

*Because Every Student has a Story*

# Storyline



*Tong*

*Hanalani School, 2011*

As a high school senior I was faced with many difficult decisions that would impact the rest of my life after graduation. Participating in the Center for Tomorrow's Leaders Fellows Program greatly impacted the decisions I made during my senior year of high school. I started off my senior year completely set on leaving Hawaii to experience life on the mainland. My mindset began to change after CTL's annual leadership training in December. While I participated in discussions with many of Hawaii's top business leaders, I was inspired by the passion that each speaker had in making Hawaii a better place for future generations. When the time came to choose where I would attend college, I chose to attend the University of Hawaii because I felt that God was challenging me to help change the culture of apathy in high schools.

The Center for Tomorrow's Leaders taught me how to use my talents to be a leader in Hawaii. I began to look for opportunities that would allow students to showcase their talents and abilities. A few months after graduation, with the help of CTL leadership, I was able to send a proposal to the APEC Hawaii Host Committee to allow a group of CTL Fellows to volunteer for the event. I believe that the APEC conference would be a great opportunity for the Fellows to show their leadership potential and the future of Hawaii's leaders. After working closely with the State Department for many months, I was able to get together a group of 20 Fellows to volunteer for the APEC conference. The training I have received during my year in the Fellows Program has helped me grow as a leader and has given me a greater appreciation for Hawaii and its culture.

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