

THE WAIANAE COAST SCHOOL CONCERNS

COALITION NEWSLETTER

Volume One, Issue Four

July 1983

WE NEED A NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Using population projections and planned developments along the Waianae Coast, the Department of Education, in the 1960's and early 1970's, developed conceptual plans to construct a number of new elementary schools.

Maili Kai (for a large planned subdivision in Maili), Waianae Uka (for population growth in the Waianae Valley area) and Waianae II and Makaha II for growth in those communities, were considered. Of these, only Waianae II (now Leihoku) was followed through.

In developing the ideas for Leihoku, the Department of Education felt that the school would be able to handle up to 900 students and plans were drawn to provide for this in increments.

In recent years, the growth in the Waianae and Makaha communities has been tremendous, almost surprising. All indications point to continued growth in Waianae and Makaha. Unfortunately, because some of the other schools were not developed, the Department of Education found itself with a large elementary population in Makaha and Waianae. To add to this dilemma, Makaha Elementary, already with over 1,000 students cannot absorb any more students.

The immediate problem has been centered at Makaha Elementary School. The school has no space to locate any additional portables or classrooms and the campus already has 13 portable classrooms.

Because Leihoku Elementary School was planned for 900 students, it

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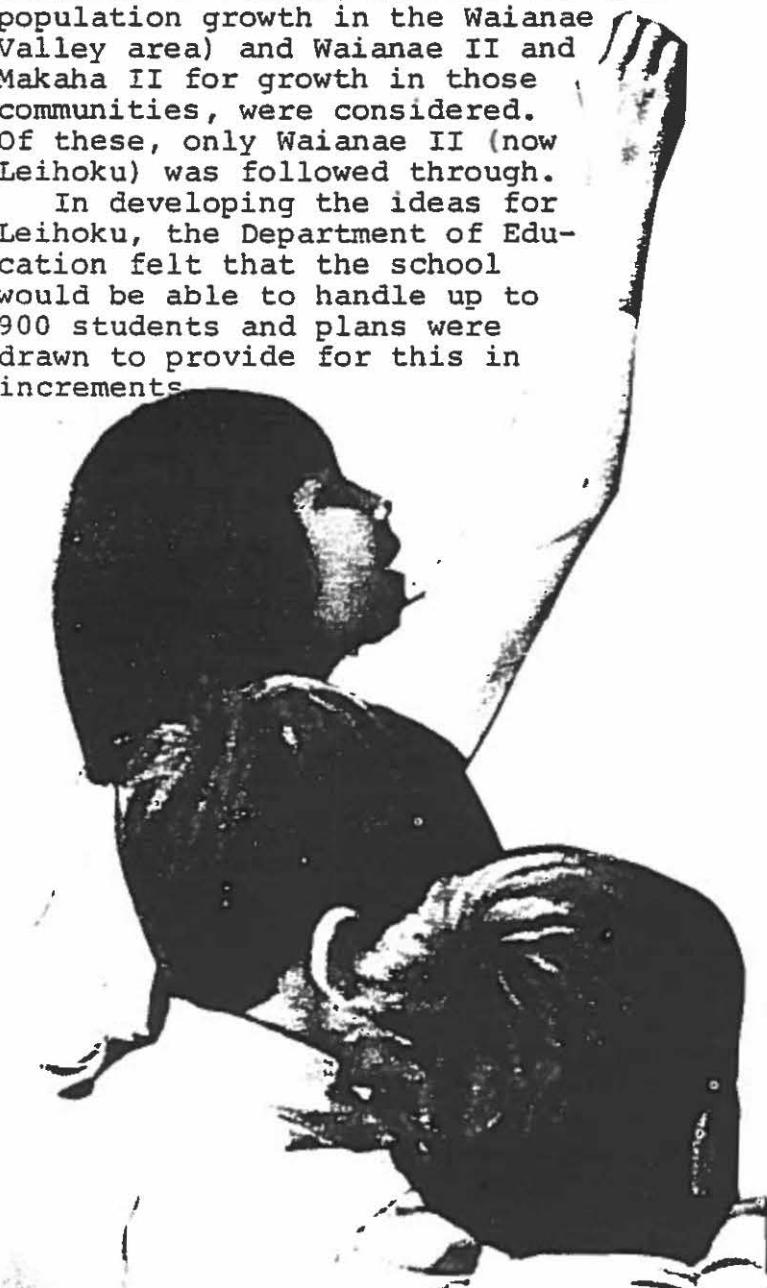
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Our DEAR ADVOCATE column is on pages 6-7. We discuss choosing your child's teacher and summer school tuition waivers.

