

Name: TR

**To what extent did African American migration to Hawai'i mirror African American migration to the continental United States?**

African American migration in Hawai'i mirrored African American migration within the continental United States to a large extent in both aspects of militaristic commands and individual endeavors, and overall motivations, but was drastically different in terms of culture and influence. Whereas Black migrants in the continental U.S. were finally able to express an identity and culture of their own through literature, music, and other mediums, Black migrants in Hawai'i assimilated and adopted the cultures of their partners and fellow citizens, even under the U.S. census.

Additional comments: My prior foundation for the Great Migration was not strong enough to feasibly compare the experience to African American migration to Hawai'i. A better base on the African American experience in the continental United States is needed for students to be well equipped to tackle this prompt.

**To what extent does African American migration to Hawai'i reflect your lives and experiences?**

African American migration to Hawai'i bares little resemblance to my life experience, but I can take solidarity in the adoption of local culture. While this phenomenon surrounding Black migrants might have arisen from discrimination, alienation, and the need to belong, mine came from being born in Hilo and roots in the Pacific from my father's side. That being said, I believe

that if anything my father's circumstances are more similar to the African American migration to Hawai'i than mine. His parents both went to UH Manoa, his father from Samoa, and his mother from somewhere in the U.S. Midwest. My father was born in O'ahu but grew up in Samoa. His father, or my grandfather, made occasional trips to O'ahu for first-world country goods and services not available in Samoa. When my father was 19, he came to UH Hilo to gain an education he couldn't achieve in Samoa. He came for something that was not previously available to him, and he came to improve his life and his opportunities. In this lens, he had the same broad drive that Black migrants had when they came to Hawai'i- the possibility of having more or better than where they came from. Yet my father didn't drastically change in terms of identity. Samoa and Hawai'i, like any island in Polynesia, share many similarities, whether that be language, food, ideals, and overall, culture. And beyond that, other Samoans and Polynesians had similarly come to Hawai'i. He wasn't ostracized, he could still eat pisupo, and so on. These circumstances are in opposition to the circumstances of someone like Anthony "Alani" Allen. Anthony Allen, one of the first Black settlers in Hawai'i, arrived around 1800 by himself at a time when there were virtually no other people of his culture. He married a native Hawaiian woman and helped build the foundation and community of Waikiki. He became a well-respected man by everyone, especially by locals. He was often called "Alani" and he was essentially an honorary Hawaiian. One might say he took on that identity. Transparently, there is a difference in the extent of this cultural adoption. My father simply embraced other regions of Polynesian culture in which he already existed, while many Black migrants found a new identity altogether. I find it incredibly natural that people adapt to their surroundings, but I do wonder what would have happened if Black migration would have occurred in larger numbers and in groups and whether it could have had a similar influence on Hawai'i as it did in the United States.

Additional comments: I found this question frustrating because, with my circumstances, there are virtually no similarities with the African American experience in Hawai'i.