



**A study to
maintain
Hawaiian health
& culture**

To: Jayna Omaye, jomaye@staradvertiser.com, *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*

From: Abby Arnett, abby@arnettfam.com

Subject: A study to maintain Hawaiian health and culture

Hi Jayna,

Isn't it hard to watch loved ones grow old? Cultural giants that become weak? Recently, my grandfather inquired about my trip to Russia. Russia? I'd never expressed interest in Russia. As a man who once emphasized the significance of family legacy and culture, my grandpa now suffers from Parkinson's disease.

Considering your coverage on Hawaiian culture and its threats, you're likely aware of crippling diseases that loom over elderly Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities. Dementia, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases now appear in higher frequencies among your readers and their family members. With a \$14.6 million budget, the National Institute on Aging is prepared to find a solution.

From DNA sampling to research, Brigham Young University will join the NIA and partner with Washington State University and the University of Miami. All groups will join to fill research gaps on these at-risk populations. Their efforts will improve health and preserve the elderly's cultural memory.

I can arrange an interview with Justina Tavana, a native Samoan and BYU graduate. Coverage on this story will give your readers hope. As they watch their loved ones age, they won't have to feel the way I do.

Best,

Abby Arnett
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