



## A Dream Achieved for the Ka`aihue-Paopao family

### *A Journey of Blessings*



Aloha to all our cherished supporters,

My 'ohana (family) consists of me, Kristie Ka'aihue-Paopao, my husband Sailele Paopao Jr., and children Kierstin (16), Kallie (9) and Kenzie (4).

Our job descriptions are: Mom and Dad - cleaners, dirt diggers, builders, carpenters, etc, (anything we're told to do). Kierstin: weekend child development duty (babysitter), Kallie and Kenzie: hostesses and helpers on-site for lunch set up and at Mahalo celebrations (remember your manners and thank and get to know volunteers).



On a more serious note, I have been on the Dept. of Hawaiian Homelands list since 1988 and have been invited to multiple lot selections distributions but was not awarded a lease due to my numerical placement on the agency's list. In the past 24 years our hopes of owning an affordable durable home had come and gone at several of these lot selection meetings, so in 2011 when we began the process once again we were apprehensive and skeptical on whether we wanted to be disappointed yet again if our number was not selected. We decided to leave it in God's hands and see what might be in store for us.

Our journey with Kaua'i Habitat for humanity began in June of 2011 in preparation for Department of Hawaiian Homelands lot selection process scheduled for that Fall. There were a few times during the process that I had been discouraged and at the verge of throwing in the towel, but to my pleasant surprise I was encouraged and supported by the KHFH staff to continue the journey and not give up. I am ever so grateful for their encouragement, understanding, flexibility and support. On November 11, 2011 I was awarded a DHHL residential lease with most of our financial paperwork complete with USDA and began to work toward the building process!

On June 23, 2012 with all of the final paperwork completed, permits submitted and finalization of planning we began clearing the lots for building. That was the day that we began the "journey of blessings." We were introduced to more supporting staff of KHFH, we worked hard, had lots of laughs, and great friendships were made.

On August 4 and 5 we began the building process with Kaua'i Habitat's Build-A-Thon in partnership with the Kauai Board of REALTORS®. Being amongst all the volunteers that weekend gave my heart such a humble appreciation for the men and women who give their time to build a home for a family like mine. Since then, we have been deeply blessed by multiple groups that have given too many hours to count, so many hearts of excellence in giving, and we have built friendships that have prospered and will never be forgotten. We could never express the depth of our gratitude for all the time, effort, hard work and blessings of KHFH and the volunteer groups that we have had the pleasure of knowing.

To the KHFH staff: We are humbled and blessed by your dedication, support, caring, encouragement and hearts. THANK you, from the bottom of our hearts!

To the volunteers: May our paths cross once again so we can tell you just one more time how much you have blessed our family. Also, as my husband had mentioned - If you ever come back to visit come stop by and say "Aloha." You know where we live.

To all of the supporters: Thank you for all your generous donations, you have no idea how much of a *hand up* you have given our family.

To all of my 'ohana & friends - My doors are always open and I expect to see you frequently so we can tell you again how much we love and appreciate you!

Our house dedication was held April 24 and we moved in shortly afterward. ***It's a new dawn for us.*** Once again huge Mahalo's to all of you, we could not have made it without you. Come stop by and see the end result of all your blessings!

~ Kristie, Sai and the girls

April 2013