

Nā Kumu o Kamehameha

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FACULTY SEEKS TO IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AT KAMEHAMEHA; TRUSTEES IGNORE FACULTY REQUESTS

Nā Kumu o Kamehameha, a group of over 200 faculty members, pre-school through grade 12, of the Kamehameha Schools Kapālama campus have been meeting to address concerns regarding the management of Kamehameha Schools. The faculty is making its position public at this time for reasons discussed below. In relation to the current problems facing the Kamehameha Schools Bernice Pauahi Bishop Estate (KSBE), the faculty raises the following three points:

1. KSBE trustees have ignored requests for meetings to discuss concerns brought by a recently formed faculty group. This group (now called Nā Kumu o Kamehameha) issued its first statements to the trustees on May 15, 1997.
 2. The faculty has serious reservations regarding certain trustee statements in their petition to the Probate Court calling for an independent fact-finder (see attached). However, the faculty does support an open investigation process.
 3. The faculty remains committed to improving the educational environment at Kamehameha.
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1. Nā Kumu o Kamehameha continues to hope that solutions to the school's current problems can be resolved within the Kamehameha 'ohana. As a first step, the group wished to meet directly with trustees.
 - On May 15, the faculty group sent two statements of concern to the five trustees. These statements included suggestions to resolve the current problems and a request for a meeting to initiate that process.
 - On May 20, representatives of Nā Kumu o Kamehameha sent a second request to the trustees for a meeting to be scheduled before the close of the school year.
 - On May 21 and May 22, Nā Kumu o Kamehameha arranged that a third request for a meeting with the trustees be sent to them via upper-level school administrators.
 - Trustees have failed to respond *in any form* to these requests.
 - By ignoring the faculty, the trustees have shifted discussions into a public forum.
 - Having failed to be acknowledged by the trustees, the faculty group has continued to meet and is now exploring different models for organizing more formally.

2. The faculty has considered the petition of the trustees to the Probate Court to appoint an independent fact-finder. The faculty supports an inclusive investigative process but disagrees with a number of trustee statements in the petition, among which are the following:
- The trustees assert (section 11) that "there now exists a serious internal situation arising from various allegations concerning the management and administration of the Kamehameha Schools." The "serious internal situation" arises not "from various allegations concerning the management and administration of the Kamehameha Schools" but from real and pervasive problems in these areas. The faculty has been actively trying to address these issues for a period of years.
 - The trustees allege (section 18) that "efforts to initiate a process to assemble complete and accurate information have been unsuccessful to date." The faculty is unaware of any such comprehensive attempts by the trustees. As outlined above, the trustees have ignored even recent faculty attempts to initiate such a process.
 - The trustees suggest (section 19) that "there is now a brief opportunity to conduct an impartial inquiry and make appropriate decisions before the commencement of the next school year." To conduct a thorough fact-finding inquiry would require longer than the summer break. To "make appropriate decisions" to address the problems would take even longer. Both phases should involve all impacted parties, including students, parents, and faculty who will not be readily available during the summer.
 - The trustees (section 23(2)(a) and 23(2)(b)) have hand-picked an investigator "to render to all of the Trustees and the Estate's General Counsel a written report" and "privileged advice and counsel." Under the terms of the petition, no other individuals, even within KSBE, would receive this information. Such secrecy works against a shared resolution of the issues by all parties involved.
3. The faculty is committed to a long-term, cooperative process of rebuilding our learning community. Despite the problems facing KSBE, faculty-student interaction remains of the highest quality. With enlightened governance and the participation of all parties, our total educational environment will be improved. In working together, we will honor the vision of our beloved founder, *Ke Ali'i Pauahi*.

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* These faculty members may be reached to confirm the accuracy of this press release. They will not provide additional information. Statements in this press release should be attributed to Nā Kumu o Kamehameha and not to the individual contacts.