

# THE SG MAGIC

*By Aaron Domingo, 2009*



I have been involved with Sariling Gawa since 2006. As a delegate, I had the opportunity to meet new friends as well as obtain leadership skills that I know will be utilized in the many stages of my life that lie ahead. One thing that keeps me coming back to SG is the growth I see in myself as well as in the delegates. We do this once a year, and each time the delegates

bring back a year's supply of knowledge and experience. As I see them change from teens to young adults, I can't help but notice the influence that SG has on them. Each conference finds a way to be more educational and more exciting. As a leader, SG is an opportunity for me to give back to my Filipino community as well as educate myself in the Filipino culture.

Each year, SG gives me the chance to do something selfless. Something that I know deep down is right. And through this selflessness, I've learned how much SG has taught me. In the world we live in today, many people give to get something in return such as money and incentives. But SG does more for me than any amount of external reward ever could. I come out each year because I know that in the end I'll get that feeling that I always get after SG, it is known as "The SG Magic." SG magic is within the delegate's eyes, when they leave camp with new friends, and new experiences. SG magic is woven into the leadership and empathy threads that the delegates wear as a garment of growth. SG magic is seen when we look back at how far we've come as Filipinos in Hawaii. SG magic is brewed from the pot, from which we cast ourselves, with the love that we all share for SG.

Every time the conference comes to an end, we leaders have a final debriefing where we can say anything we want about the conference and SG. We fight the urge to cry but we end up pouring like waterfalls anyway. Someone said that SG is full of good people, people who want to see you succeed more than they want to be able to say that you've failed. People who push you rather than pull you down. That's exactly right. I know people in this world who want nothing else but to see me fail. To be able to say "I told you so." At SG, I know that my successes are carried on their shoulders, and that my goals are already met in their eyes. Another leader said that he had become a role model for these kids. I saw the passion in his eyes. He had grown so

much in the time that he had spent with SG. Through him, I learned that everybody has the ability to make his or her own miracles. Anyone can find peace in a troubled world.

I've learned through my entire life that there are people more fortunate than me, and that I am more fortunate than many. But happiness has no classification. There are poor happy people, rich happy people, and happy people right "in da middo." It's safe to say then that the recipe for happiness takes no more than the will to be so. At SG, delegates and leaders alike have had personal issues that circulate around the outside world. These issues are big to some, and small to others, but hurt the same. When they leave SG, they fill the emptiness in their hearts with a new treasure. SG gives me the chance to inspire these young adults, get them to dream big, act bigger. I find inspiration in knowing that they will someday achieve greatness.

I know delegates who have become teachers, lawyers, doctors, artist, and business owners. They all can say that SG had a part in creating who they are today. They dreamt long ago that they would one day change the world, and I know each of them has in their own way. Today I dreamt I'd be the guy who revolutionizes Hawaii's music industry, the guy who gets Hawaii's musical talent heard all around the world. The year is 2009 and I am 20 years old, one day near or far my dreams will come true, and when they do I will look back and thank the organization that allowed me to dream big. And I will remember when I dreamt in 2009, and I will smile. Sariling Gawa is where my story begins, where my life falls into place. And for those of you who have read thus far, I dare you to dream just as big as me. Let us see how far our dreams can travel from Sariling Gawa!!! 🎸

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*Sariling Gawa*  
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