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Our MONTHLY CALENDAR is on page 9.

All of us here at the Waianae Coast School Concerns Coalition hope you have a happy and fruitful month of July. Have a good summer!



BRIEFS

page two

Native Hawaiian Education Assessment Project Report

A long awaited report, called the NHEAP for short, was presented to US Education Secretary Terrel Bell in March 1983. The report was conducted by the Kamehameha Schools/Bishop Estate. Goals of the report were to identify the needs of Native Hawaiians and to identify Native American and local educational programs that meet those needs. It is being called the first comprehensive study on the educational needs of Native Hawaiians and brings out new information through scientific methods.

Senator Daniel Inouye has indicated that Senator Robert Stafford (D-VT), Chairman of the Education Sub-Committee of the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources, has agreed to hold hearings on the report later this year. For more information on the report, call the Kamehameha Schools or the School Coalition.

One Million Dropouts

The National Center for Education Statistics reports that more than one million students who entered public high schools in Fall 1977 failed to graduate in 1981. The report stated that this is an improvement over the year before. (Hawaii ranked 11th in the nation with 14,415 students entering high schools in 1977 and 11,472, or 79.6% of these students receiving their diplomas in 1981).

Youth in Hawaii

An Executive Summary of the Hawaii Basic Data and Information Book on Youth: Youth Twelve to Eighteen put together by the Hawaii State Office of Children and Youth is now available. The publication offers some interesting data on youth and the concerns and problems that affect our young, and sizeable population. Among these:

-it cost the State of Hawaii over \$972,000 to repair damages caused by vandalism at public schools in 1980-81. This is a 114% increase (more than double) over 1979-80. The Department of Education partly blames the increase to the ending of the CETA Night Security Program.

-most truants statewide are the sixteen year old male students. In fact, males outnumbered female truants in all age groups except for the twelve year olds.

-there are about 92,784 students in grades seven through twelve (about 46% of the total school enrollment in the state). Of this, 19% attend private schools making Hawaii fifth in the nation for its private school population.

-elementary school students have an easier time keeping SAT scores up to the national norm, our public high school students seem to be having a harder time doing so.

THE COALITION NEWSLETTER

A monthly publication provided by the
WAIANAE COAST SCHOOL CONCERNS COALTION

Joe Tassil, Steering Committee Chairman
Pua'ala McElhaney, Steering Committee Vice-Chairperson
Dwight Ovitt, Secretary
Joseph W. Lapilio III, Coordinator

NEW SCHOOL (con't.)

offered an immediate alternative to the Department of Education and re-districting is scheduled for the 1983-84 school year to avoid over-crowding.

In the beginning of the 1982 school year, Leihoku Elementary School had an enrollment of 351 students in 13 classrooms. In September 1983, the school will have 25 classrooms (including 3 portables) and 568 students. A third increment is planned to be built at Leihoku to provide more classroom space and designs are scheduled to be completed in 1984.

As part of the re-districting plan, students living on both sides of the Makaha Valley Road will now attend Waianae Elementary School. Students living in Waianae Valley, presently attending Waianae Elementary School will be moved to Leihoku.

On Tuesday, May 31, 1983, about 30 parents met with Coalition representatives and with Peter Apo and James Aki to discuss the expansion plans for Leihoku and to express concerns about the size of other elementary schools on the Waianae Coast. (Speaker Henry Peters, having another engagement, was unable to attend but was briefed on the meeting at a later date).

The meeting was set up by parents in the Leihoku Ohana Parent Group, teachers and parents from Makaha Elementary School and by residents and parents from the Waianae Valley Homestead.

After receiving support from the parents that night, a meeting was set up at the Leeward District Office of the DOE to discuss these concerns. Representative Peter Apo helped to arrange this meeting and a meeting was held on Thursday, June 23rd.

Continued on the next page

PROJECTION

Without Re-districting

School	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988
Leihoku	363	383	387	444	496	500
Makaha	1,113	1,178	1,219	1,256	1,303	1,326
Waianae	1,175	1,159	1,153	1,204	1,210	1,232

With Re-districting

School	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988
Leihoku	618	638	642	699	751	755
Makaha	953	1,018	1,059	1,096	1,143	1,166
Waianae	1,080	1,064	1,058	1,109	1,115	1,137

Among the concerns shared with Leeward District Superintendent Andy Nii were the following four points:

- 1) parents want Leihoku to remain small and do not want the enrollment to go beyond 700 students.
- 2) there is a need for a new elementary school on the Waianae Coast to not only keep Leihoku small, but to help reduce the size of the enrollments at Makaha and Waianae Elementary Schools.
- 3) there is a need to plan a school to address the population growth in Waianae Valley. There are already 200 students from the homestead attending elementary with many more homes being planned for the valley in the future.
- 4) we want some form of enrollment limits in elementary schools.

