

THE WAI'ANAE COAST SCHOOL CONCERNS

COALITION NEWSLETTER

CALENDAR

MAY

- 16 - Steering Committee, 3:30 p.m., Wai'anae Army Rest Camp
- 16 - Wai'anae Drug Information Fair, Wai'anae High School, 1 - 3 p.m.
Students, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Public Invited.
- 17 - Coalition Student Advocate Group to meet with concerned Nanakuli Students.

JUNE

- 1 - Wai'anae High School Graduation, School Stadium.
- 2 - Nanakuli High School Graduation, School Stadium, 5:30 p.m.
- 7 - K-2 Quality Education Advisory Council Final Evaluation, 1 p.m.
Leeward District Office.

JULY

- 13 Wai'anae Coast School Concerns Coalition Carnival, Wai'anae
- 14 Intermediate School Athletic/Playfield, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- 15 Featuring the E.K. Fernandez mid-way of rides, as well as
food booths and a Bazaar tent.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Dear Friends:

I have prevailed upon our coordinator to include this "Call to Action" to our members as we move this period of our life together as the WCSCC. I am aware of the need for some of us to conclude the mediation with the help of the Neighborhood Justice Center, but there is still need to maintain momentum with other efforts. Too many people have given too much in the past to have the ball just dropped here. The education of our children and the schools they attend still need improvement.

Look at the calendar we have enclosed, join us at the meetings or bring issues and concerns to our attention. Help us include your friends and neighbors as

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they manage their relationships with the DOE. Call our coordinator and get involved with one of our Task Forces or committees. We will have to be involved with fundraising within the next few months and help will be needed. The best part of it all is that we continue to broaden our networking, i.e. HSTA and OHA. Those people are excited about us and the mission we have selected for ourselves! Climb on board and let us help make a good education possible and reality for all of our children.

Mahalo,

Dean N. Fujii

BRIEFS

SPEAKERS BUREAU SET

Plans for the speakers bureau presentation to the Wai'anae Coast Secondary Schools have been formulated. The event has been scheduled to coincide with the week of May 1 - 4. Over 40 speakers have made commitments of time to be available as guest lecturers to the students and teachers of Wai'anae Intermediate School, Wai'anae High School, and Nanakuli Intermediate School.

Members of the newly formed speakers bureau, together with OHA administrators and trustees; the Coalition Teachers committee; Wai'anae Coast Secondary Principals and vice-principals, Leeward Districts Superintendent, and Deputy Superintendent, and representatives

of the HSTA; will attend an orientation program to be held at Mauna Olu Makaha, on Friday, April 20, 1:00 p.m. A Hawaiian lunch will be served at the conclusion of the orientation program.

REFORMING EDUCATION

The American Association of University Women has on its national legislative platform continuing support for public education. The Diamond Head Branch is deeply concerned about the continuing controversy and confusion constantly surrounding the relationship between the state Board of Education and the state superintendent of schools. This has reactivated House Bill 1370 which seeks to amend the Hawaii State Constitution to provide that the governor appoint the superintendent.

We urge that this bill not be passed. Instead we recommend the following for public consideration and action. The public and legislature need to:

Re-examine and strengthen the means by which school board candidates qualify and are elected.

Understand the reasons why the board should appoint the superintendent in order to have the line of responsibility clearly defined.

Understand why the superintendent needs some kind of contract or job security in order to ride out periods of crisis.

Understand that the superintendent has a professional obligation to education; that the line between policy-making and administration must be clearly observed.

Strengthen the legal means by which school advisory councils can

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WAI'ANAE COAST SCHOOL CONCERNS COALITION

Dean Fujii, Steering Committee Chairman
Dixie Padello, Steering Committee Vice-Chairperson
Robert E. Peters, Coordinator

initiate recommendations.

Keep partisan politics out of public education.

Create a neutral mechanism for mediation, either through the judicial system or by an independent qualified group. This would provide a cooling off time.

All of us need to change from adversaries to advocates who cooperate in the common responsibility we share for the education and welfare of our children — the future of us all.

Martha Black

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT...

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

Any support provided to the organization will be warmly appreciated.

The Wai'anāe School Concerns Coalition through diligent effort, dedication, and leadership, has made Hawaii a better place to live by its positive contributions to public education and by making the K-2 Quality Education project a reality. It is a pilot project on the Wai'anāe Coast, which was established to insure that performance levels for students in kindergarten through grade two are clear to teachers and parents.

