

My name is Jacky, and I'm a high school senior from Maine. I was born and raised in Maine my whole life, even though my parents are Chinese. Because of my heritage, I've learned about Chinese culture through the celebrations I've been brought to and the food I ate at home. However, I've never really thought about other cultures in the past.

This changed when my teacher did something called a "Hawai'i Cultural Exchange." My class filled out a journal about the various philosophies that Hawai'i has. After that, we sent a video to our counterpart class in Hawai'i, asking them about the state and what it was like to live there. They even sent us a box of Hawaiian foods that the whole class got to try, which was pretty fun!

The most impactful part of the exchange was the philosophy journal, as we learned about how people in Hawai'i think about the relationships they have with each other, as well as what it means to belong to Hawai'i. I would never have thought about Hawaiian philosophies if we didn't do this exchange. It was a very good learning experience for us, and I hope that other classes could try to do something like this! I would love it if people got to learn about Chinese culture and what it means to be Chinese.