not limited to bullying, but other types of violence as well including physical, sexual, emotional, cultural, harassment, stalking, and isolation. Since they didn't have any good role models to teach them to be kind and respect others, they do the opposite and bully. They can have so much rage in them because of their personal situation that they decided to take it out on others. They are so insecure with their life that they bully other people to make themselves feel better, doing something that takes all of their anger out. Or it can be the opposite. Once someone gets bullied, they change and become the new bully. When someone starts to bully at a young age, they get used to it that they just want to do more. It gets physical and emotional. Everytime someone says something that tries to hurt my feelings, I try not to get too mad at that person. Maybe something is going on in their personal life that they say things to others to get rid of it. Like people say, "The abused becomes the abuser."

What my community and I can do to reduce youth violence is gain community support. Our school decided to do sign waving on the streets to promote violence awareness and get support from our community. People were honking their horns in agreement to reduce the violence. After the sign waving, less violence started happening in our community. My classmates and I talked to Congress Woman Jill Tokuda about the recent violence that was happening. Along with our experience with violence, what we thought about violence, and all the violence that happened in our community. We had an idea to do something with our community to get along. So we

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thought about some ideas that we could do with the community. Our class thought that we could do an event at the school to just have fun with our family, friends, or loved ones. There could be food trucks and fun games for others. We can do craft fairs with families so that they all can spend time together and have fun. We could go to elementary schools to teach and show kids that you should be kind. Hopefully doing these kinds of activities will help lessen the violence in the area as well as the world.