

Ticannaf “Teak” Ruby-Ano
Recipient of
Associate of Science in Creative Media
Graduating Class of 2021

Aloha Faculty, friends, and o‘hana. For those who I have not yet met, my name is Teak Ruby-Ano, and it is my sincere honor to share a few words with you as a part of the Kaua‘i Community College Graduating Class of 2021. Today is by far one of the greatest days of our lives as students, a day we have worked tirelessly to achieve through unrelenting challenges like keeping a job, caring for the safety and wellbeing of our ohana, and dealing with the devastating impact of Covid 19. For many, this is a day that we didn’t always believe would come, myself included.

As a Special Ed Student my entire student career, one that has struggled academically all my life and is truly a non-traditional college student, college was never supposed to be a part of my life's legacy. A saying I came up with some years ago is “nobody is anybody, without somebody else.” I am only here today because of the unwavering support and tenacity of my o‘hana, my friends, my professors, the Wai‘ale‘ale Project, and everyone else here at Kaua‘i Community College that makes this the best community college on the planet. Looking back at this chapter of my life, I have been afforded opportunities greater than I could have ever imagined. I’ve made lifelong friends and built connections with people I couldn’t have met anywhere else. I have had hands-on teaching by industry leaders in their respective professions, and most importantly through Covid 19, I have been granted unmeasurable support in countless ways to ensure my success on the road to graduating today.

I would like to personally congratulate all my fellow classmates graduating alongside me. We have all made it to this day because of our hard work and dedication to our futures, futures that are promising and full of potential and possibilities. You have made those before you, those here with you, and your future generations proud. Great success comes with great Kuleana. As we graduate today, we must never forget it is on us to continue to lead by positive example and to give back to those coming behind us in honor of our community and all those who have given to us. - MAHALO!