



## A land for growing things is Kea'au

It was a dawn befitting heaven over a land befitting heaven. Green. Heavily vegetated. Lots and lots of trees. Hala and tall grasses grow there in deeply dark rich soil. On a clear day, magnificent Mauna Kea appears to watch over the site.

Over this land a light mist fell. Then the clouds lifted and the morning awakened clear and bright over the ancient land at Kea'au.

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*"This land will  
now be raising good  
and industrious men  
and women."*

– Trustee Robert K.U. Kihune

**A**t Kea'au, a historic blessing and groundbreaking ceremony was about to begin and a very special dream would transcend imagination to become reality. This day, June 2, 2000, would mark the very first day of that reality.

Faculty, staff, trustees, chief executives and invited guests plied their way into a clearing in the tall grass at Kea'au. Soon the voices and laughter of 300-plus children punctuated the morning's stillness. Theirs was a joyful noise; a noise that will grow in years to come as Kamehameha Schools East Hawai'i Campus – with its prospective 2000-strong student body – realizes Kamehameha Schools' on-going commitment to extend the reach of Ke Ali'i Pauahi's legacy to serve ever more Hawaiians.

Oli, offered by KS East Hawai'i Interim Campus cultural teacher **Moses Crabbe '77** and Ulu Kanaka'ole Garmon of the Edith Kanaka'ole Foundation, sought and offered welcome to Kamehameha Schools in the community.

Student representatives presented their grade level's chosen native plant and explained the importance of each to Hawaiian culture. Native flora selected by the students will later be planted



at the site and designs depicting their selected foliage will be incorporated into the classroom architecture.

Trustee Chair **Robert K.U. Kihune '55**, Hawai'i Island Mayor Stephen Yamashiro, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) **Hamilton I. McCubbin '59**, and a host of other special representatives of Kamehameha Schools, alumni, parents, staff and students wielded traditional koa 'ō'ō digging sticks in overturning the soil, symbolizing the unified effort of all within the Kamehameha 'ohana and the community to ensure the success of the new school.

Trustees Francis Keala and David Coon also participated in the program as did KS President Dr. **Michael J. Chun '61**, Acting Chief Operations Officer Dwight "K" Kealoha, Kahu **David Ka'upu '51**, Dr. **Rockne Freitas '63**, Yuki Takemoto, East Hawai'i Principal Barbara Robertson, **Kaipo Hale '68**, Karen Coon, Jan McCune and **Eli Nāhulu '55**.

"This is something we've been waiting a long time for and Pauahi is smiling on all of us today," said CEO McCubbin. "She is smiling because we are doing something today that will help better the lives of the Hawaiian people."

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– CEO Hamilton I. McCubbin



*“Kea’au is ideal for an expanded educational program... which takes advantage of Hawai’i Island’s unique cultural and natural resources.”*

– President Michael J. Chun

Once owned by Ka Mō’i William Charles Lunalilo, W.H. Shipman acquired the 300-acre site, located seven miles south of Hilo along Volcano Highway, at public auction in 1881. In November 1999, Kamehameha Schools entered into a purchase agreement with W.H. Shipman Ltd., to acquire the parcel.

“The Kea’au site is well-suited for our campus,” said Dr. Chun, “and it is ideal for an expanded educational program that can include curricula which takes advantage of Hawai’i Island’s unique cultural and natural resources.”

**Kamehameha Schools East Hawai’i Campus at Kea’au will be built in phases.**

Phase I construction – currently underway – will encompass approximately 15 acres. On site, this phase includes two classroom buildings, a mechanical and electrical plant structure and an entry guard house. One 22,000 square-foot classroom building will contain six standard classrooms, two specialty science rooms, a teacher planning center and multi-purpose spaces.

The second 18,000 square-foot specialty classroom building will feature an art and ceramics lab, a teen health center, facilities for Hawaiian cultural and language studies, an industrial arts



drafting lab, a computer lab, a teacher planning center and support spaces.

Additionally, Phase I will include construction of an athletic field, a campus roadway and a 63-stall parking lot.

Concurrent to on-site Phase I construction will be two off-site projects: highway intersection improvements at the entry to the campus and installation of a new waterline upgrade on Volcano Highway to service the campus.

“Completion of Phase I construction is scheduled for August 2001,” says KS Facilities & Construction Engineer **Walter Thoemmes III ‘84**, “but this campus will progress on a continuous build-out cycle for the next five-plus years.

“Phase II – which will comprise nine new buildings – is in design now and will go to bid by the end of this year,” Thoemmes continued. “Construction should begin about January 2001 and be ready for K-12 occupancy by fall 2002.”

“Rather than growing agricultural products, this land will now be raising good and industrious men and women for the betterment of the State of Hawai‘i,” said Trustee Kihune.

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