I'm currently taking an ethics course entitled “Japanese in Hawai’i” which focuses on how the Japanese immigrants came to Hawai’i and how they came to be part of present-day Hawaiian culture. Before taking the course, I have never really thought about the local-Asian community in Hawai’i, but rather about the native Hawaiians—mostly about their oppression from colonization. By taking this course, my perspective is put on a whole different level because it helps me realize that not only did the natives suffer, but others who later made Hawai’i their home suffered as well. I think it's important to address such history as this as it relates to important ethical issues and as it helps us understand how Hawai’i became what it is today.

However, I'm not sure what to focus my paper on. I think the significant events in Japanese-Hawaiian history would be that of the numerous strikes, which eventually made a positive impact on the Japanese community as a whole. Although, as I think about plantation life, I subsequently think of WWII and how it changed the Japanese community here in Hawai’i dramatically.

Narrowed down subjects to focus my paper on would be: Japanese schools in Hawai’i, present-day Japanese-owned businesses and their history, the Big Island and present-day fight schools, etc. By the looks of these topics, it seems as though I want to tie in this “present-day” Hawai’i with historical reference, explaining why so-and-so may be a certain way. For example, I recently read a book entitled “All I Asking for is My Body” and focuses on two boys from the Big Island who lived on the plantations and decided to pick up boxing as a way to “get out.” As I am familiar that wrestling, grappling, and other sports of the sort are very popular on the Big Island, I've made a connection between the plantation history and these long lasting fight schools.

Also, I've learned that the store across my apartment, Fukuya, was established before the war. Originally, it was built to serve Japanese families and their events, such as weddings, but as Waikiki became a popular venue for weddings, Fukuya now caters more towards professional events, like office parties, etc.

Speaking of Waikiki, another topic would be to do research behind the establishment of Waikiki and why so many locals are against the area. This would be interesting, but possibly challenging since I am not sure such information is documented. Regardless, this is a potential topic for a research paper.