

A Kamehameha Education

With K-12 campuses now on three islands and preschool and extension services expanding, Chief Education Officer Dr. "Skip" Hare is leading the effort to build a new educational system at Kamehameha Schools

Its proud history and traditions are still there, but as 2002 dawns, it's really not the same Kamehameha Schools that we may remember. "Kamehameha is changing in a very basic way," said Dr. Dudley "Skip" Hare Jr., who assumed the newly created position of Chief Education Officer in July 2001. "It's changing from a one campus, kindergarten through grade 12 program into an educational system which will include three campuses, more than 30 preschools and extension services throughout the islands."

With that basic shift taking place, Kamehameha Schools is now engaged in planning just how to provide quality educational services while maintaining a system-wide perspective. And that's where Hare comes in.

"We need to begin to reflect the fact that there are now three separate campuses, and we need to be able to answer one critical question: What does a Kamehameha diploma really mean? Does it mean the same thing on Maui as it does on Hawai'i, or on O'ahu?" Hare asked.



Dr. Dudley "Skip" Hare Jr.

"There's a realization that we need to be planning on a system-wide basis, looking at our standards and developing a philosophy of education and individual curriculum that brings everything together in terms of all the services that are provided."



"Our primary goal is to have every youngster challenged, working hard, enjoying what they're doing, loving learning and achieving at the highest level that they possibly can. That's what we want to have them do."

– DR. DUDLEY "SKIP" HARE JR.



“What does a Kamehameha diploma really mean?”

Toward that end, Kamehameha has established an Educational Planning Council, comprised of campus headmasters from Kapālama, Maui and Hawai‘i, and the deans of Extension Education and Early Childhood Education. Hare heads the council which meets weekly.

“There’s a wonderful synergy that takes place when you get three headmasters together with two deans and you begin to talk about important educational issues,” Hare said. “That chemistry raises the quality level of our decisions and we’re doing our planning in such a way that we’re bringing the whole system together.”

Hare said the council’s principal goal is to develop a philosophy of education based on Kamehameha’s Strategic Plan, which emphasizes, among other things, lifelong learning and knowledge of all things Hawaiian – history, culture and language.

Work groups – consisting of Kamehameha’s professional staff and teachers and principals on each island – will be formed and asked to craft a system-wide educational philosophy.

“We also need to spend time on content standards and performance standards,” Hare added. “The question is, what do we really want our students to know – what’s the content that we should be delivering to them? And how well do we want them to know that?”

Although the final policies will be formed by consensus, Hare does have some personal feelings about how Kamehameha’s educational system should be designed.

“When we look across the three campuses, Kamehameha needs common standards,” he said. “Primary objectives in each of the academic areas at each grade level – things we want the students to know and be able to do – and it should be clearly articulated.

“But when you go to the campus level, we need to look at things from the perspective of that campus. So, each campus could have the same institutional standards, but look to address them with a different curriculum.”

Hare said Kamehameha would be foolish to not take advantage of where each campus is geographically located. For example, the Hawai‘i Campus could benefit from the observatories on the island to study astronomy or from the volcanoes to study vulcanology.

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