

# Serving Kamehameha

*Retired financial aid director **Bob Worthington '55** spent nearly 30 years helping to fulfill the legacy of Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop*

In his senior year, they elected him the student body president of the Kamehameha Schools for Boys.

A half century later, look back over Bob Worthington's professional career – and it's easy to see what an excellent choice those Kamehameha students made so many years ago.

Worthington retired from Kamehameha Schools in January of 2003, leaving behind an indelible mark on the history of the institution.

Hired in 1974 as the director of boarding, in 1978 he was promoted to director of campus financial aid (K-12 programs) and from 1989 until his retirement served as director of financial aid and scholarships.

During Worthington's tenure, Kamehameha's financial aid program grew tremendously in both resources and services.

In 1989, Kamehameha made more than 3,500 financial aid awards totaling more than \$3 million to learners mostly involved with Kamehameha preschool through grade 12 and summer school programs.

By 2001, Worthington's department was administering more than 15,500 annual awards totaling more than \$25.4 million – a growth of more than 700 percent in monies awarded and more than 335 percent in recipient impact.

Add in the years (1978-1989) Worthington oversaw the distribution of campus financial aid, and the overall totals are staggering – more than

150,000 awards totaling more than \$200 million given out during his years at Kamehameha.

"When we started out, we were just Kamehameha financial aid, but we ended up being a clearinghouse of various types of financial aid," Worthington said.

Those various types of aid included collaborations with entities like the East West Center and Alu Like, commu-



Bob Worthington '55

nity endowments set up by people like former Kamehameha principal Gladys Brandt and other private scholarships, and federal scholarships targeted at Hawaiian students seeking higher education and studying in health fields.

Funds were also recruited from other Hawaiian agencies like the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

"The program made a tremendous difference within the Native Hawaiian community," Worthington said. "It gave more people access to higher education, helping them become successful in contemporary society and providing a more positive identity about being Hawaiian."

**Claire Pruet '60** worked alongside Worthington for more than 20 years, serving as his primary associate as coordinator of financial aid and data systems. The two formed an impressive team, and Pruet continues to seek his guidance on a national level – she's now retired

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from Kamehameha and is working for the Gates Millennium Scholars program in Washington, D.C.

"Bob's command and support of the information and services provided by Kamehameha gave credibility to the work we were doing," Pruet said. "He served Kamehameha and the community in a special way."

Pruet said that as a leader, Worthington was a keen and compassionate decision-maker.

"In the midst of running a program that is labor intensive, you're dealing with individual cases. Bob dealt with appeals, and rendered many fair decisions. When the audits came, we always passed with flying colors.

"We did our best to meet the legacy of the princess – and at the same time, we were not going to let the community down."

Worthington's contributions to Kamehameha involved much more than running a booming financial aid department.

After marrying a Cook Islands resident he met while working as a communication relations officer at the East West Center in the 1960s, Worthington ran a business in the Cook Islands for several years before coming to work for Kamehameha, becoming a familiar face to government officials on the South Pacific island.

Worthington's diplomatic skills would eventually lead the U.S. Department of State to name him the Cook Islands Honorary Counsel in 1985, a position he still holds.

Using his government connections, Worthington led Kamehameha Schools delegations across the South Pacific, attending events like the Pacific Arts Festival in Australia in 1988 and the Cook Islands in 1993, the 1990 Waitangi Treaty Commemoration in New Zealand and the 1992 Taputapuātea Marae ceremonies in Raiatea, French Polynesia. Other stops included trips to Western Samoa, Japan, Rapa Nui and Tahiti.

"Because of Bob's knowledge and relationships with other Polynesian people and their governments, he became Kamehameha's liaison/ambassador to the South Pacific," explained Kapālama Campus high school principal **Tony Ramos '58**, who spent many years as Worthington's neighbor residing on the Kapālama Campus.

Ramos said Worthington was a master of cultural and diplomatic protocol. "It was through his effort and persistent diligence that student exchange programs began with a Maori school in New Zealand and with schools in the Cook Islands, American Samoa and Tahiti. Those programs really enhanced the awareness and understanding of our students and faculty of the pride and richness of other Polynesian nations and their cultures."

In 1990, Worthington was officially designated as Kamehameha's protocol officer.

"When I became president in 1988, we were just beginning to reconnect with our cousins in the South Pacific, and Bob was a very key person for Kamehameha in making that reconnection," said Kapālama Campus headmaster and Kamehameha Schools president **Dr. Michael Chun '61**.

"Bob was our *charge d'affaire*, or the lead person who would set up everything for our delegation," Chun said. "I was our titular head, and I'd speak and represent us, but Bob was the real head of the delegation," Chun recalled with a chuckle.

Chun said Kamehameha gained as much from hosting these South Pacific groups on campus as from traveling to the far away islands.

"What we saw were our cousins in the South Pacific more in touch with their culture than our Kamehameha students were, than I was, than we as Hawaiians had been. We met people who had a foot solidly in each of their cultures, and I thought that's where we need to somehow get to, because most of our students have both feet in the Western culture.

"Those exchanges were important for the school, because they helped educate our kids and they helped educate our leadership. And I can still remember, that every once in a while, we'd hear the sound of drums beating on campus, coming from down the street at Bob Worthington's house – at 2 o'clock in the morning!"

Chun expressed respect for Worthington as a person and as a coworker.