In meeting with Andy Nii, the Deputy District Superintendent Hartwell Leeloy and Walter Tanaka, Facilities Specialist, we learned that at present, there is little that can be done to keep Leihoku small without causing overcrowding at other schools on the Waianae Coast.

While this problem has been evident for some time, however, financial support from the State to develop alternative school sites has not been provided. While parents have attempted to locate and study possible sites for a new school, no 'formal' studies have been done. While conceptual plans were considered for a number of new schools, including one for the Waianae Valley area, that is exactly what they remain-concepts.

Andy Nii also made it clear that enrollment limits are out of his hands and are Board of Education and State Legislature considerations.

What compounds the problem for our elementary students is that the length of time needed for the Department of Education for planning and actual opening of a school takes about five years.

Representative Peter Apo has already agreed to work with the other representatives from the Waianae Coast and to seek funding for a new elementary school on the Waianae Coast.

As a community, we need to pull together. Several of our elementary schools are already much too large for our youngest students. While attempts can be made to compare test scores and other measurements with other large elementary schools in the state, it needs to be acknowledged that the Waianae Coast has always been seen as having many problems-among them, education.

It is somewhat of a paradox that parents in other communities can successfully keep their elementary schools small (100-300 students), but in Waianae, we are faced with the prospect of overcrowded elementaries.

The Waianae Coast School Concerns Coalition has already supported the need to develop the basic skills early in the elementary grade levels. Waianae's two smallest schools (Leihoku and Nanakuli Elementary) have been the most successful in developing reading and math ability and in meeting state averages. Our larger elementary schools have a disproportionate number of students scoring below average in reading and math.

During the 1984 Legislative Session, the Waianae Coast School Concerns Coalition will be working very closely with the Department of Education and our representatives to see that plans for a new school get off the ground and that we begin to meet the problem of overcrowding head-on. We deserve quality education.



COALITION UPDATE

page five

THE EARLY EDUCATION TASK FORCE met on June 21st with Mr. Fred Cachola and Mr. Eli Nahulu from the Kamehameha Extension Education Program to discuss the possibilities of expanding the KEEP program into more Waianae Coast Schools and to discuss ways the Kamehameha Schools/Bishop Estate might work with the Waianae Community in developing educational programs.

Chairperson, Isabel Hacskaylo arranged the meeting and with a dozen others in attendance we were able to get information on what problems Kamehameha faced in providing the KEEP program in Hawaii communities.

According to Fred Cachola, the issue is no longer money or the support from the Department of Education. The program has been having problems in the training of teachers and in locating people willing to go through the program.

In what turned out to be somewhat of a disappointment to some of those in attendance, the KEEP program will not be expanded to other schools in the near future. KEEP, however, will be increasing the number of grade levels involved in the program at schools already having it.

The Coalition will be arranging a tour of the KEEP facility at Kamehameha to see the training program for KEEP teachers, we will be conducting a tour of the Waianae Coast schools for the Bishop Estate Trustees and Kamehameha will be visiting with us in the future to discuss other programs available that may be worthwhile on the Waianae Coast...

THE SUMMER SESSION ENRICHMENT AND EXPLORATION COMMITTEE will be addressing the Board of Education in July to discuss the problems parents on the Waianae Coast faced with the lack of financial support from the DOE in summer school tuition waivers. In what is becoming an annual problem, we hope to be able to get more DOE involvement in summer school...

The LEGAL/LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE will be developing a legislative package concerning education to present in the 1984 Legislative Session. We have been receiving support from our representatives and will be continuing at our next meeting to firm up those ideas that we feel should be supported by the legislature.

Among those ideas we are hoping to develop are increases in funding for the summer session, mandatory kindergarten, a voucher system for compensatory services to students, and funds to study the feasibility of a new elementary school on the Waianae Coast. In all there are sixteen proposals being worked on, if you have any questions or would like to find out what those proposals are, call the Coalition office...

