

# THE COALITION NEWSLETTER

Volume One, Issue Three

May 1983

## THE HISTORY OF THE WAIANAEO COAST SCHOOL CONCERNS COALITION

In April 1979, about forty people met at the Honolulu Community Action Program (HCAP) building to take a look at what kinds of things could be done to address a very negative view of our schools by our community and the state. Increasing news articles in newspapers and television on the riots at one of our local high schools and the consistent low scores on the Waianae Coast and a growing disillusionment with the quality of education by parents, students and the community demonstrated that something needed to be done.

Those that met at HCAP came from a variety of backgrounds—parents from the Waianae Coast, social service agency workers and organization representatives from Waianae and Honolulu—wanted to begin working on the educational problems affecting our youth. The perspectives we had were different and the ideas and solutions proposed were very diverse. If there were any agreements, it was that some long-term commitments were needed to help solve the problems that had festered on the Waianae Coast for some time. The group decided that the work would be more easily done by working together and that they should be prepared to commit about twelve years working for some major fundamental changes within the school system. The Waianae Coast School Concerns Coalition was born.

The Waianae Coast School Concerns Coalition received funding from the McInerney Foundation in October 1979 with HCAP as the umbrella organization. Using these funds, two half time coordinators were hired (Barbara Simpson and Lionel Oki) to help manage the

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We are interested in helping others involved in education get the word out. We are monthly and would be happy to print your group's news and events. Call us at the Waianae Community Action Program office (696-4261) or send your article to Coalition Newsletter 85-555 Farrington Hwy. Waianae 96792.

## PRESIDENT REAGAN PROPOSES VOUCHER PLAN

President Reagan has sent to Congress a new plan to allow low-income parents to buy compensatory education services for their children at the public or private school of their choice. This voucher plan would be established under the \$3.2 billion ECIA Chapter 1 Program (formally the ESEA Title 1 Program). The State of Hawaii Department of Education would have the final decision on using this program if adopted by Congress. At this point, it is expected that low-income parents would receive a voucher for each child with an approximate value of \$500. It will be introduced in Congress as the "Equal Educational Opportunity Act of 1983." Contact your Congressional delegates for more information.

## A BIGGER LEIHOKU?

Funds are expected to be released by the State of Hawaii for design plans for a fourth classroom building at Leihoku Elementary School. Construction is expected to begin in 1984. This fourth building will provide enough space to increase Leihoku's total enrollment in 1985 to 900+ elementary students. For more information, contact the Leihoku Ohana (parent group) through the Leihoku Elementary School office or call Mr. Stan Seki, the school principal at 696-2218.

## HELP FOR SUMMER SCHOOL TUITIONS

Parents and students interested in the Waianae Coast public school summer programs should be warned that due to an increase in interest by students there may be some problems in providing summer school program tuition waivers to all students.

The Department of Education has announced that money has been located to increase the availability of waivers to those that qualify. If you are interested in going to summer school and qualify for assistance be sure to ask for waivers. In the event you are unable to get help, call Isabel HacsKaylo at 696-2134. She may be able to get support from private charitable foundations if you miss the DOE's 'first-come first-serves'.

## EARLY EDUCATION FORUM

The Hawaii Newspaper Agency will conduct a forum to help parents make decisions concerning early education for their children at MacNeil Auditorium (punahou School), May 9th, 7pm.

Panelists include Ivalee Sinclair, Executive Director of the Hawaii Association for Children and Adults with Learning Disabilities and Lynn Friedlander a well known local parent educator and counselor. Ken Yamamoto from the DOE; Stephanie Feeney, UH Associate Professor; Robert Peters, Hanahaouli principal and Peter Guay from the Honolulu Counseling Center will also speak.

