## **ALOHA KE AKUA** "GOD IS LOVE" - East Asia Summer Project 2013 **July 2013**

GOD IS LOVE. What a strong and powerful statement that I often times forget. I look at my newsletters over the past 3+ years and my heading is "Aloha Ke Akua", which means God is love. So often, it just becomes a phrase that I see and don't really reflect on. This summer, God really challenged me to reflect on that and gave me the opportunity to really see and experience love for what it is and what it was designed to be through relationship with Him and others.

Honestly, being asked to lead this summer project was something I said yes to because it was with some dear, dear friends of mine who I had the privilege of serving with 10 years ago. The opportunity to lead with them again was something I just couldn't pass up. I really had no desire to go to East Asia. I had recruited 5-7 students from Hawai'i to come with me and by the time June came around, all but 1 had dropped out or changed projects. I was discouraged and simply going out of obedience, but God totally blessed this summer in ways that I could not have imagined. I grew a heart for East Asia and the many, many people who live there and do not know him. I grew close to my team and learned so much from each and every one of them, staff and students both. I miss it.

If I had to sum up this summer and everything that I experienced, I would say that it was refreshing, redeeming, and renewing. Serving with a team of students and staff who were excited and ready to



Our team arriving in East Asia



Our taiji class





TL: Chinese class having dinner with our teacher, TR: Team at train station B: Calligraphy class jump in was so fun! Even though I had only 1 student from Hawai'l come, the Lord knew what I needed and refreshed me through the people He surrounded me with. I feel like through this summer, God also redeemed my passion and heart specifically for discipleship and getting to pour into college women- to speak truth, pray with, and love on. Finally, it renewed my heart for the lost and the reason I do what I do. It set me up with excitement for this new school year and what He is going to do!

I learned how much in my limited ability what it means to love the way that Jesus did and does with both the people in East Asia, with my team, and now coming home, people here!

THANK YOU FOR BEING SUCH A HUGE PART OF ALLOWING ME TO DO WHAT I DO. WITHOUT YOUR LOVE, PRAYERS, AND SUPPORT, NONE OF THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE! THANK YOU FOR EMPOWERING ME AND ENABLING ME TO SERVE AND REACH STUDENTS NOT ONLY HERE IN HAWAI'I, BUT AROUND THE STATES, AND AROUND THE WORLD! I AM GRATEFUL!!!

If you'd like to help support what God is doing here in Hawai'i please go to: https://give.cru.org/give/View

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