The STUDENT ADVOCATE PROGRAM has begun their summer training session. Students from the Summer Youth Employment Program are in the seven week session learning about the DOE, the rules and regulations that the department works under, leadership training and development skills. During the summer they will be putting on several dances to raise funds and a weekend retreat may be one of the activities planned.

Any students that may be interested in attending the training session are more than welcome...



DEAR ADVOCATE

Page six

My son will enter kindergarten at --- Elementary School in September, I requested a teacher I heard is considered a very good teacher. I have been told by the school that the principal has told staff, parents will not be allowed to choose teachers. Can he do this?

It has been 'standard practice' in the schools to have the principal decide on the process used to assign students to teachers and to assign teachers to particular grade levels and subjects. The DOE operates under the assumption that all teachers, as professionals, are capable and can teach.

We understand and support your interest in seeing that your son gets the best education possible and in reality we all know that teachers, like all other occupations, can come in varying quality. We hope that the principal does not see his directive as a solution.

We recommend that you go sit with your son's counselor and with the principal to discuss this. There are a number of teachers on the Waianae Coast that work really well with their students. Your principal would do well to see that successful teaching techniques are shared. You might also mention to the principal that a number of programs dealing with teaching techniques, such as the Kamehameha Early Education Project (KEEP), are already in operation in some schools in Waianae and have been very successful. The principal should have this information-if not, have him or her call us.

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, Hawaii 96792.

For assistance in the school 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.

If the reason you are concerned is because you think a teacher is not good, then see your principal immediately and share your concerns and ask what he or she, as the principal, intends to do. Call us if you need help.

I am furious! I was just informed by my daughter's elementary school that I cannot get a tuition waiver for her to attend summer school. I want my four daughters to learn and they have been looking forward to going to summer school, but I cannot afford it. What can I do?

You are not alone, we have been receiving many calls on this issue and many other parents are mad at what is happening.

The DOE provides waivers to students needing them to attend summer school. Income determines eligibility. But the waivers are given out on a first-come first-served basis. This was not much of a problem prior to this year. In the DOE's previous methods at informing parents, not many signed up to send their children to summer school.

This year, more information has been going out to parents about summer school and many students are signing up to go. Too many for the DOE to provide waivers for (see the chart below for a breakdown of the need).



Waivers are 'extra' funds supplied to the DOE by the State Legislature. On an average, enough money has been allocated to provide waivers to only about 60% of those that need it. Because of this year's high interest, the DOE has had to search other others for money to pay for our children. They still have not found enough to cover all of those that need it.

According to the Department of Education, those students unable to get waivers will be required to pay the \$63 tuition or they cannot attend classes.

We think that it's time the State Legislature and the DOE stop treating summer school like an extra-curricular activity. We have a number of people in our Summer Enrichment/Exploration Program Committee (a Coalition committee) and we could use your support. Call us for more information.



We Need Your Support...

The Waianae Coast School Concerns 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. Mahalo.

SUMMER SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AND WAIVER DISTRIBUTION*

	<u>Number Enrolled</u>	<u>Students Paid</u>	<u>Waiver Requests</u>	<u>Waivers Given</u>	<u>Waivers Needed</u>
<u>Waianae Coast High Schools:</u>	100	54	46	27	19
<u>Elementary Schools:</u>					
Makaha	103	9	94	53	41
Waianae	88	7	81	46	35
Leihoku	17	2	15	8	7
Maili	62	4	58	33	25
Nanakuli	42	2	40	23	17
Nanaikapono	24	5	19	10	9
<u>Totals:</u>	<u>336</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>307</u>	<u>173</u>	<u>134</u>

*Information supplied by the Department of Education, Leeward District Office May 25, 1983.

OTHER NEWS

NANAKULI STUDENT SELECTED FOR MAINLAND TRAINING PROGRAM

The American Friends Service Committee of Hawaii recently announced the selection of a Nanakuli High School student to attend the "Third World Youth/Militarism/Draft Summer Project" in Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Humphrey Chai, who will be a senior at Nanakuli High in the Fall, was chosen to learn about and address the multi-dimensional impact militarism has on Black, Latin, Asian and Native American poor communities. Upon his return to Hawaii, Humphrey will work with other students at both Nanakuli and Waianae High Schools to share with them what he has learned while studying on the mainland this summer.

The goals of the project are:

1. To make information about militarism and the draft available in Third World communities.
2. To provide young people with the skills needed to become effective organizers in their own communities; and
3. To provide young people with the opportunity to exchange ideas and become an organized voice for youth perspectives on militarism.

