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free online, visit: <https://scholarspace.manoa.hawaii.edu/handle/10125/100331>.)

"Kailua has always been a focal point of my identity. I love it because it is a vibrant community with a strong sense of place," said Michelle.

"I am grateful to say that my research became a major contributing factor for the weekly farmer's market I now run, the Lōkahi Kailua Market," explained Michelle. "Our mission is to strengthen the communities of Hawai'i, one market at a time. Although my thesis focused on Kailua, the findings can be applied to communities throughout Hawai'i and beyond."

Michelle spent her first years living on Kaneohe Bay Drive, living in Justin's family home, but for the majority of her childhood, she lived in Coconut Grove. Her family moved around quite a bit, but now, her mother and all of her siblings currently reside within a five-mile radius of each other throughout the Kailua area. Her father moved to Arizona due to the high cost of living in Hawai'i, but it makes his annual visits all the more special.

Like most Kailuans, Michelle loves being outdoors, engaging in all kinds of fitness-related activities. She also enjoys reading and writing, and hopes to one day follow in her grandfather's memoir-writing footsteps by publishing a short collection of essays about her life.

"At the moment though, the market consumes pretty much all of my time... And then some," said Michelle with a laugh. "I've found it to be a very effective way to give back to the community as it provides a platform to support small, local businesses, as well as to build and strengthen our communities via the meaningful connections we make each week."

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