

Dick Mayer's report to the PTAs of the five Upcountry Elementary Schools and Kalama Intermediate after the first planning meeting in October 1988.

P.T.A. REPORT: UPCOUNTRY HIGH SCHOOL

You may recently have read about a meeting held on October 12, 1988 at Kalama Intermediate School to discuss the establishment of a new upcountry high school. The meeting was attended by PTA leaders, principals, and Maui District Superintendent Lokelani Lindsey and her staff. The public schools which will eventually feed into the proposed school include: Haiku, Kalama Intermediate, Kula, Makawao, Paia, and Pukalani. Additional private feeder schools would potentially include Haleakala, Doris Todd, and St. Joseph's.

The following information is intended to give you some of the background and the intentions of the group that met. In the future we welcome your direct participation in our combined efforts to secure a high school that would serve the upcountry area and relieve both Baldwin and Maui High Schools of their large enrollments.

BACKGROUND: Two decades ago Maui High School moved from the "country " into Kahului because the population of the urban areas was growing while the rural communities were experiencing a population decline. It was decided to bus all the rural students into Maui High School.

Times have changed. Now there is a need to construct a new high school because the enrollments of both Baldwin and Maui High School have grown too large (too many portables already). They are projected to grow way beyond their capacities (1600) in the very near future. Furthermore the youth population of the upcountry area has grown considerably and the numbers of students being bussed daily has grown large enough to justify a new upcountry high school (not to mention the potential relief on Haleakala Highway on school days).

UPCOUNTRY HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE: A committee of parents and interested others will soon be formed to begin the hard, but potentially rewarding, work of creating a new school for our children. The committee's work will probably demand a real persistence to get the funds that will be needed to build this school before our kids are too old to benefit.

If you feel strongly about this and if you would like to help convince the decision-makers in the DOE, in the legislature, and the Governor, then please volunteer to help your children. You can volunteer by contacting the PTA through a note to the PTA mailbox in the school office. We will then nominate people from our school to work with volunteers from the other upcountry PTA's.

You are invited to discuss these matters at our future PTA meetings. We all must prepare for the justifying, lobbying, funding, planning, and construction of a new Upcountry High School. A possible agenda for the committee follows:

1. Formation and membership of a high school coordinating committee.
2. Location of school: Can we get land donated?
3. Responsibility for justifying a new high school: DOE Staff? Others?
4. lobbying efforts: Within D.O.E. The D.O.E. Board. State Legislators.
5. Tentative calendar:
 - Early November Meet with DOE staff to develop justification: population shifts; enrollments; bussing costs in \$ and time; etc.
 - Late November Meet with legislators to secure planning funds during the Spring 1989 legislative session.
 - Summer 1989 Authorization to plan for upcountry high school.
 - 1989-90 Planning: site selection; environmental impact statement; developing educational specifications.
 - 1990-91 Planning: facilities design; architectural drawings.
 - Spring 1991 Legislative funding of high school construction.
 - 1991-93 Construction: 48+(?) classrooms; library/resource center; administration; cafeteria; physical education facilities.
 - September 1993 Upcountry High School opening. WE HOPE!!