Selection of Humphrey Chai was done by three members of the Peace Education Project who also serve as local representatives to the American Friends Service Committee.

For students or community members who wish more information about either the Peace Education Project of AFSC, please call Mabel DeCambra at 696-4913.

MR SEKI IS LEAVING

We have received word that Mr. Stan Seki, Principal at Leihoku Elementary School will be leaving us this year. As of the printing of this newsletter, we have not heard of who will be replacing him at the helm of the school.

Stan has been a tremendous boost to the parents and students at Leihoku Elementary School and the Waianae Coast School Concerns Coalition has always found him to be helpful and we acknowledge him as an asset.

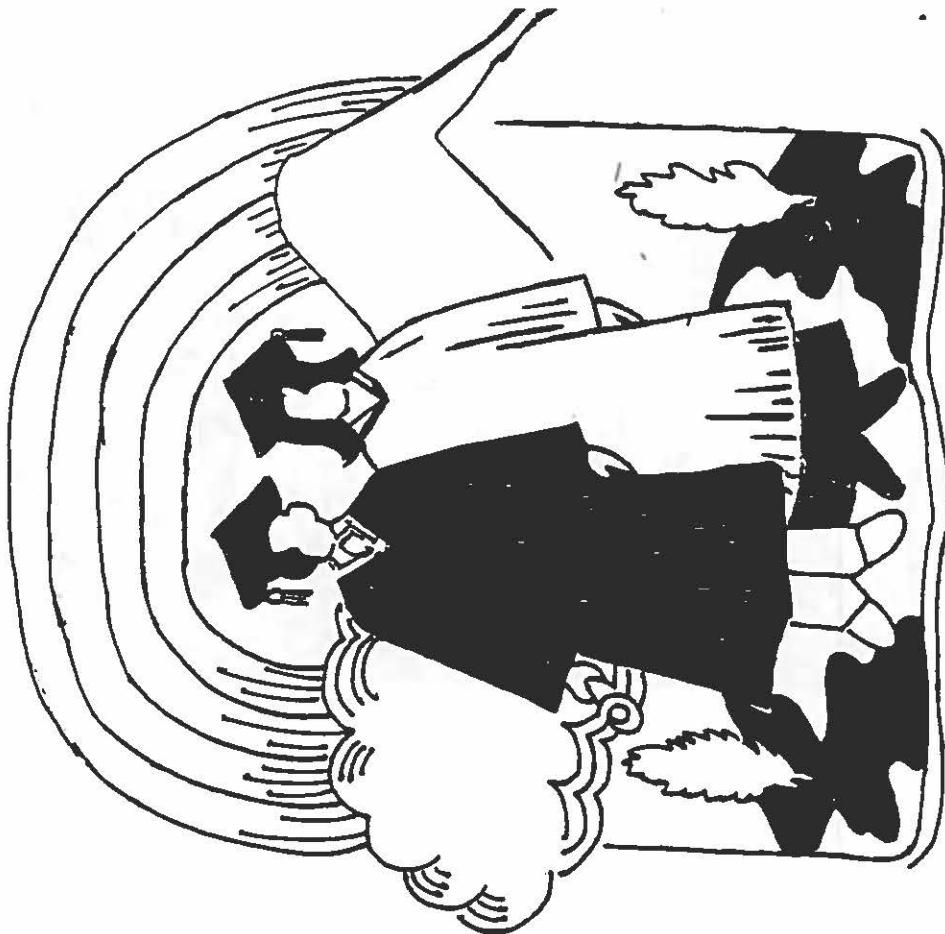
To Mr. Stan Seki, we wish to express our sincere mahalo and best wishes and to the community that will be receiving him in his new capacity, we offer our congratulations.



THE WAIANAE COAST SCHOOL
CONCERN COALITION**JULY 1983**

FOUNDED IN 1979

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6 WCSCC Exec Committee Meeting at HCAP-1pm.	7	8	9
10	11	12 Summer Session Committee Mtg. HCAP-1pm.	13	14 Action Committee Mtg HCAP 1pm.	15	16
17	18 Legal/Legislative Committee Mtg. 9am.	19	20 WCSCC Steering Committee Mtg HCAP 2:30pm.	21	22	23
24	25	26 Early Education Task Force Mtg HCAP 1pm.	27 Hawaiian Studies Comm. Mtg. HCAP 2pm.	28 Vocational Ed. Committee Mtg. HCAP 1:30pm.	29	30



THE WAIANAE COAST SCHOOL CONCERNS COALITION

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