



Founded and Endowed by the Legacy of Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop

Every year, on Dec. 19, members of the Kamehameha 'ohana gather at Mauna'ala and Kekūhaupi'o to show their respect and appreciation for the woman whose farsighted vision created all that is Kamehameha Schools.

To mark this special occasion, *I Mua* asked a pair of Kamehameha seniors, Ashley Obrey and Pua Watanabe, to reflect on "What Founder's Day means to me."

Here are their essays:



*"Founder's Day
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only one day
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Pauahi's dream."*

- PUA WATANABE

What Founder's Day means to me by Pua Watanabe



Entering Kamehameha as a new freshman boarder four years ago, I was scared and uncomfortable in my new surroundings. Not yet accustomed to all of the tradition, I had yet to really understand the essence of Founder's Day.

Now, as a senior, flashbacks of the past years spent here are constant reminders of memorable experiences, experiences made possible through Princess Pauahi's legacy. As I near my final Founder's Day ceremony, I reflect back on how much I have grown since the first time I put on my dress whites.

Although this is only my fourth year at Kamehameha, it has become one of the most significant parts of my life. A home away from home, I was and always have felt embraced by the many opportunities available. From a shy and quiet freshman, I have blossomed into an independent young woman.

Every day I look around, taking in both the beautiful campus as well as the various faces of students. Over the years, Pauahi's vision has served so many Hawaiian people. Outside of the educational facets, Kamehameha has enabled me to explore different interests and establish significant friendships with many people.

Founder's Day is celebrated only one day of the year, yet every day we are living out Pauahi's dream, partaking in all that she has made possible for us. Gathered together, Founder's Day is the only occasion in which the whole secondary school wears the exact same attire, undivided by class colors.

Every year I see alumni return to Kapālama to participate in the ceremony. Seeing in the audience the many generations of Hawaiian children who have benefited from Pauahi's legacy, I feel proud and so fortunate to be one of them.

I know that this Founder's Day will come and go, but surely I will return in the years to come to celebrate a woman who has given so much to the children of Hawai'i.

What Founder's Day means to me

by Ashley Obrey



Blinding white dresses. Bold blue sashes. The pleasant fragrance of roses wafting throughout the gym. The hum of nervous voices singing familiar songs. These are what stood out for me at my first Founder's Day.

Though I could appreciate the obvious, as a seventh grader, I didn't realize the worth of such a remembrance. Everything was strictly black and white. However, as I grow older, I'm beginning to see the gray, finding more meaning in the Kamehameha tradition held on Dec. 19.

It makes perfect sense that I love Founder's Day more each year. Not only have I grown more mature, but I am becoming more mindful of all the gifts that Pauahi has given me. I've been blessed with acceptance, newfound knowledge, cultural appreciation, a myriad of opportunities, as well as incredible friends.

Before Kamehameha, I was a little Hawaiian girl trying to conform to a school on Hawai'i island. I am now at a place where I feel greater acceptance, which has helped me to succeed in academics and to increase my Hawaiian pride. Kamehameha has opened so many doors to allow for new experiences.

I no longer rely solely on my parents because I have such great companions who take care of me. Happiness is what I've found thanks to Pauahi's vision.

My appreciation for the princess has been ingrained deep in my heart. Disappointingly enough, there it remains.

This December, however, on my last Founder's Day as a student at Kamehameha, I will make up for that. No longer will I simply observe, but I'll participate with a focus greater than ever before.

Standing tall, singing out, and smiling, I'll demonstrate a genuine appreciation for Pauahi.

For all that she's done, I say she deserves at least that.

*"Happiness
is what I've
found thanks
to Pauahi's
vision."*

– ASHLEY OBREY

