

CONCERNING THIS ISSUE

The theme of this issue, *Opening Windows to Hawai'i and the Pacific*, is appropriate on this fiftieth anniversary of the College of Education and the seventy-fifth anniversary of the University of Hawaii—institutions long involved in the improvement of education in the State of Hawai'i.

The theme is of particular interest, too, because it relates to regional curriculum explorations with potential to affect education in our State—explorations on the topic of global education and considerations of alternative futures for Hawai'i in the Year 2010, including attempts to anticipate the shape of education to come and the possible relationships of Hawai'i to newly independent nations and commonwealths in the Pacific.

This issue of *Educational Perspectives* concerns itself with the Hawaiian and Pacific foci of educational efforts being undertaken in the State. The six articles tell of important curricular considerations and efforts in various disciplines which reflect our resources and heritage.

Unfortunately, the size of the issue prevented our including articles on other subjects of equal importance—music, the performing arts, mathematics, economics, history, politics, and so on. Thus, we must be content with merely suggesting the scope, dimensions, and prospects of schooling which honors and fairly represents our location in the Pacific Ocean.

The physical features of the Pacific are varied. It represents 64 million square miles of water; one-quarter of one percent of that area represents land. There are over 10,000 islands—some estimated to be over a hundred million years old—with most of them ringing the southwestern half of the region. There are three geographic areas: Melanesia, black or dark islands, with approximately 56,000 square miles of land; Polynesia, many islands, with a total land area of 10,000 square miles, and Micronesia, small islands, with only 1,072 square miles of land!

If you add the cultural richness of the Pacific-rim countries—China, Japan, Southeast Asia, Australia, Canada, the United States, Mexico, Central and South America—to the Pacific Islands, the cultural diversity is enormous.

Hawai'i being situated where it is, is indeed the Crossroads of the Pacific. The people of Hawai'i reflect the richness of culture from both the East and West; this fact cannot be ignored in educating our children.

Developing a curriculum that takes into consideration the myriad cultures and varied topography of the Pacific which influences the school population of Hawai'i is a challenge and a necessity.

The articles discuss lessons and prospects for Pacific-relevant curricula; a case study in social studies which looks at migration; the study of language in the schools; a project to reflect Asian and Pacific literature in the schools; art, and science education.

The authors have taken care to focus on Hawai'i and the Pacific. It is hoped that the reader will gain some insight into the challenges of curriculum development in this multicultural setting.

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Guest Editors