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Hanahau'oli Head of School to retire in 2013

HONOLULU (January 20, 2012)—The Board of Trustees of Hanahau'oli School announces the retirement of Head of School Robert G. Peters, EdD, 69, following the 2012-13 school year.

A search committee has been formed to secure his successor. Eric Schiff, Chair of the board of Trustees, noted the excellent reputation of the school and said the Board anticipates interest from a strong range of candidates during a search that will reach internationally.

“Dr. Peters will leave an enduring legacy at a school that is well prepared for the future,” Schiff said. “From the beginning of his tenure, Dr. Peters has lived the school’s culture and mission of progressive education – learning by doing. His impact will be felt for generations, especially via the outstanding faculty and staff he has so strongly supported and developed.”

Dr. Peters became Head of School in 1982. Under his leadership over the last 30 years, Hanahau'oli has achieved several major milestones and has become a beacon for learning innovation in Hawaii and nationwide. In 1986 Hanahau'oli was chosen as one of 60 exemplary private schools in the nation in the first “Excellence in Elementary Schools” search held by the Council for American Private Education and the National Department of Education. In 1991, the school was first accredited by the prestigious Western Association of Schools and Colleges, and in 1997, Hanahau'oli became a multi-age school.

Malama la Hanahau'oli, a three phase capital campaign spanning the 11 years from 1999-2010, allowed the school to build three new buildings and complete numerous campus renovations to support multiage learning. In 2011, Hanahau'oli's Professional Development Center opened to provide educational workshops and seminars in support of the school's mission to create partnerships and serve a broader public purpose.

Dr. Peters said, “The last 30 years have been an incredible journey and I feel so honored to have been a part of this special school where ‘joyous work’ is the norm. There are few schools, I suspect, that can make that claim with any strong conviction; yet, Hanahau'oli has been and will continue to be the place where that description characterizes the school's daily life.”

Robert G. Peters, EdD

Dr. Robert G. Peters has been Head of Hanahau`oli School since 1982. Prior to that, he was the Acting Director of the Smith College Campus School in Northampton, Massachusetts, where he also served as a teacher and administrator for 12 years. During that time, he taught courses at Smith College, Hampshire College and the University of Massachusetts. Since moving to Hawaii, Peters has taught graduate courses in curriculum development for the U.H. College of Education and is currently an instructor in the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS)/UH Masters Degree in Private School Leadership. His doctorate in educational foundations is from the University of Massachusetts.

In 2005, Dr. Peters served as the delegate from HAIS on the Act 151 Temporary Early Childhood Taskforce. When it became Act 259, Dr. Peters became co-chair of the Taskforce and subsequently was elected to chair the state's Early Learning Council. In that role, he serves with 12 other public and private members seeking to design a comprehensive, state-wide early learning system which will serve all of Hawaii's children from birth to age 5. As part of his work on behalf of early childhood, Dr. Peters delivered the Shiro Amioka Lecture at U.H-Manoa entitled, "Keiki First: the Foundation of a Sustainable Future" in 2008.

Dr. Peters is a past president of the Hawaii Alliance for Arts in Education and a former board member for the Elementary School Center and the Hawaii Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. He currently serves as a board member for Holy Nativity School and Academy of the Pacific. He is a member of the board of directors of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools and serves chair of its Elementary Commission. Twice he was elected the Board's President. Two terms on the Board of the National Association of Independent Schools found him as chair of the Equity and Justice Committee and the Commission on Accreditation's Committee for Model Core Standards. He has recently completed a 6 year term as a commissioner for the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and is working on a study group to redesign the accreditation protocol for Hawaii and California independent schools.

Hanahau'oli School is located at 1922 Makiki Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822. On the web at www.hanahauoli.org.

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