

Concerning this Issue . . .

This issue of Educational Perspectives is devoted to a new activity in Hawaiian education, the Hawaii Curriculum Center, and to the national educational context in which it finds its identity and purpose. From the national perspective, the Center is an expression of the increasing state/federal partnership, which is expressed through the increase in federal participation in education and through the great variety of state patterns for the expression of this partnership. From the state perspective, the Hawaii Curriculum Center is an outgrowth of long-standing activity by the University and the Department of Education, working for the most part independently, to improve instructional program and practices in classrooms throughout the state. More directly it represents a convergence of several significant developments in Hawaiian education which are reflections of trends evident nationally and even worldwide. Among them are 1) the growing recognition of the essential role of education in a modern Hawaiian society; 2) the increasing demand for quality in the face of rising educational costs; 3) the greater collaboration of University scholars and Department of Education personnel on curriculum problems; 4) the new role of service sought for the University's Laboratory Schools; and 5) the large-scale curriculum development effort in English, foreign languages, and the fine arts mounted under the Department's Title III, P. L. 89-10 project.

The Hawaii Curriculum Center is a joint activity of the Hawaii State Department of Education and the University of Hawaii, established to serve the State as the primary center for large-scale design and development in selected areas of the curriculum and for demonstration and evaluation of local, national, and international curricula. It has the secondary purpose of providing a site for research on curriculum problems and of stimulating and supporting curriculum-related activity throughout the State. In carrying out these purposes, the Center serves not only public, but also private and church-related schools.

In this issue *Patsy Takemoto Mink*, Congresswoman from Hawaii, presents the perspectives of a key legislator on the task of education today and the role of federal programs in support of education. Mrs. Mink, a member of the House Education and Labor Committee and its sub-committees on education, has given both shape and support to the federal program in education.

Nolan Estes is the recently appointed Associate Commissioner for Elementary and Secondary Education. His article gives the perspective of a key administrator in the Office of Education about the priority issues facing American education today. We note that these issues, if modified to local conditions, apply equally to Hawaii.

William G. Savard is Assistant Superintendent for Research, Hawaii State Department of Education, as well as Co-Director of the Hawaii Curriculum Center. Readers should note that Hawaii has a unitary state public school system, not the common system of semi-autonomous districts. He has posited the present emphasis of the Department on program definition, program building, and program budgeting, and noted the role of the Hawaii Curriculum Center in relationship to this new emphasis.

The first major project of the Hawaii Curriculum Center is the design and development of a curriculum program for the teaching of English in the elementary and secondary schools. *Shiho S. Nunes*, Associate Director of the Center and Project Manager of the Hawaii English Project, writes of the national and state concerns which led to the establishment of the project and sketches key characteristics of the project. Mrs. Nunes, one of the Center's founding members, was formerly State Program Specialist for English.

Gladys Y. Koo and *Ernest J. Cherry* are experienced school administrators in the Hawaii Public Schools and hold positions of Assistant Directors of the Hawaii Curriculum Center for University of Hawaii Affairs and Department of Education Affairs, respectively. They describe in brief form a number of activities presently in process at the Center.

Planning and evaluation are vital functions of project centers such as the Hawaii Curriculum Center. *John A. Brownell* is Associate Director for Plans and Evaluation. In addition he holds the University positions as Professor of Education and as Researcher, Education Research and Development Center. His article sets forth the Center's stance on planning and evaluation.

The guest editor has contributed his own observations of people at work in educational development activity, noting the promise and demands of this new type of educational service.

The pictures were assembled by *Lawrence Silverman*, Administrator, Media Services in the Center.

Comments on and inquiries about the Center's program are welcome. They should be addressed to The Director, Hawaii Curriculum Center, 1625 Wist Place, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822.

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