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## **The Bully Suicide Project - Survivor Stories(10)**

1. Tell Me About Yourself (What are your hobbies, beliefs, likes, etc... )

I'm Kawai. Kawai Cochran. I'm half hawaiian, half caucasian. Its an unusual mix, but its me. My life has been one of hardships, hopes, and dreams. At my high-school, I love to pursue acting and anything having to do with Theatre. I have been acting since I was 6, and I love it. I have grown up in a Mormon family. I was born into my church and have gone every sunday for the past 14 years. (I'm 14) Being Mormon, we were told how being a homosexual was a sin far worse than murder, or even adultery. My dad was very open about gay people saying how its okay to be gay and how he is not against it. I knew that very well, but had a hard time coming out to him. It wasn't until my dad came out to me that I realized that it was okay to come out to him. My dad and I, besets friends who understand what each was/is going through. Having someone there was the best thing god could send me. Having a gay father is pure paradise. I love going shopping, hanging with my girls, anything doing with talking and laughing. I try to be a funny person, but sometimes that doesn't go so well. I try to live my life to the fullest even with a Mormon mother pulling me back. I know there is a God, and a Jesus. I know that they love me and I know that they will clarify to all those narrow minded hicks that gays are loved and accepted and not damned to hell.

2. Tell Me About Your Personality

I'm fun and happy. At times I can have my mood swings and I'm sometimes awkward in situations I am not familiar with. I get defensive at times and I'm trying to work on it. I have been called a "teddy-bear" don't really know if its because I'm chubby or just a sweet, huggable person. I love talking to people and I'm very outgoing.

3. Tell Me About the First Time you remember being bullied (where, how you felt, the names, you were called, how you dealt with it)

The first time I was bullied was in 3rd grade. It was the last day of school and I wanted to wear my sister's really cool light- up flip- flops. They were blue and I absolutely loved them. I had a good day at school until I went outside for recess. As soon as I took a step outside. I guy I barely knew came up to me and said "Aren't those for girls" and I told him they were my sisters' being clueless. He laughed and called me a "girl". This continued and in 4th grade I was called "fat". I got to middle school and from what my mom was telling me, I'm gonna make new friends and fit into my group and everything will be happy cause everyone is mature. false. Middle school

was hell for me. I got called a "faggot" and "fat". It hurt me a lot. I tried to convince myself I was straight by getting a girlfriend and kissing her, but soon realizing that I was more gay than ever.

#### 4. Names you have been called

I have been called: fag, faggot, fatty, fat ass, bitch, freak, pussy, loser, and fat.

#### 5. Tell Me About how bullying has effected you

It has affected me a lot. I am a very passionate person which means I take things to heart. Whenever I would get bullied, I would think about it the rest of the day and be not my usual self. My dad really helped me with this, while my mom just told me to let it go. Around the age of 11, when hormones started flowing and I realized I had an attraction to men, I would sit in my shower crying because it was the only place that I felt the world was crying with me.

#### 6. Have you thought about suicide? If so, what did you do about it.

On a couple of occasions I would think about killing myself. I tried cutting my wrist one time but just couldn't slice myself. I pray that if I could just die all my stress and pain could just dissolve. I wanted a way out. I needed a place to go that was safe for me to be who I was. I wanted to die. I knew that if alive people couldn't understand me, then dead people were worth a shot. Before trying to kill myself, I thought of my dad. He was the mentor, the one to talk to, my angel from heaven, my inspiration. I focused on my dad and trusted in him and he has taken me to the heaven on earth where everyone around us is like me and different from the normal.

#### 7. What are ways you have dealt with suicidal thoughts?

I went to my dad on plenty of occasions, crying my eyes out. He would help me and talk me through it. He was the other side of me telling me that everything was okay and I am safe now. He was there to protect me and defend me even if that meant hurting someone else. I will always love him and care about him for that. I would just like to say. Thanks Dad.

#### 8. What makes you a survivor?

What makes me a survivor is how I'm alive and proud about who I am. I am starting not to care what people think and trying my best at it. I know that a lot of other gay kids have killed themselves and I am one of the alive ones that stand here strong and say that I won't go down without a fight.

#### 9. What is your message of hope to the person just like yourself?

You should always know that someone out there is your other half, your soul mate and they are waiting for your arrival. You should also be yourself and love who you are and shouldn't change for anybody.

#### 10. The quote that you live by today because of your experience is....

"Always be a first-rate version of yourself, instead of a second-rate version of somebody else." - Judy Garland

The Bully Suicide Project :

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