



**Chanel Deponte
Hard of Hearing University Student
Class of 1999**

By B.J. Song

Chanel Deponte is a 25-year-old woman who is deaf. She graduated from Waiakea High School in 1999. Her older sister and a younger brother can both hear. Her father works for the County of Hawaii in Hilo and her mother is a homemaker. She has several ethnic backgrounds which include Hawaiian, Chinese, Portuguese, and English.

Portuguese, and English.

Chanel decided to attend Waiakea High School along with her sister because she didn't want to go to an all deaf school on Oahu and be away from her family. Some of the difficulties she felt when coming to school here were feeling alone and difficulties with her English and history classes. She had to read a lot, learn new vocabulary words and learn to write. All of these skills would have been much easier if she was able to hear. Her easy classes were math and science because they were more visual. She was supported by her Hawaiian teacher, Kulani Namailoai Rivera, her sign language interpreter, Amanda Ayoso.

Chanel is now majoring in psychology at UH Hilo and hopes to work and help kids who are also deaf and hard of hearing in the future.