



Administrator's Role in Programs for Exceptional Children

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The Program Administrator

The Program Administrator's position in the Special Education Section was created in 1966 during the recent reorganization of the Guidance and Special Education Branch of the Department of Education.

Serving under the direct supervision of the Director of Guidance and Special Education Branch, and with the assistance of the Program Specialists, the Program Administrator serves as coordinator of all programs for exceptional children in the regular district schools and the special schools. The special schools include Diamond Head School, the state school for the deaf and the blind; Linekona School, state school for the mentally retarded educable classes at the intermediate level; Pohukaina School for the mentally retarded trainable and the orthopedically handicapped; Kaioli School for the emotionally handicapped; Booth Memorial classes for the unwed mothers;

the Olomana School for the children from the Koolau Youth Correctional Facility; Detention Home; Shriner's Hospital classes for the hospitalized orthopedically handicapped children; and a class at the State Hospital.

The special programs in the regular district schools include classes for the mentally retarded trainable and educable children, emotionally handicapped, visually handicapped and the hard-of-hearing.

Decentralization

With the decentralization of the schools on Oahu and the accompanying services, each of the seven districts is now staffed by a Staff Specialist for Special Services. The Program Administrator and Program Specialists at the State Level provide their services through the District Staff Specialists for Special Services. Among the services provided are the establishment of guidelines for various programs for exceptional chil-

dren, providing information on national trends related to the different areas of exceptionality, disseminating information on training opportunities for prospective special education teachers, assisting in the establishment of new programs, and serving as an interdistrict exchange for ideas and experiences pertaining to special education.

Various Roles

The primary role of the Program Administrator will be to coordinate services among the public and private agencies and the various school districts. Specialized consultation services will be given by the Program Specialists for the specific areas of exceptionality.

Another important role will be in the evaluation of existing programs to see if they need supplementary services, modifications, or consolidation with other programs. The Program Administrator, with the assistance of

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