STANLEY PORTEUS is best known for his cross-cultural research on mental ability. In 1914 he invented the Porteus Maze Test, one of the most widely-used mental tests that does not require either verbal instructions or verbal answers.

In 1974 the University of Hawaii Board of Regents christened the new political science building Porteus Hall, after noted UH psychologist Stanley D. Porteus. A year later, students and faculty members objected, pointing out that his academic work contained racist and sexist references. The regents reviewed and upheld their decision.

After a review, the UH administration recommended renaming Porteus Hall in spring 1998, which the board approved. But in doing so, regents asked the administration to review procedures for naming buildings. The building was renamed Saunders Hall in 2001.