

Because they are all our children.

# Private Schools with a Public Purpose



*“It is everyone’s business to help the public schools.”*

These words by Charles Toguchi, former superintendent of the Hawai‘i State Department of Education, captured the vision that drew 50 educators, funders and administrators from across the country to Punahou School this April.

Private Schools with a Public Purpose (PSPP), a national coalition dedicated to building educational partnerships that serve the public interest, held its third annual symposium April 23 - 25, attracting representatives from 30 independent, public and charter schools, and nonprofits. With the theme “Best Practices in Funding and Best Practices of Funders,” the symposium drew an impressive cross-section of schools including San Francisco’s Lick-Wilmerding High School (host of next year’s symposium), Atlanta’s Westminster School, Kamehameha Schools - Kapalama and Waimea Public Charter School. PSPP Director Carl Ackerman led the team by coordinating and hosting this year’s event.

In welcoming remarks delivered at Luke Lecture Hall, President Jim Scott ’70 underscored the notion that social responsibility lies at the core of Punahou School’s mission. “It is not enough to cultivate the intellect,” Scott said, “we also need to cultivate the heart.” Scott pointed to recent initiatives that strengthen Punahou’s outreach to a broader community: the Luke Center for Public Service;



Pictures: (Above) Punahou Hosts Carl Ackerman and Kylee Omo greet symposium participants at the Friday evening lu’au. (Below, Left) Punahou President, Jim Scott (standing, second from left) welcomes participants to his home. (Below, Right) Keynote speaker Blas Guerrero (far left) reflects on the day with symposium participants.

the senior community service project; and the Clarence T.C. Ching PUEO program, a partnership with the Hawai‘i State Department of Education that encourages college readiness among selected public middle and high school students.

Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann lauded the participants on their efforts. A panel then addressed the critical issue of funding, with spokespersons from the Harry and



Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Clarence T.C. Ching Foundation, Unbound Philanthropy, Harold K.L. Castle Foundation and Baltimore Community Foundation.

Participants also got a taste of community partnerships in action, venturing to the Windward side to visit Kahalu'u Elementary and Kualoa-He'eia Ecumenical Youth, or KEY Project. These organizations collaborate in supporting PUEO scholars from the area.

Charlie Toguchi, a former Superintendent of Education for the Hawai'i statewide system and currently a board member of KEY Project, highlighted how the PUEO program has changed students' lives. "What the PUEO program gave them was hope," he said. "The kids were so motivated, and these are kids from families who would never have dreamed of going to college." Toguchi went on to describe the program's ripple effects on families, faculty and even other students.

Keynote speaker Dr. Blas Guerrero underscored similar themes in his presentation on the University of California's Summer Algebra Academy. Guerrero, the son of farm workers, wove his riveting personal odyssey into the story of how he founded a model program to assist low-income, at-risk students entering ninth grade. What began seven years ago as a pilot project with 60 kids now reaches 3,500 students throughout California and in parts of Arizona.

Guerrero's presentation hit home with Susie Osborne, who hopes to bring the algebra academy model into her own community. Osborne, co-founder and principal of Kua o Ka La Public Charter School in Puna on the Big Island, was energized and inspired by the discussions. "This is really timely and forward-thinking to bring together private, public and charter schools," she said. "Charter schools are well-positioned to take these ideas and run with it. We can create models of innovation that can help education move forward."

Guerrero, whose residency was funded in part by the Dr. and Mrs. Raymond F. Kong Christian Education Fund,



Pictures: (Above) Panel of Funders share their insights about what they are looking for in proposals to their foundations. (Below, Left to Right) Additional pictures of participants at the Friday night lu'au.

also spoke at several chapels during the week. He said he was impressed by the students' visible desire to effect change.

"I was expecting the academic excellence [at Punahou]," Guerrero said. "What impressed me more is the fact that

## What kind of people attended the PSPP Symposium?

- 36 - Independent Schools (Local and National)
- 19 - Non-Profits Organizations
- 12 - Higher Ed (Local and National)
- 8 - Hawaii State Department of Education (School, District, State)
- 6 - Foundations/Funders (Local and National)
- 6 - Charter Schools from Hawai'i Island
- 7 - Others (Community, C&C, HAIS, CAIS, Australia and Japan, etc.)



## An Invitation to the 2010 Symposium

As has now become the pattern, at the close of the 2009 Symposium, the host for the 2010 Symposium invited participants and provided some highlights of next year's conference - which will be held at Lick-Wilmerding (<http://www.lwhs.org>). Below are some of his comments:

Al Adams (pictured to the left) began by crediting the good work of Crossroads School and the Crossroads Community Foundation in starting this conversation. One can find more information about this good work in a recent *Independent School* article at the school website.

(or at [http://www.lwhs.org/ftpimages/200/download/download\\_group9836\\_id345969.pdf](http://www.lwhs.org/ftpimages/200/download/download_group9836_id345969.pdf))

Al noted that our work needs to be embedded in our mission and not a matter of "noblesse oblige." Indeed, it is a combination of moral imperative and enlightened self-interest. The ultimate measure of our commitment is whether this work is integral to what we do, not a "peripheral." And to make this work, we all need allies and advocates, including administrators, faculty and trustees.

We now need confirmation of the impact of these programs, including good research data. The National Center on Summer Learning is a good resource for those looking to collect that data, because as Malcolm Gladwell notes in *Outliers*, we need "convincing research." For example, Johns Hopkins' research indicates that "summer engagement a major causal factor... kids' success in school."

Next Year PSPP Symposium to be hosted by Lick-Wilmerding's Center for Civic Engagement has a goal of



broadening the symposium's reach through three (3) overlapping strands

- summer programs
- service learning – local and global
- public-private partnerships

The title of the symposium will be "Private Schools With Public Purpose: A Contemporary Definition of 'Independent Schools'", including

- *How Independent Schools See Themselves and*
- *How They Are Seen A Part Of, Not Apart From, The Larger Community.*

As NAIS President Pat Bassett has said in terms of this expanding Private Schools with a Public Purpose, "May it be so."

It is up to us to make it so please plan to reconvene in San Francisco a year from now, with executive directors, teachers, school heads, assistant heads, development directors, and trustees to continue to work together, in partnership, to broaden and deepen the impact we can have as PSPP: And be on the look out for electronic bulletins coming your way!



# Private Schools with a Public Purpose Summer 2009

PSPP/Pueo Program  
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**Final Details of April 23-25, '09:  
A Symposium of Best Practices  
*Private Schools with  
a Public Purpose at  
Punahou School in HI!*  
(Please copy & share)**

*Address Correction Requested*

Summer 2009



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