



Diverse Future Engineers: Daniel Gaines, Martha's Vineyard, Skyler Cameron, Wampanoag Tribal Member, Elijah Anakalea-Buckley, Hawaiian and Juanito Moises Jr. Hawaii/Philippines.

### **My Inspiring Summit Experience**

By Juanito Moises, Jr.

The Stone Soup Leadership Institute's 2016 Summit was a very inspiring experience. I was invited to serve as a Hawaiian delegate from the Sustainable Hawaii Youth Leadership Initiative. I had the privilege of meeting people from around the globe and learned great things from each and every one of them. I also learned new things about myself, especially through the different Summit workshops. They gave me a more open mindset for my life and the skills I need to realize my dreams.

It was an honor to be asked to lead a Design Thinking (DT) workshop for Summit Delegates. Since it was my very first time to run a DT workshop by myself, it was nerve-racking! While I was concerned that having the DT workshop right after lunch, everyone would be sleepy and doze off. However, it's such a high-energy workshop that everyone was energized. The end result was great. Everyone was very involved and interacted with one another. They came up with great ideas, even just to redesign a wallet. Within just an hour and a half, they were able to learn the fundamentals of DT -- and they really enjoyed it! We then incorporated DT into the Summit -- so everyone could think outside the box with possible creative projects for their communities and for the world. With so many different backgrounds and life experiences -- it was awesome to see them work together to put together something great. They inspired me.

Meeting people from different countries and communities was inspiring. From my home country of the Philippines, to Thailand, to Puerto Rico, Hawaii, and different places around the world, we shared challenges that we've faced. Getting to know them opened me to new understandings. Our common humanity was greater than our differences.

It was very interesting to me that we, from different places around the world are in America despite the histories that happened to our home countries. It seems like the opportunities in America are abundant, but the question in my head was, “How might our own home countries have opportunities for their own people to take upon and value?” Since it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a country to have people return to their country.

It was great to use DT tools to work with my new found brother Jason from the Philippines to envision a sister island project between Hawaii and the Philippines to build a global green workforce. Together our countries can change the world, and create a sustainable living planet.

With the Summit’s sustainability theme in mind, I became more aware of my surroundings, taking care Mother Nature and its beauty. For myself, for others, and for the world. One inspiring moment was meeting the Hōkūle‘a crew and learning about their voyages around the world. It was so awesome! I never would have thought of being on the sea as long as 30 days or longer. Traveling everywhere and raising awareness about taking care of our 'Aina and our planet.

On the same day of our Hōkūle‘a tour, one of the greatest experiences was talking to a Wampanoag Tribal member. “My generation, for us young people, is that we need to do something for the future of the world,” said Skyler. “We are the young leaders, and as young leaders, we must step up, raise our voices and take actions. To put it in a better sense, just like what Mahatma Gandhi said, ‘We Must Be the Change We Wish to See in the World’. “ Skyler added, “This is the reason why my goals for the upcoming years changed -- with the help of the five-year plan.”

The five-year plan workshop got me thinking about what I want to do in the next years of my life for myself, my profession, for Hawaii, and for the world. While I thought I already knew many things I would do with my life, my mind was opened to new opportunities. I want to explore them to make the future brighter for everyone. I want to do more community service and get involved with local organizations promoting sustainability and taking care of the environment. Though my college life can be challenging, to me it is beneficial to do something that can help the planet, even just little things. Little things can create bigger impacts. Education is only part of my life. Doing other great things and creative things for others, plays a bigger part with my purpose of life.

To ensure that I have time to do all these things for myself and for others, I need to have a time management plan, which the Project Management workshop helped me. I learned how to deal with others and how to manage time wisely to ensure tasks are getting done. I realized how this would be very helpful to use hand-in-hand with the DT skillset. Now I am able to use the DT process, and manage what I would redesign by myself or with others. It just helps the creativity mindset to be structured and well maintained.

All in all, it was just awesome to be in a place where my mindset would attain different understandings of how life is and skills that would be helpful throughout my journey in life. I just wish that many more young people around the world would get a chance to do these kind of things -- in different places around the world with a very diverse crowd. Getting to know others and learning different life skills just brings a brighter aura out of a person’s mind, soul, and spirit.



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