

January 18, 2012

Dear Eric,

As you and the Board are aware, I have been considering the best time to retire from Hanahau'oli School. After much thought, I have decided that the end of the 2012 -13 academic year will be my last as Head of School. While departing what has been such a significant part of my life will be difficult, it seems the right time.

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.

There is no doubt that the longevity of my tenure has been in large measure because of the people with whom I have worked. Over the three decades, the Board of Trustees has benefited from strong leadership and members who not only understood and supported the mission of the school but stepped forward to insure that this great school became even better. On a personal note, the Board also recognized the importance of sustaining professional growth for all faculty and staff thus encouraging me to learn and grow as both an educator and a leader. Few faculties anywhere are as devoted to children and to ensuring that the progressive tradition is carried out in their instruction and assessment. It takes a lot of time and hard work to conduct the quality of program that our teachers offer. It has been so exciting to learn with them and to be challenged by their questions and constant desire to improve. As the sign in my office says, "There they go, I must hurry after them for I am their leader." And of course, the staff who are the "people behind the scenes" have made the difference in so many ways by inviting people into the school and ensuring that their experiences were positive and supported.

Families at Hanahau'oli have made my years here that much more special. They are committed to the school, eager to share and contribute whenever asked and, most important, always available for their children. Of course at the center of it all have been the children and now, too, the graduates who return to share what Hanahau'oli has meant to them. Shaking hands has been the highlight of each day when children often share something special, ask a question or just say, "Have a great day, Dr. Peters." Watching them enjoy and engage in learning has been the

greatest satisfaction as has been watching them grow in confidence and competence over their eight years as they anticipate the very special traditions that build their fond memories of Hanahau'oli years.

Most of all, I want to thank my family. My wife Pat has literally been the "woman behind the man" who allowed me to immerse myself in the work I love. Having four sons, two of whom are Hanahau'oli graduates and two current parents at Hanahau'oli, who understand why this work has been so important has encouraged me to continue. And, who is so lucky to work in the place their grandchildren go to school?! I leave knowing they are in good hands because Hanahau'oli is both strong and vibrant. It is fiscally sound, facilities are in excellent shape, applications are stable and exceed openings by 5 to 1, and the school is always fully enrolled. Most of all, the new Head of School will be welcomed by a veteran faculty and staff committed to quality experiences for children, a thoughtful Board of Trustees who are planning a smooth and effective transition and a parent community that is an 'ohana of shared purpose. This is an opportunity for further growth and refinement of this very special place.

As the song says, "I know this place and I know it well" and I thank everyone for the opportunity to experience excellence, a community of learners and that intangible almost spiritual feeling one has entering the courtyard that one is "home."

Aloha,



Dear Hanahau'oli Families and Friends:

Our beloved head of school, Dr. Robert G. Peters, will be retiring at the end of the 2012-2013 school year. We acknowledge this news with a mixture of sadness at his departure, well wishes for his retirement, and the deepest of gratitude for his expertise, care and dedicated commitment to Hanahau'oli School.

Dr. Peters' 30 years of service to Hanahau'oli have been extraordinary, and he will leave an enduring legacy at a school that is well prepared for the future. He has been a steward of all that is great about our school and a visionary who has raised

the school to new heights. From the beginning of his tenure, Bob has lived the school's culture and mission of progressive education – learning by doing. Walking around the Hanahau'oli campus, we see and feel his accomplishments everywhere - in our new facilities, in the school's leadership in elementary education, and most of all in the outstanding faculty and staff he has so strongly supported and developed. Bob will lead us through the rest of this year and all of the next school year, and we have no doubt that the school will continue to flourish.

The Board of Trustees has worked together with Dr. Peters for some time to plan for his eventual retirement. We have formed a search committee which will immediately begin the careful process of selecting a successor. A well respected educational search consultant has been selected to help us manage the search process. Given the excellent reputation of the school, we anticipate interest from a strong range of candidates during a search that will reach internationally. We have in place a very thorough process to consider candidates carefully. This is a great opportunity to work together to find a new head who shares our values and mission and who will lead the school forward with vision and expertise. We will solicit input from the school community on the qualities we would most like to see in a new Head of School, and we will provide regular updates as the process unfolds.

Over the next year and a half our school community will, with leadership from Dr. Peters and the Board, move forward with our "Happy Work" with the children, executing our strategic plans and continuing to support our outstanding faculty and staff. We believe that the strength of Hanahau'oli lies not only in delivering on its mission, but also in the nurturing, collaborative and dedicated community Bob helped form.

We know that you will join with the Hanahau'oli Board of Trustees in thanking Dr. Peters for his years of dedication and in expressing our love and appreciation for him over the course of this and the next school year.

Thank you for your continued support of Hanahau'oli.



Eric Schiff
President, Board of Trustees

Basic Information about the Hanahau'oli New Head Search

Hanahau'oli's 2010 Accreditation Report noted the importance of ensuring adequate Board leadership and planning to provide a smooth transition for the new Head of School when Dr. Peters retires. The Board's two-day retreat in August 2010 focused largely on developing the broad outlines of a transition plan. In June 2011, the Committee on Trustees developed a more detailed head-search plan and recommended the formation of a Search Committee, which was approved by the Board in August.

Search Committee (*appointed by Trustees*):

Sharon Himeno, Chair (*Parent and Trustee*)

Terry George, Vice-Chair (*President of Hui Hanahau'oli*)

Wendy Crabb (*Trustee*)

Sara Dudgeon (*Trustee*)

Russell Gifford (*Treasurer of the Board of Trustees*)

Marcia Roberts-Deutsch (*Vice President and Education Committee Chair of the Board of Trustees*)

Eric Schiff (*President of the Board of Trustees*)

Paul Singer (*Trustee*)

Questions about the Search can be sent to:

Sharon Himeno at shimeno@pohlhawaii.com

or Terry George at tgeorge@castlefoundation.org

Search Consultant:

Stephen G. DiCicco, *President, Educational Directions*

Dates for meetings with Search Committee members and with the search consultant to identify the ideal characteristics of a new school head for Hanahau'oli:

Sunday, January 29, 4 pm:

Special Hui General Membership Meeting (food and childcare provided)

February 15: meeting with search consultant

All-faculty meeting

February 16-17: meeting with search consultant

Small-group meetings with parents, staff, faculty, trustees, and alumni

Hanahau'oli School
1922 Makiki Street
Honolulu HI 96822



Stepping into the future...