



MAUI

BY GORDON LI



SEABURY HALL

I attended this college-preparatory academy for middle and high school. I often stayed after school until sunset to do homework in its serene surroundings up on the mountain countryside of Makawao. I stayed in my math teacher's room with a few classmates, or lay around campus outside on benches, stair steps, and treetops.

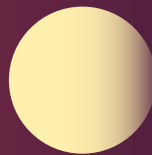




KEALIA POND

This refuge for wildlife was also a favorite refuge of mine, stopped by in the early evening from school or home before heading to the skate rink further south. It was quite relaxing to watch the birds on the boardwalk and stroll along the beach in Ma'alaea, all while the sun set beside windmills on the west Maui mountains.





KALAMA SKATE RINK

I started skating at this beachside rink in the latter half of high school, after having tried ice skating on a summer trip. I found myself frequenting this rink often during my senior year of high school, when I got my own pair of skates, and continue to come back for the free public skates on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday evenings in Kihei.





SACRED GARDEN

I found out about this plant nursery-public space hybrid near Haiku while looking for parks and other places of nature around the island. I came here often after school to study at the picnic tables, journal in front of a big wooden Buddha statue, and contemplate on the outdoor labyrinth, especially on the monthly full moon labyrinth walks at night.

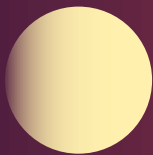




SF

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FRIDAY NIGHT SKATE

I found this event soon after arriving in San Francisco while searching for a place to skate as I did on Maui. I fondly recall my first time attending this breathtaking night tour of the city during Halloween weekend as a most exciting and wondrous night, and continue to meet at the Ferry Building at 9 every Friday for a weekly party on wheels.





LAND'S END

Wandering to the west after a sunset skate in the Presidio, I marveled at the view of the Golden Gate here while sitting at a bench enveloped by rustling leaves above and crashing waves below. I would frequently skate out here after classes to hike and contemplate within the park as the sun set over the Pacific Ocean.





UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO

I started college here after attending high school at Seabury Hall. One of my favorite spots here is the upper bench on the eastern side of Lone Mountain, where I often sit to write essays and code projects amidst a towering grove of trees and a panoramic view, extending from the Golden Gate Bridge in the north to the buildings downtown.





GOLDEN GATE PARK

This was my first destination upon arriving to San Francisco in my freshman year, when I found the outdoor skating area on 6th and Fulton. I have enjoyed skating socially here and on my own all over the park on car-free Sundays, along with learning dance steps at the Lindy in the Park event near the rink at noon.