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**"He was the kind of leader you wanted running your department."**

– CLAIRE PRUET '60



Kala Hoe '88, here with some friends from New Guinea, was part of a KS delegation led by Bob Worthington to the 1988 Festival of Pacific Arts in Australia.



# Mahalo a Nui Loa

...to the following Kamehameha Schools employees for their years of dedicated service toward fulfilling the vision of Ke Ali'i Bernice Pauahi Bishop.

## 40 YEARS OF SERVICE



Gerri Davis



Dannette Gardner



Gerry Johansen



John White

## 35 YEARS OF SERVICE



Albert Apo



Paulene Marcello

## 30 YEARS OF SERVICE



Florence Apo



Sharlene Chun-Lum



Constance Correia



Neil Hannahs



Mary Ah Ho



Stella Judd



Heinne Kaaa



Marcia Kam



Marie-France Morris



Amy Sato



Sherman Thompson



David Tome



Clarence Tschillard

# 25 YEARS OF SERVICE



Lesley Agard



Alfred Anderson



Noel Baker



Alyssa Braffith



Lahapa Burke



Kelcey Cambra



Ruth Canham



Karenmargaret Ching



Theone Chock



Jenny Choy



Judy Cramer



Dawn Farm-Ramsey



E. Kaiponohea Hale



Randy Lake



William Larry Lee



Junko Lowry



Judith Mackenzie



Jean McClellan



Stanley Nagatani



Alike Neves



Rose Mae Reeves



Eric Shimamoto



Robert Stender

## 25 Year Awardees

*(photo not available)*  
Clement Kamo  
Kathleen Kukea  
Clarence Mahikoa

## 20 Year Awardees

Lyanne Binkauski  
Evelyn Char  
Joanne Coates  
Laura Duffy  
Robin Durnin  
Raymond Egloria  
Lili Evensen  
Randie Fong  
Gail Fujimoto  
Les Gusman  
Patricia Holmes  
Florence Kitsu  
Miki Maeshiro  
Virginia Mau  
Sandra-Ann Mauhili  
Grace Omura  
Gwendolyn Oshiro  
Madelline Oshiro  
Star Pai  
Cyr Pakele  
Lanice Pullano  
Robin Racoma

Yasin Sahim  
Bette Jo Savini  
Donna Tanimura  
Clarence Ventura  
Cecil Weaver  
Leslie Yamashita  
Leilani Yee Poong

## 15 Year Awardees

Carolyn Abad  
Claudia Awai  
Evelyn Bugarin  
Darlene Cabanlet  
Lauren Chee  
Georgiana Chock  
Melanie Delos Santos  
Dawn Dvovich  
David Eyre  
Dayna Fukunaga  
Blane Gaison  
Harold Hakuole  
Rena Holt  
Dorene Ing  
Monica Kaiwi  
Kahumoku  
John Kaneakua  
Jay Kauka  
Matthew Kekumu

Wallie Kimura-  
Nobriga  
Douglas Kingsley  
Barbara Ann Lee  
Alexander Madriaga  
Renee Martin  
Roy Nakamura  
Wilma-Joyce Nauka  
Stacy Rezentos  
Gary Sakamoto  
Arlene Schnitzler  
Kathilyn Shelby  
Penelope Stover  
Lance Tachino  
Tammy Thoemmes  
Gayla Sue Traylor  
Faye Wong  
Lawrence Wong  
Cara Ann Woo  
Michael Young  
Billie Jean Yugawa

## 10 Year Awardees

Maile Au  
Luana Chong  
June Stacey Eaton  
Shawn Forsythe  
Karen Gill  
Larry Hagmann

Georgette Halemano  
Shane Hedani  
Noella Inn  
Hilda Ishizaki  
Gloria Iwamoto  
Margaret Johnson  
Alison Kajiwara  
Mark Kamemoto  
Julie Kawakami  
Kapi Kenoi-Chin  
Inocencio Lapenia  
Theodora Laureta  
Robert Lyau  
Clemence McLaren  
Henry Meyer  
Gary Minatoya  
Nancy Naki  
Corinne Pang Ching  
Virginia Rosa  
Andrea Rosete  
Aristotle Santa Cruz  
Lorita Seamster  
William Spencer  
Barbara Tampon  
Mark Teves  
Melvin Tom  
Jeffery Wong  
Maryalice Woody

Julia Young  
Sallie Yoza

## 5 Year Awardees

Marlene Abrigo  
Susan Akiu-Wilcox  
Darice Apo  
Shane Arquette  
Lance Cagasan  
Jaime Allen Campbell  
Jacalina Casimano  
Lamphong Chairak-Ramsey  
Kathleen Chock  
Moses Crabbe  
Lyla Eldredge  
Sylvie Fields  
Earl Higa  
Pansy Kaauamo  
Bradley Koanui  
Gerald Kraesig  
Vernon Kumalae  
Jim Lanuza  
Edward Lingo  
Melissa Maeda  
Dee Mecham  
Robert Medeiros  
Jay Metzger  
Mia Minami

Benny Nary  
Neil Nihei  
Vincent Occhipinti  
Wendell Ogi  
Betty Osserman  
Sathy Ouanesisouk  
Darlene Pang  
Sterling Pedro  
Michael Peloso  
Barbara Perry  
Cindi Pila  
Stacey Raymond  
Amber Rivera  
Tammy Scharsch  
Gary Suehisa  
Trevis Tagawa  
Carole Tanoue  
Kaleo Trinidad  
Karin Villanueva