

For Thoemmes, the pressure is on to deliver the facilities on time, and ready for use by students eager for a Kamehameha education. Thoemmes said that, at times, things can get a bit nerve racking.

"There are nights I wake up in a cold sweat because I think maybe I forgot something," Thoemmes laughed. "But I've been involved in the architectural project management field for 14 years, and these projects (Maui and Hawai'i campus construction) are by far the most exciting projects that I've been involved with.

"There are many, many issues to be resolved, and the best you can do is try to mitigate those issues down and stay on top of them and not let them slip through the cracks. We'll be there, but it's definitely a challenge."

Chamberlain comes to Kamehameha with vast experience in school construction and administration, having spent 22 years at Milton Hershey School in Pennsylvania and most recently serving as head of school for University Lake School in Wisconsin.

"What attracted me to Kamehameha was the opportunity to build a campus," he said. "That's very exciting and it's a once in a lifetime opportunity. And here's an opportunity with the resources to do it right.

"Helping to shape a school culture to serve a group of people is very appealing," Chamberlain added. "All school cultures are somewhat fluid, but making changes is hard. You get DNA built into your culture – this is the way we're going to do things – and the idea of shaping that culture before it has set is very exciting. Again, the idea is to do it right."

"Dr. Chamberlain has been a real pleasure to work with," Thoemmes said. "He obviously has done this kind of work before. He's a good communicator, and he's not afraid to make decisions. That certainly makes our job a lot easier."

"What I feel good about is we have really good people here on Maui," Chamberlain said. "So I'm more of a coordinator than a lone ranger. I'm here to serve people, help to raise the questions and bring the right groups of people together to work through the issues to try and create a consensus. I'm trying to listen to people."

One of the first things Chamberlain did as headmaster was to convene an Identity Task Force, comprised of students, teachers, staff members, parents and community members, to look at four key questions: what the KS-Maui colors, mascot, school song and logo should be.

Not surprisingly, maintaining the traditions of Kamehameha Schools was the general consensus of the group, although allowing for some modifications, with a suggestion of possibly calling the school athletic teams Maui Warriors instead of just Warriors, for example.

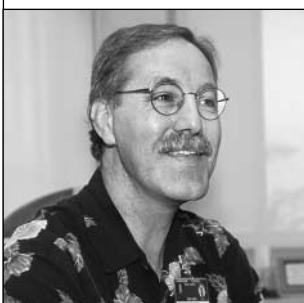
"In the long term, it's essential for KS-Maui to establish its own identity," Chamberlain said. "There should probably be a Maui song. We're very fortunate that on May Day, in addition to the traditional Kamehameha songs, our children sing a song written by **Kaipo Hale '68** (entitled "Maui Nui a Kama") that's about Maui. I'm sure that our own traditions will emerge over time."

"Dr. Chamberlain employs inclusive decision making at every turn," said KS-Maui K-8 Principal **LeeAnn DeLima '77**. "And his experience and leadership are really going to be put to the test here. Within the next four months, our student population is going to increase 110 percent and we're going to add a secondary program as well."

DeLima said family involvement is one of the key benefits of having Kamehameha campuses on neighbor islands. "Having a campus here on Maui provides opportunities for families to be involved in day-to-day school and extracurricular activities that otherwise may be limited for families of boarder students," she said.

"The research is clear that when families are involved with their children's school, children in turn are successful in the classroom. This is what we want: informed and active parents supporting student success."

"You hear that from a lot of parents, that they get to be with their kids here," said KS-Maui administrative aide **Kauko Kane '80**. "My son Nainoa is a freshman at



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Kapālama and it was hard for me to send him away. I’d have a real hard time letting my daughter go.”

One of the innovations on Maui will be the use of an “academy concept” for high school students. Four academy buildings will be constructed: science and natural resources; information technology; business and leadership; and arts and communications.

“The academy approach represents the best of the educational research,” Chamberlain said. “We chose our four based upon what we believe is reflective of Maui as well as transferable to the other islands or to the mainland. The hope is that our students will leave here with some idea of a career orientation.”

Students will do some initial exploration about possible career choices in middle school and in grades 9 and 10. Then, as juniors, they will select an academy track to follow.

Juniors and seniors will still have classes in English, math, science and social studies, but assignments, whether they be a science project, book report or history lesson, will revolve around the theme of the academy.

Chamberlain is all for this “integrated learning” concept. “Learning never happens in a bubble,” he said. “Learning never sticks when it’s just a theory or when it’s in a concept. It has to have roots – it has to have some application. This academy concept gives it that.”

The academy approach climaxes in a senior project, which is researched and presented by the student. “The power of that learning, where students have to create it, work out the details and then present what they’ve learned, really moves education from being a passive experience to an active, engaged experience,”

Chamberlain said. “If we want to produce leaders, and I think we do at Kamehameha, we have to prepare people who are active, engaged individuals who know how to frame that experience, reflect on it and then share it.”

“Academies are a new concept for Kamehameha Schools, so it’s a new concept for us too,” Thoemmes said. “The leadership has identified the academy concept as the way they want to deliver education, and we’ve actually tailored the facilities to parallel that education plan.”

KS-Maui’s middle school will include two 20,000 sq. ft. classroom buildings, a specialty/dining facility, a music building and an administration building/learning center.

The first phase of the high school calls for two 30,000 sq. ft. grade 9 and 10 classroom buildings, a library, cafeteria, gymnasium and facilities for athletics and information technology.

The four academy buildings, along with an administration building, will follow in the next phase of high school construction. A performing arts center and chapel will complete the campus in the last construction phase.

“These outer island campuses are completely wired for technology and we’ve got adequate power to all the buildings,” Thoemmes said.

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“Our marching orders now are to get this campus up and running,” Chamberlain said. “We have a lot of positions to fill and we’re going to bring in a whole lot of new people.

My greatest challenge here will be to continue a sense of ‘ohana while we grow very quickly. That’s a very hard issue. How does one create a sense that we are KS-Maui, and that we are a family?

“I know this is a journey. This school is going to be here a long time. If we do things the proper way, and create the right foundation, this campus will far outlive anything we can even imagine.”



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– WALTER THOEMMES