



Xia Ren was working with my son Tony in Hāna and wanted to experience Lānaʻi. I invited her to come over and stay with me in my

small home. When Xia heard I was running for office she asked if she could write of her experience on Lānaʻi. Beautiful Xia- Mahalo! ~ Alberta

I had just turned twenty when I came to Lānaʻi from Maui. I moved in with Alberta and over the course of... well... a while, we got to know each other pretty well. When I first arrived on island, she had fully stocked my room with books covering all of my favorite subjects: painting, farming, photography - the whole works. Pretty quickly, we went from roommates to hānai ohana. We'd spend afternoons down at Hulopo'e, watch the sunset at Koele (hoping to catch the green flash), visit Maui, tidy up the farm, and go on newspaper deliveries together. Those, however, aren't the things



that immediately come to mind when I think of Alberta.



When I think of her, I think of when I got my first job on island; I was distraught and anxious when sent home for a uniform violation, as I didn't own the article of clothing they wanted me to wear. Next thing I know, there's a gift bag from the Local Gentry on my bed with the perfect missing piece.

I also vividly remember my first week when every single day she would tell me to make a

piece of art: "Come on! What'd you make today? Let me see. What will you create next?" She would not just compliment my work, but always encourage me to do better. It's because of Alberta that I began selling my art in many shops across the island and even why I continue to sell many pieces of art today across the globe.

Over the past three, nearly four years, that I've known Alberta - there are a few things that I've learned: One - she is beyond determined and is often filled with energy, always uplifting others; two - she is wise and extremely knowledgeable; three - she is kind, thoughtful and vastly generous to those around her, friends and strangers alike; four - I have never seen one person, of any age or demeanor, do as much as Alberta does; five - she's an amazing storyteller, and if you've been lucky enough to hear some of the stories that make up her colorful life, you know what I mean; and, finally, six - she's tough, she's fun, but overall - she's just the best." ~Xia Ren Arnold