The coalition is a community-based public service group, and they are available to provide informative lectures on the K-2 Quality Education project. If you would be interested in having a presentation made for your PTA, community organization, or church group, please call Bob Peters at 696-4261 and a time can be arranged.

LET US HEAR FROM YOU

We plan to keep a space in this newsletter for comments and questions from readers. Please let us hear from you. Call Bob Peters at the HCAP OFFICE.

CHAIN OF COMMAND TASK FORCE MEETS

On April 13, the newly formed Chain of Command Task Force had their first organizational meeting at Maluhia Church. Dixie Padello was elected Chairperson; Isabel Hacskaylo, 1st Vice-Chairperson; Bunny Victor, 2nd Vice-Chairperson. Other Coalition members of this task force are Bill Prescott, Bella Occlinaria, and Bob Peters.

PURPOSE OF THE TASK FORCE

1. Develop an organizational structure that will recommend procedures for decision making to the steering committee.
2. Procedures for decision making will be by majority rules.
3. All members of the task force will vote except the coordinator.
4. The task force will recommend to the steering committee that they establish another task force to establish by-laws.

The results of their efforts will be presented at the May 16 Steering Committee meeting.

COALITION ADDRESSES THE PROBLEM OF TEACHER QUALIFICATION

On April 10, the Coalition Task Force on Teacher Qualification expressed their concerns about teacher qualification in Wai'anāe Coast Secondary Schools in the form of a letter sent to each of the complex principals. The highlights of the memorandum were:

1. How many and which courses are being taught by teachers who do not have credentials in the subject areas they teach?
2. How mismatched are teachers without those credentials and the subjects areas they teach?
3. Are students and parents informed when classes are being taught by persons without credentials in the subject areas?

The results of their inquiry will be shared with the Coalition at the May 16 Steering Committee meeting.

COORDINATORS' CONCERNS

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In the last edition of the newsletter, I cited instances where a few teachers had failed to play a crucial role in providing for the educational and cultural needs of Hawaiian and part-Hawaiian boys and girls on the Wai'anae Coastline. On the other side of the coin, however, there are excellent teachers who are providing the academic competencies necessary for effective and successful work in our elementary and secondary schools.

Key features of seven major national reports on education are unanimous in agreeing that the immediate challenge nationwide is to improve student performance, as there is a fear among our National leaders that our dominance in commerce, industry, and technology is being challenged by our competitors worldwide. Our educational foundation, according to Terrill Bill, Secretary of Education, is being eroded by mediocrity. He warns that "individuals who lack the levels of skill, literacy and training essential to the new information age will be effectively disfranchised from material rewards and from full participation in national life."

One recommendation made by a task force of governors is that the process of certifying teachers and administrators should be improved, with tighter procedures for retaining or dismissing them. Moreover, principals should be squarely in charge of educational quality, and their pay should reflect their effectiveness. Another recommendation is to serve better those students who are non-served, or underserved, which means an increase in participation in courses where they are underrepresented. Another task force has supported federal effort to provide special education for the poor and handicapped-impact aid should be reformulated to focus on school districts that are overburdened by substantial numbers of immigrant children.

The NEA has also recommended that we need to put into effect as

promptly as possible, plans for improving mandatory education from kindergarten through grades 12. The NEA also recommends that vocational and arts courses should be provided to advance the student's personal and occupational interests. In essence, courses in all subjects, not just mathematics and science, should be enlivened and improved. Schools must give priority to classroom instruction, and implement new ways in which countless other demands, i.e., social and behavioral can be dealt with.

Theodore R. Sizer, former dean, Harvard School of Education, feels that teacher training institutions, boards of Education, need to establish new heights expectations for our principals and teachers. "We must enlist the best minds to work on school curriculum projects as well as teacher training." Principals and teachers must play a crucial role in developing school and community support for proposed reforms, and our boards of education must provide them with the professional development and other support required to carry out their leadership roles effectively.

The Wai'anae Coast Schools Concerns Coalition has expressed a need for mandatory kindergarten. This means to echo the NEA cry for mandatory education, K - 12. In response to the needs of the minorities in Wai'anae, the Coalition also feels that vocational training should be offered to students who may not wish to pursue higher education. This, it seems, also ties in with the academic achievement of many students from the Wai'anae Coastline, where test scores have consistently been lower than the national average, particularly in reading and math.

It seems that the Coalition's objectives are excellent beginnings for the Wai'anae Coast public schools. Many children who are eligible for kindergarten are presently turned away for the lack of space. Those

children who are in the pre-school program are generally admitted to kindergarten. Thus, children who begin school at grade one are at a disadvantage, because they have not acquired the reading readiness skills of the pre-school and kindergarten students. School then becomes an experience of one failure after another.