## THE COALITION NEWSLETTER

A monthly publication provided by the

## WAIANAE COAST SCHOOL CONCERNS COALITION

Joe Tassil, Steering Committee Chairman  
Pua'ala McElhaney, Steering Committee Vice-Chairperson  
Dwight Ovitt, Secretary

Joseph W. Lapilio III, Coordinator

major issue areas the group decided to work on. Dixie Padello was later hired in 1980 and remained in the position for three years. Sara Jane Watson acted as Interim Coordinator beginning in January 1983 and Joseph Lapilio became the fifth coordinator in April 1983.

Most of the Coalition is made up of volunteers. The underlying strength of the Coalition has been the commitment to the education of our children on the Coast and in seeing that they will be better prepared for whatever endeavors they may choose. The overall purpose of the Coalition is to "improve the quality of education on the Waianae Coast" and with this goal, the Waianae Coast School Concerns Coalition has created changes that affect schools and students throughout the State of Hawaii.

During 1982, in a major effort with the DOE and one of the Coalition's committees, members of the group were able to have the Department of Education develop a more thorough and objective program in early education. The K-2 Quality Education Project, as it is called, is now taking a look at the needs of children in kindergarten through the second grade. Program changes in Waianae elementary schools are expected to be piloted in September 1983 and if successful will be implemented in schools across the state.

The Waianae Coast Parent Advocate Program, also initiated by the Waianae Coast School Concerns Coalition was an attempt to teach parents their rights

within the school system. One of the major accomplishments of this group has been an increase in DOE focus on Summer School and in communication to parents. A young offspring of this program has been the Student Advocate Program with a second summer session for 30 students beginning in June 1983 being trained in advocacy, organizing and leadership development. The Parent Advocate Program will begin activity again with a new boost in funds very soon.

The Waianae Coast School Concerns Coalition, still going strong is now working actively on twelve different issues from Hawaiian Studies Programs, teaching methods workshops, vocational education and the size of Waianae Coast elementary schools. Our membership is considerable and growing. We will soon begin efforts at getting more Waianae Coast residents-parents, students and teachers involved with what we do.

Our accomplishments have been both tangible and attitudinal. We are encouraged by the responses we get from the Waianae Coast residents and from those outside our community that see what we have done to have a part in the education of our children. We still have eight more years left of our 12 year commitment and we intend to have an impact. There are much more changes needed in the schools and with what our children receive in kindergarten up through Grade 12. We did and still intend to improve the quality of education on the Waianae Coast.



My daughter has just been dropped from a Special Education class. Her teachers say that she is ready to be put into regular classes. She has been getting good grades and I am afraid that she will not do as well in a regular class. How can I tell if she is ready?

The first thing we recommend is that you go to your daughter's school and take a look at her school records. The school can provide someone to assist you, or your daughter's counselor can help you understand the records. If you have any problems with this, call us.

As a parent, it is important that you remember your role in the planning and development of your child's educational program. In the rules concerning Special Education children, the DOE has a requirement that an educational plan called the Individualized Education Program, or IEP for short, be set up. As a parent, you have a right to participate in the development of this IEP.

Find out why the school and your daughter's teachers feel that she is now ready to go to regular classes. As the parent, you do have the right to disagree with anything you find in the records or with anything the school tells you to do.

Get involved with the development of your daughter's IEP and express your concerns and make sure that these concerns are a part of the IEP. If there are any special programs or services you feel are needed to help your child, this is the time to bring it up.

