



In June 2005, I (Tricia) reported to my first campus staff assignment at the University of Hawaii. When asked recently by current Hawaii staff (Kanoë & Cristina below) if I had some grand calling to go, the answer is not really! I was 25, willing and ready to serve wherever and felt I would have an easier time fitting in Hawaii from the one time I had been before.

Little did I know how much I would learn to respect the very, very slow process it is to be a learner and a friend. I remember people speaking pidgin to me thinking I was local because I was brown-skinned. They'd ask "you pau?" And I would just say, "ya!", but quickly say, "no" as they took my plate away! Just as quickly as I learned "pau" means "done", I learned I had a long way to go in the long process of learning how to love a place and its people well.



Tricia's first year at UH Manoa (circa 2005)



Kahori, May & Sara as freshmen at UH.



Erin, Tricia & Kent - staff team of 3 (2005)



Tricia with freshmen girls at UH Manoa

Soon after, I found out the Kingdom of Hawaii was stolen from Queen Liliuokalani over one hundred years ago by the United States. This and so many other injustices have deeply hurt Native Hawaiians that also impact local people of all ethnicities there. In Hawaiian, the word **kuleana** describes the relationship between the people and the land. It loosely means responsibility but in a deeper sense it is a taking care of one another, a mutual stewardship. This mutual stewardship is such a beautiful thing to see in action. It is very similar to the Cultural Mandate that God gives mankind in Genesis 1:28: *"Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth! Take charge! Be responsible for fish in the sea and birds in the air, for every living thing that moves on the face of the Earth."* (the Message)

In looking back at ministry and life on Oahu, I see God was gracious in what He accomplished as I stewarded what was before me. He was gracious to do a work in my heart that I will never forget. Being there in June, I was able to see past disciples (Skyy, May & Sara), friends and places I haven't seen for 6 years. It reminds me of the long, sometimes painful, parts of learning but also the beauty in seeing God breathe life into you and those around you.



Skyy, May & Sara with their partners & dogs



Tricia, Kanoë & Cristina



Nich, Tricia & Kent



Hawai'i Bishop Museum

Moving forward as Nich and I fly to Orlando (August 12-18th) to emcee the international interns briefing, we carry over many of these lessons. We would love prayers for humility and growth in our lives as we step into a new year of sending and caring for 100s of international interns and staff.

Mahalo Nui Loa (Thank you for everything)!

NICH & Tricia



Kailua , where we got married 11 years ago!