

## Alyssa Obata (Kalani High School - Class of 2010)



After 5 difficult and tiring years, I was truly fortunate to have the privilege to play for Ikaika Basketball. I was given the opportunity to travel and play in various tournaments and leagues. I met new people and created long lasting friendships. But most importantly this team molded myself into the individual I am. Each practice we learned new life lessons to help us prepare for the "real world" emphasizing the fact that Coach made us better players off and on the court.

Those long practices of push-ups, non-stop running, and the repetitive tiring drills, I will surprisingly miss. Even if at times it seems we were training for a marathon and my muscles ached and grew unattractively large. It was those moments when we had to push through making the outcome more fulfilling.

Coach has always been there for me when I needed him and I consider him as my father figure. He pushed me to always, "strive for perfection." I can always count on Coach whenever I have a problem and need some wise words; he is just a phone call away. I will never forget the hundreds of grueling lectures he has given me, then it seemed repetitive and boring but those were the times I needed the push the most. He has always believed in me when I didn't believe in myself. He cares about all of us as if we were his own, but that's what we are one big crazy family. There are times we drove each other nuts, but win or lose at the end of the day we always had each other. My most memorable moments can always be traced back to our team. We became so close over these



years and became sisters. We created a bond so strong and special that no one can take away. This team was a huge part of my teenage years and I am truly grateful.