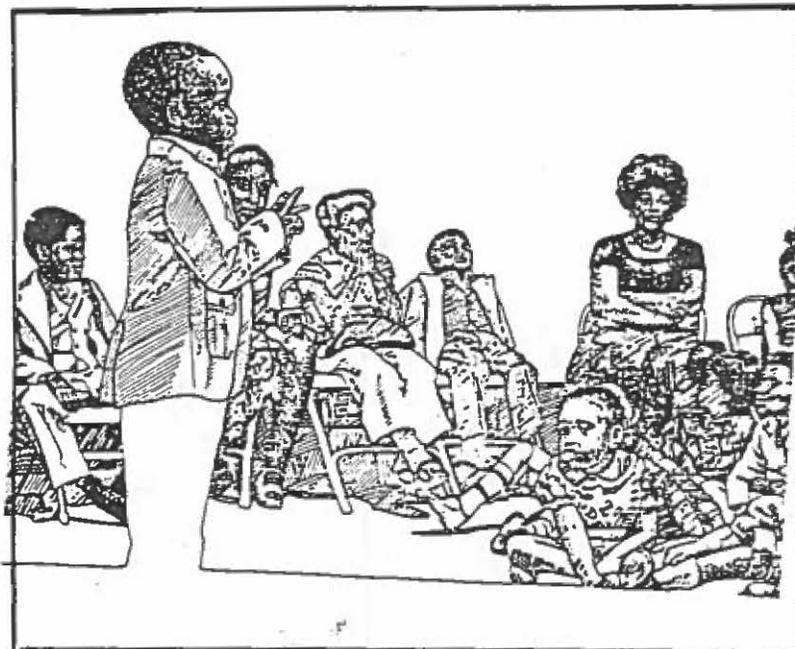
Also, make sure that the school goes over the rules in the DOE concerning your rights in this case and the rights your daughter has. Ask to see copies of the rule and have any portions of the rule you do not understand explained to you. Make it clear that you want to be included in any and all decisions concerning your child. If you need help with this, please call us.

My son is in the 4th Grade at --- Elementary School. He is only now doing division in his class. Last year he was doing fractions. What's going on?

We don't know-but you should definitely find out. Call the school and make an appointment with your son's teacher. Ask to see the work that your son is doing and if you have any questions about the kinds of work your son is doing in class. **ASK QUESTIONS!** Find out the math level your son is at in school and how you can help to make sure that the work your son is given by the teacher is not only a review of the things he learned last year, but is something challenging and exciting for him.

The first step you can take to help your son is to find out why he's doing review. If he's capable of doing more advanced work you might help him get out of something boring and dull. You should include him in your meetings with the teacher.

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My child was late to school. The school used the lunch token as punishment and my child did not get to eat lunch. What can I do?

Lunch tokens are provided by the Federal government based on need (parents' income). Such tokens are not provided to students on the basis of behavior, grades or any other factors. Students need to be in attendance in school to receive tokens but lunch tokens cannot be used as punishment for any other reason, including tardiness. The school has other rules and methods to deal with tardiness, withholding food is not one of these methods.

Federal law supports your child. See the principal at your school. If you need help, call us.

## We Need Your Support...

The Coalition is a non-profit organization interested in improving the quality of education on the Waianae Coast.

Any support provided to the organization will be warmly appreciated.

Dear Advocate is a monthly feature of the Coalition Newsletter and is provided by the Action Committee and the Parent Advocates, United. For help with any problems or concerns, call 696-4261 or write to Advocate, 85-555 Farrington Highway, Waianae 96792.

For assistance in the school or with individual help from one of the advocates, remember, we will help you with what you need, but we will not do it for you. Call us for assistance.

THE WAIANAE COAST SCHOOL CONCERNS COALITION

# MAY 1983

FOUNDED IN 1979

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4 Executive Comm Mtg. HCAP 1pm.	5 BOE Mtg. 7:30pm Millilani HS	6	7
8	9 BOE Public Hrg Waipahu HS 7pm	10 Parent Organ/ Training Comm Mtg. HCAP 9am.	11 Summer Session Committee Mtg HCAP 1pm.	12 Action Comm Mtg HCAP 1pm.	13	14
15	16	17 Qed Advisory Council Mtg. DOE Leeward District Off. 1:30pm.	18 WCSCC Steering Committee Mtg HCAP 2:30pm.	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Hawn Studies Committee Mtg HCAP 2pm.	26 VocEd Comm Mtg HCAP 1:30pm.	27	28
29			1 JUNE Executive Comm Mtg. HCAP 1pm.	2	3	4



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