

Activism Article

My grandma, Tupo, walked into my room with a cup of earl gray tea and sat down in my chair getting ready for my interview project. As I went through and asked her my questions there was one which was “How are you or how were you an Activist in the past?” She said “I don't think I am or ever have been an Activist.” I had a roughly fifteen minute conversation with her and by the end of it, we both agreed that she is an Activist, because she uses her influence in the community to help make change that needs to be made.

Tupo used to work as the Safety and Security Director at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, which is the largest hotel in the Hilton hotel chain. She was one of only 3 women in that position. Prior to that, she was a Sheriff in San Mateo, CA. She retired a few years ago and now helps get our local church money and supplies that would help assist the community in the case of an emergency situation. I asked her a question that I didn't even know at the time. “How did you get involved with your current activism?” She quickly replied and said “In 2014 I joined the church as a Deacon.” Every Tuesday Tupo goes on a “food run” where she goes and gets donated food from stores for people that can't afford food themselves. She brings the food back to the church and

those in need can come pick it up. After we talked about that I asked her "What's your biggest challenge being an Activist?" She sat there in her chair thinking in silence then when she was done she answered "getting the word out on what I'm doing and getting the word out that the church can use some help."

Moving on, I asked her "Is your activism paid for or volunteered?" she said it's 100 percent volunteer work. I asked her why she would do it for free and she said "because it gives me something to do." She also likes and wants to help the community/get people to help more. She has helped build a shed for emergency preparedness kits and supplies and has helped get money for the church by getting grants. I asked her "what would you say to younger kids about your activism?" she sat there thinking for a little bit then said "I would say try to help your community as much as you can."

I asked her another question that I myself didn't even know for sure "do you consider yourself a human rights activist at all?" She very quickly answered "yes definitely because I believe that anyone can have their own beliefs and their own opinions and it doesn't matter what gender or race they are." I asked her my final question "how long do you plan on doing your activism?" She said "for the rest of my life or for as long as I can ." That was the end of my interview and I said "thank you that's all my questions!" She then said "ok" and said "thank you for interviewing me" and then walked out of my room slowly.