Vocational school training has also been recommended by the Coalition. While this goal is a laudable one, it is important to note that the basic skills of reading, writing, and arithmetic are essential to anyone successfully completing such a program. Many youngsters prefer to "learn by doing," (Dewey) but this is not possible if they have not gained proficiency in the aforementioned 'basics.'

In a recent meeting with several Wai'anae Coast school principals, the relationship between the Coalition and the school was discussed. The principals were very supportive of the Coalition's efforts, and they presented ways they felt that both groups could better serve the community. "In the past, communication seemed one-sided, without the concerns of the schools being heard also." Since the schools need to act within the constraints of the public school system, it is difficult for them to implement the changes needed unless monies can be allocated for the unique needs of Wai'anae.

The principals are in support of the Coalition's recommendations, but in reality, their hands are tied by the lack of funds. It seems that legislation, at the state level, needs to be invoked that would identify and recognize the special problems of Wai'anae. Presently, the Wai'anae schools are only given a small part of the financial pie that is allocated for the Leeward District. Since Wai'anae apparently has less

power socio-economically, legislatures tend to "hear" constituents who have more political clout. Therefore, one finds that monies are poured into schools in the Pearl City, Aiea, and Makakilo areas, with trickle down effects finally reaching Wai'anae.

The "Plan For Action" by the NEA involves fundamental changes in the priority we Americans put on Education; changes in the way we run our schools; changes in the ways we train and pay teachers and administrators; and changes in the very goals we set for education. Our goal must be ever broader access to education for all students and access to quality as well. The first purpose of our schools is to create good citizens; the second purpose is to create productive people, capable of living in peace and able to enjoy the fruits of their labors.

OTHER NEWS

The Wai'anae Coast School Concerns Coalition supports the Peace Education Program because:

It is an expression of community concern and responsibility for creating a desire for a peaceful atmosphere in the school and community.

It helps students to take pride in themselves and their neighborhood.

It helps to prevent drug use by giving students a sense of self-worth and hope for the future.

It shows the relationship between personal violence and global violence.

It enables us to see that students are happier with peaceful resolution of conflict rather than with violent resistance. It helps them to appreciate that greater strength and courage is required for non-violence.

It is a unified program showing that peace and harmony need to be promoted in nature, person, family, school, community and global affairs.

COALITION UPDATE

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THE NANAKULI ISSUE

Marie Olsen, a former WCSCC Steering Committee member, reported on the request from the Nanakuli Hawaiian Homestead Association to the coalition for support over an incident at Nanakuli High School. The Principal, in an assembly with 200 eighth graders, harassed by a small group of boys, used profanity (5 times) in expressing his displeasure and frustration. Other students, expressing their unhappiness over the use of profanity, wrote letters which were picked-up and duplicated for distribution in the community by other community citizens. Distribution of the letters and other literature containing additional charges toward the Principal has stirred the school administration and Nanakuli community. Representatives of the coalition have attended several meetings to ascertain the facts and to help establish a basis for communication and understanding. The Steering Committee discussed the matter at length and passed the following three motions:

- A) The Coalition will send a letter to the Acting Superintendent with appropriate carbon copies, to express our clear displeasure over the repeated use of profanity by the Principal of Nanakuli High School at an assembly of eighth grade students on March 7th.
- B) We will write appropriate letters expressing our continued support for Mrs. Nona Telles, the teacher who gathered the letters and asked another person to convey them to the addressee, but without permission began duplicating and distributing the letters. Mrs. Telles, a former Coalition member, has been a caring, culturally relevant and committed teacher,

who we continue to encourage and support.

- C) The Coalition will write a general letter of support to students as they express and articulate their feelings and sentiments connected with their education and schools.

The coalition appreciates Marie Olsen's concern and bringing the matter to our attention. The Coalition will continue its attention to the development of these issues.

The Waianae Coast School Concerns Coalition Steering Committee met on Wed., March 21, at the Satellite City Hall. Several items were discussed by the group and the following is a brief synopsis of what transpired:

STATEWIDE REPORT CARD: A copy of the testimony given at the State Board of Education meeting was circulated. Bob reported that Board action was being delayed in order to give teachers more time to have input. Billie said the major issue Statewide is that of resistance to the change in philosophy--moving from grading children according to their "ability to grading them against objective standards.

AHA KUKA FOLLOW-UP WORKSHOP: Isabel reported on the participation by herself, Pua'ala, Billie and Liz Arakaki.

