

Jayvimar Arellano awarded with top Rotary scholarship

BY MA'ATA TUKUAFU
SPECIAL TO NORTH HAWAII NEWS

Jayvimar A. Arellano has much to celebrate. The Hawaii Rotary Club awarded the Kohala High School senior graduate a \$10,000 scholarship — only one of two students in the state to receive the top Hawaii Rotary Youth Foundation scholarship award.

"We are so proud of Jayvimar and so excited that he received this scholarship," said Kari Waldhaus, scholarship chair of North Hawaii Rotary Club. "It almost always goes to an Oahu student, so this is a big deal."

Waldhaus, who has been on the scholarship committee for three years now, said the process for choosing student applicants is quite involved. She explained that on the Big Island, North Hawaii has only one Rotary Club in Waimea with 36 members. However, all schools from Honokaa to Kohala as well as home-schoolers and students who live in the area (and study in other places,) are eligible for the scholarship.

As a comparison, Kona has three Rotary Clubs for four schools. Hilo has five Rotary Clubs for about five or six schools. And the majority of scholarship funds collected from the North Hawaii Rotary Club are generated at their annual Oktoberfest fundraiser.

In order to obtain a scholarship, a student must be sponsored by their area Rotary Club, who is then selected to go on to the district level.

"We need to be strategic," said Waldhaus. "If one of our students is selected, the Rotary scholarship becomes void if they get a full-ride scholarship. It is then up to the district level to choose who the scholarship goes to. In the past we have seen scholarships go to other schools. We wanted to make sure that

Jayvimar got the \$5,000 scholarship, but we are so happy that he got the \$10,000."

Choosing a scholarship applicant is rigorous, as a student must be well rounded in academics, leadership, in-school activities, extra-curricular activities and community service. They must

Now that Arellano has graduated, he expressed relief at completing high school. He was definitely a leader for his senior class; he was student body president, president of the Leo Club, National Honor Society president and the Student Credit Union president.

"High School has prepared me for college. I plan to attend UH-Manoa, and then, it's stress again," said Arellano with a laugh.

Planning to major in secondary education, Arellano said he aims to become a math teacher and return to Kohala School to teach. As president of the student Credit Union, he helped students open accounts, offered financial services, balance their checkbooks and learn the purpose of a credit score.

"I'm so grateful for the scholarships I have received," said Arellano. "It will at least let me concentrate fully on my first semester. In my second semester, I can apply for a teller job at the credit union on campus."

The scholarships he has received include a \$500 grant from North Hawaii Rotary Club, the \$10,000 grant from Hawaii Rotary Youth Foundation, a \$1,000 scholarship from the Hawaii Community Credit Union, and another \$1,000 from the Kohala Ditch Educational Fund.

Arellano thanks everyone, including the Rotary Club for his scholarships, and said it keeps him from having to take out any loans for his first college year. He credits his family for being his backbone and for helping him reach his greatest potential.

"My father has held two jobs ever since I was born," Arellano said. "He has helped me so much, and taught me a great work ethic which has helped me be who I am today."

North Hawaii News congratulates Jayvimar Arellano.



Arellano poses with Kari Waldhaus, scholarship chair of North Hawaii Rotary Club, and his parents. (COURTESY PHOTO)

also submit references from non-family members as well as a personal statement. Also taken into consideration are a student's grades, SAT scores and financial need.

"We may have a powerful student, but they must also have high financial need so that our scholarship may help them overcome this hardship," Waldhaus said. "When we looked at Jayvimar's application, he had all of these things."



WRITER'S CORNER

By Darien Gee

Fearless writing

Quote of the Week: "Creativity takes courage." Henri Matisse

Prompt of the Week: Write about a loss, however simple or complex. It could be a friendship, a family member, a tooth, your keys, a slipper. How did it happen? Why does this loss matter?

One of the hardest things in writing is when we're called to write about difficult things, in

real life or in fiction. It's easy if all we have to do is scratch the surface or write about something that's fairly safe or innocuous.

But what if we're writing about something that's emotionally loaded? What if the mere thought of it sets off a series of emotional time bombs, one after the other? What if what we're writing about would be considered a betrayal, something we were told never to discuss, never to talk about?

"I can't write about that," is something I'll hear from students in my memoir writing class. And yet, whatever that something is, it still plagues them. It's the first thing that comes to mind when I tell them to write about a secret or something difficult. They can't shake it. It makes them squirm. It keeps them up at night. And chances are it has for months or even years.

So what to do? As the old adage goes, the best way out is through. Whatever has you in its grasp, you may as

well look it in the eye and go for it. You won't be free until you do. You can dance around it, justify, candy coat, excuse, forgive, forget, move on. But often it still lingers, because what it wants is to be acknowledged — to be called for what it is. Talking about it is one thing (in fact, some of us can't stop talking about it and others will charge you

This is the power of writing—to put it down, name it, and in doing so, release it.

buckets of money to hear you talk about it, usually to the tune of \$60-\$150 an hour).

Writing, on the other hand, makes it tangible and real. There it is, what happened or at least your memory and experience of it, in black and white.

This is the power of writing—to put it down, name it, and in doing so, release it. It goes from your heart, your head, through your body, down your arm, to your fingertips and onto the page. You don't have to share

it—nobody else needs to see it. But you need to form that first word and then string it together with other words until it forms a salvation, or at least a little release.

This is not about writing as therapy. Writing is how we communicate and make sense of the world. It's about writing as a means to understanding who we are, why we are here, and what we need to do next. When you share your writing with others (fiction, nonfiction, or creative nonfiction like memoir), it helps

others find their connection, too.

Good writing isn't scared to go there. Its obligation isn't to fear, but to truth. And we, as readers and human beings, can sniff out writing that isn't honest. Honest writing is fearless writing.

Darien Gee is a national bestselling author based in Waimea. Her most recent novel is "The Avalon Ladies Scrapbooking Society." She also writes under the name Mia King. Visit her at dariengee.com or miaking.com.

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