



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

November 24, 2025

To the Editor from the Governors (Current, Former) of the State of Hawai'i:

Honoring Ke Ali'i Pauahi's Trust: A Shared Commitment Across Hawai'i and Beyond

The Kamehameha Schools were created out of the personal estate of Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop under the laws of the Hawaiian Kingdom. As the principal surviving heir of Kamehameha I, she chose to devote her private wealth to educating Native Hawaiian children, and it was her directive as benefactor in 1883 that they be given preference in admissions to her schools. Today, her Trustees' efforts to honor that directive are under attack. In response, we—seven governors of Hawai'i from diverse political, religious, ethnic, and community backgrounds—unite our voices to strongly affirm that the preference directed by Pauahi's will is not simply a matter of policy, but of promise. It must be honored.

The Princess entrusted her people, and their future, to a sacred legacy. Her deep Christian faith inspired her to ensure that Native Hawaiian children had both the knowledge to thrive and the values to become leaders and productive citizens. So rooted, that legacy has grown into a vibrant educational community of students and graduates whose members reflect the rich multi-ethnic, religious, and socioeconomic diversity of our broader Hawai'i community. Kamehameha Schools' alumni serve as stewards of culture, contributors to our communities, and protectors of 'āina; these are roles vital to our collective welfare. Honoring this trust is honoring Hawai'i itself.

From far offshore, some wrongly seek to undermine Pauahi's vision by forcing Kamehameha Schools to disregard the Princess's will. They ignore history and the importance of honoring private gifts.

Pauahi's Trust seeks nothing in return for its work, receiving no state or federal funding. We, together as a community, share the duty to protect the dignity of a people, to honor the history of this place and the gifts from the ali'i. With one voice, we urge everyone in Hawai'i to support

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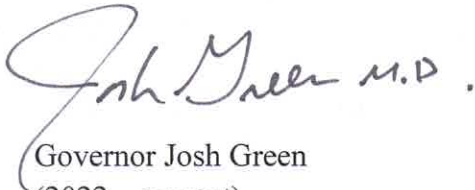
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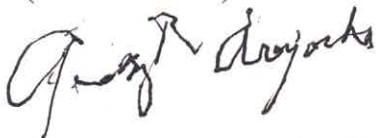
and safeguard the future that the Princess's gift was intended to enable for Native Hawaiian children in our community.

I Mua Kamehameha!


Governors of the State of Hawai'i



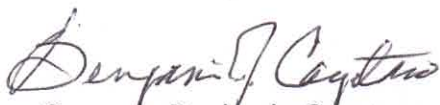
Governor Josh Green
(2022 – current)



Governor George Ariyoshi
(1974 – 1986)




Governor John D. Waihe'e III
(1986 – 1994)




Governor Benjamin Cayetano
(1994 – 2002)



Governor Linda Lingle
(2002 – 2010)



Governor Neil Abercrombie
(2010 – 2014)



Governor David Ige
(2014 – 2022)