

The Honorable Susan Oki Mollway
Chief Judge
United States District Court
300 Ala Moana Blvd.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850-0338

Dear Judge Mollway,

Thank you for the opportunity to be able to submit this letter. I understand that Mr. Albert Hee is being sentenced for a tax crime and I am writing in support of Mr. Hee.

My name is Ka'i'inioku'upu'uwal Patelesio and I am an employee of Sandwich Isles Communications, Inc. (SIC). Prior to working for SIC, I worked for Waimana Enterprises, Inc. from April 2006 to November 2007 and then again from May 2009 to December 2011 and transferred to SIC in January of 2012. Outside of my employment with the Waimana Family of companies, I have always known Albert Hee as Uncle Al. My father, in his youth, was cared for by the Hee 'ohana (Uncle Al's parents specifically) and so I was raised to know him as my Uncle. I have the utmost respect and aloha for him and love him very much. He has provided tremendous opportunities for both me and my family and for this I will be forever indebted to him.

I apologize in advance for the length and format of this letter but I feel that the details I am including in this letter are crucial to understanding the lens from which I view Uncle Al. For the past 11 years Uncle Al has been a constant and steady presence in my life-- not only as a mentor but also as a leader, employer and benefactor. I'd just like to provide examples of how this man's generosity and his foresight has personally touched my life.

My life forever changed when I walked into his office in 2004 asking for his help in getting a job. My employment history is an interesting one that involved a lot of movement for a few years but each experience was one that I learned a great deal from. When I asked to meet with Uncle Al, little did I know that it would start me on this path that I continue to grow from. I had just graduated from UH Manoa as a double major in Hawaiian Studies and Psychology, and was eager to get into the workforce to 1) Use my newly acquired Hawaiian Studies degree and 2) Work within the Hawaiian Community that I hold so close to my heart. At that time I didn't know much about Waimana or SIC but I knew that his companies provided telephone and other telecommunications services to residents on Hawaiian Home Lands. Those kinds of services were important to me because I believed that that kind of access to technology fulfilled a crucial need in the rural Hawaiian communities. You see, during college I had worked for several years at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. I was a Trustee Aide and was able to travel to many Hawaiian communities throughout our state when Board of Trustees' meetings were held off-island. I saw firsthand when I went into those Hawaiian communities how different the lives of Hawaiians were outside of urban Honolulu. There were some communities still out there that were in need of the basic necessities that we in urban Honolulu take for granted like access to sewer and water, electricity, and yes even telephone services. I could not believe that in the 21st century people still lived without those services -- it was unbelievable and very sad to see how difficult everyday life could be without those modern conveniences.

So in 2004 when I asked Uncle Al for help in getting a job, my hope was that maybe I would be able to use my skills and knowledge for one of his companies because I believed that his company's mission to