

Na Pua a Pauahi

P.O. Box 3225
Honolulu, Hawaii 96801

Officers and Directors

President
Antoinette (Toni) L. Lee

First Vice President
Jan E. Dill

Second Vice President
Toni D. Chong

Treasurer
Patrick Iona

Assistant Treasurer
Julie Nurre

Secretary
Marion Joy

Assistant Secretary
Karen Keawehawai'i Fariss

Additional Directors
Roy Benham
Dutchie Kapu Saffery

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 3, 1997

BISHOP ESTATE REFUSES TO MEET WITH NA PUA A PAUAHI; GROUP INCORPORATES TO PURSUE OTHER OPTIONS

Bishop Estate trustees have decided not to meet with Na Pua a Pauahi, a group representing approximately 2,500 students, parents and alumni of Kamehameha Schools. Na Pua has now incorporated and taken steps to form a non-profit organization to address its concerns about serious morale and other problems at the school.

"Since our march on May 15, we have tried repeatedly to meet with the trustees and they agreed to sit down and hear our concerns," says Antoinette (Toni) Lee, president of the newly formed non-profit organization. "Considering the unprecedented outpouring of concern over the problems at the school, it's difficult to understand why the trustees have closed their doors to us," Lee says.

In a May 30 letter to Na Pua, Trustee and Board Chairman Richard Wong, stated "further discussions with Na Pua a Pauahi would not be productive at this time."

Na Pua has learned that Bishop Estate filed suit on March 14 in Probate Court to authorize the trustees to delegate authority to a designated fact-finder to investigate the matter. The trustees would like former Probate Judge Patrick Yim to be selected for this task. A hearing is scheduled for June 13.

"The courts should be a last resort," Lee says. "With the Estate's in-house resources, we believe the trustees already know about the problems the administration, faculty and students are facing. They don't need to waste valuable time and money for someone else to tell them. These issues must be resolved before the new school year begins.

(more)

Na Pua a Pauahi Incorporates

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"Although Mr. Wong says he does not want to discuss our concerns in the media," Lee says, "their refusal to meet with us leaves us no choice. This is a David and Goliath situation, and since we don't have the resources the Estate does, the media is one of the only ways we can communicate."

In addition to Lee, Na Pua's officers are Jan E. Dill, first vice president; Tomi D. Chong, second vice president; Patrick Iona, treasurer; Julie Nurré, assistant treasurer; Marion Joy, secretary; and Karen Keawehawai'i Farias, assistant secretary. All officers are also Na Pua directors as are Roy Benham and Carmelita Kina'u (Dutchie) Kapu Saffery. Beadie Kanahale Dawson has been retained as legal counsel for the group. Na Pua's membership is comprised of students, parents and alumni. An auxiliary group is being formed to include other supporters of Na Pua a Pauahi.

Na Pua's purpose as outlined in the group's Articles of Incorporation are "to conduct charitable, educational, cultural, and other activities described in, or consistent with Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code; to protect and promote the purpose and intent of the will of Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop — who established the Kamehameha Schools — and ensure they are carried out for the benefit of her beneficiaries; and to support the mission of the Kamehameha Schools to provide a quality education in a nurturing environment for its students."

Na Pua a Pauahi is accepting contributions to help offset some of its costs, which could be significant should the group have to pursue the matter in court.

While the group's 501(c)(3) status is pending with the IRS, tax-deductible contributions to Na Pua may be made through the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation. Checks must be made payable to "Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation" and mailed to Na Pua's address P.O. Box 3225 Honolulu, Hawaii 96801. Please indicate on your check that your contribution is intended for Na Pua a Pauahi.

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