

Baker Island
November 26, 1935

Mr. Homer M. Barnes
Principal-in-charge
Kamehameha Boys School

Dear Sir:

I hope by means of this letter to express my appreciation and thanks to you for the many kindnesses you have rendered my mother and family. The personal attention of time and money you have devoted to us is something I can only in a small way ever repay. I can certainly show my appreciation, I know, by doing my share in realizing the expectations you have for a good job well done on this governmental project. I trust the final reports will show a record of my conduct not in any way disappointing to the efforts you have made in my behalf.

The checks accompanying this letter I have endorsed as you indicated. Julius Rodman, who with Arthur Harris represent Dr. Coman on Baker Island, borrowed our fountain pen and lost it. Abraham and I used a quill plucked from a frigate bird. It filled our need very well indeed.

In regard to the distribution of the sum represented by my two checks, I am willing to let you handle it according to your own good judgement of what part or parts of my several obligations deserves the most attention. There is first of all John's expenses incurred by his unfortunate sickness. My mother wrote to me of Mrs. Robinson's kind offer to pay John's bill. I want to accept her offer feeling that the spirit of it is one of ^{however} unassuming generosity. If you feel that I can take care of the bill with regard to my other obligations, you may so arrange it. You see, I have no idea of just how much John's hospital bill is.

Other bills I have in mind are your own personal checks to my mother and John's school expenses to date. I would also very much like to have my family enjoy reasonably the holiday season. I would like to have my mother receive part of my money for that purpose. The two checks, I may add, are for my services during July and August. Thus I still have coming to me my wages for the months of September, October, November, December and that part of January up to the time the Alasca calls again to land more supplies or take me back home.

Thank you very much for handling this matter. I'm going to add a few lines about happenings down here I think will be of interest.

The weather has changed a great deal in the course of the last few days. The last three months has been a very dry and hot season with no rainfall. The plants on the island became brown and withered, especially the Bermuda grass.

The arrival of the "Kinkajon" three days ago by coincidence ushered in a change of weather the like of which we are experiencing for the first time. The current has changed. Rolling in as they are now from the west, unusually large ground swells raise up over the reef and form a turbulent, boiling surf impassable and threatening. Two Samoan sailors, Mr. Gatty and Captain Plunk have been forced to remain on our island for the last three days because of that. These four narrowly escaped serious injury when they came in on the row boat. It capsized about a hundred yards offshore. Mr. Gatty was thrown out by the action of the boat, the Captain jumped. The two

Samoaans were pinned under the boat when she overturned. The next wave overturned it again, the two Samoaans sliding out from under. Safety life jackets helped to bring all four ashore on the crests of the following waves. We boys here on the island helped all we could, wading and swimming out to them with a line. A few bruises were the only injuries. We managed to get the overturned boat in. Also the oars and mailbag. Rice and sugar that they were bringing for us went to the bottom. A few lemons and apples floated ashore to be salvaged.

All indications point to a very rough winter. Mr. Gatty says this is the beginning of the winterlies. One wave broke so high on the shore that it rose over the west ridge, wrecking our terrace, and running thru our camp site.

It is raining and the ocean seems to be a bit smoother. The crew and Mr. Gatty are preparing to return to the Krifajon with Arthur Hayes and J. Rodman. They're going to Howland and Samoa, then Jarvis and Honolulu. Christmas greetings to Mrs. Barnes and you. Aloha Nui.

William Kaira