H.B. 571 AND H.B. 1370: MOTION: The Coalition is opposed to the concept of an appointed Board of Education and approved the action of the Coordinator and the Chairman in so testifying.

JULY 4 FUND-RAISING EVENT: The idea of a fund-raising fair is

be held at some community location such as Ohikilolo or Hawaiian Heritage Center was presented for consideration. It was agreed that a major consideration would be the time such an effort would take from other staff activities. MOTION: The staff and a committee will pursue this idea and bring more information back to the Steering Committee.

COALITION NETWORKING: The Coordinator and the Chairman will contact other organizations and report back at the May meeting.

QUALIFICATIONS OF SECONDARY TEACHERS: A request that the Coalition establish a committee to survey the secondary schools to determine the number of teachers who are teaching outside of their field was circulated. The Committee would come back to the Steering Committee with their findings and recommendations.

MOTION: To approve the request as circulated.

PEACE EDUCATION PROGRAM: At the present time the Peace Education Program is in all of the schools on the Waianae Coast except Nanakuli High and Intermediate Schools. The Coalition has long taken a position in support of this program and we are asked by Sister Anna to reaffirm that position. The Chair directed that such a letter be written. (See letter in this issue)

EARLY EDUCATION CHAIRMANSHIP: The Coordinator will call a meeting of the Early Education Committee to choose a new Chairman. The Committee is asked to keep in mind that Bill Prescott has indicated a willingness to serve.

COALITION CHAIN OF COMMAND: Chair will report on this issue at next meeting.

NEWSLETTER MAILING UP-DATE: Any changes or additions should be given to Coordinator.

DR. HATANAKA MEETING WITH COALITION: Chair will arrange a date.

PETER APO MEETING WITH COALITION ON LEGISLATIVE UP-DATE: Wed. meeting of the Steering Committee, May 16.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: The Chair appointed Danette Rayford to chair the Committee to select a vice-chairman for the next six month period which begins in July. She will select two other Committee members to make sure that she is willing to assume the chairmanship in July.

The next meeting of the steering Committee of the Coalition will be held Wednesday, April 18, 3:30 p.m. at Maluhia Church.

DEAR ADVOCATE

This letter is about problems we have in our instruction at Nanakuli Intermediate and High School.

We need to improve our school's teaching methods and teachers' qualifications to teach their subjects. We feel that some of the teachers are not qualified to teach their subjects. And some subjects need to be added to the program.

We students are requesting your support. A meeting with the Coalition would be one of the ways your support would be appreciated.

Also the needs of the few are just as important. For the individual will become independent after he or she leaves high school. What that person learns in school will be his or her edge on life.

Our school needs the support of both the community as a whole and better parents-to students relationships, so we the students are able to support ourselves and our families can be proud of us when we are on our own.

Your support in the areas listed below will be the beginning of better opportunities for Nanakuli students:

1. Hawaiian Subjects: improve and increase class exposure to our Hawaiian language and culture in every way possible.

2. Physics: a mandatory course for higher education. We would like to note your issue dated March 1984, page 3, is the same thing that happened to a student at Nanakuli High School.

3. Advanced Drafting: a personal goal

Dear Advocate cont.

to become a draftsman and the opportunity is not available to one of us in this school. My father had purchased equipment, table, and books but the are worthless without the class. I was told to repeat Mechanical Drawing I but I would not get credit for it.

4. College Prep. English: eliminate the limit on the number of students that can take College Prep English. Several of us students were denied admission to this class because it was filled by students that had already taken College Prep English the year before. This does not make sense!

5. Japanese Language: that might help us to understand and deal with them. It might help in employment in numerous fields in Hawaii as a foreign language for higher education requirement for gainful employment.

6. High School Choir: We would like to have a teacher who is qualified to teach choir. This year, choir is nothing more than a study hall, yet those students enrolled in choir are receiving a music credit.

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In closing, we feel that because we are in an all Hawaiian Homestead Community, we should not be deprived of our chance to receive a better education and to compete for those jobs that provide good salaries, prestige, respect and a right to receive what we feel have been denied us in our Nanakuli Homestead School.

Sincerely,

Liz Sellers

Dear Liz:

Thank you for your concerns. In response to your request for Coalition support, I have made arrangements for you and all interested Nanakuli Intermediate and High School Students to meet with the School Coalition Action Committee at the Butler Building located on Nanakuli Avenue on Thursday, May 17, 1984, 7:30 p.m.

THE WAIANAE COAST SCHOOL CONCERNS COALITION

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