

6 HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE NEW UPCOUNTRY HIGH SCHOOL

1. Press release announcing first meeting (Please see page two for details.)
2. Invitation to first meeting on October 12, 1988.
3. Letter that was sent to Maui's legislators and to DOE Board members to urge them to begin the financing and eventual construction of a new upcountry Maui high school. (two pages)
4. Report to upcountry PTAs regarding a proposed upcountry high school
5. September 16, 1991 letter describing the last minute effort to move the high school site
6. January 14, 1992 letter urging action to get new high school built, even at less desired site

PRESS RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

October 6, 1988

TO THE PRESS:

YOU ARE WELCOME TO COME TO REPORT ON THE MEETING /DISCUSSED ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE.

THIS INITIAL MEETING IS NOT INTENDED TO BE ANY KIND OF A PUBLIC FORUM, BUT RATHER THE INITIAL EFFORT TO DISCUSS THE PLANNING FOR A NEW UPCOUNTRY HIGH SCHOOL. ALTHOUGH PEOPLE HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT IT FOR YEARS; WE HOPE TO PUT THOSE WORDS INTO ACTION.

(Please see the next page for details.)

INVITATION

THE FIRST MEETING TO PLAN THE "UPCOUNTRY HIGH SCHOOL"

Wednesday, October 12, 1988 7:00-9:00pm Library, Kalama Intermediate School, Makawao

TO: DOE DISTRICT SUPT. LOKELANI LINDSEY AND STAFF
PTA LEADERS(1 or 2 from each school) and PRINCIPALS
KALAMA INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL
HAIKU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
KULA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
MAKAWAO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
PAIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
PUKALANI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
HALEAKALA SCHOOL
ST.JOSEPH'S SCHOOL
DORIS TODD SCHOOL

FROM: MEETING CONVENER, DICK MAYER, V-PRES., KULA PTA

RE: Discussions on the Future Construction of an Upcountry High School

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 in the very near future. Furthermore the 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.

You are invited to discuss these matters and to prepare for the lobbying, funding, planning, and construction of the new Upcountry High School.

PROPOSED AGENDA

1. FORMATION AND MEMBERSHIP OF A HIGH SCHOOL COORDINATING COMMITTEE.
2. NAME FOR PROPOSED SCHOOL: UPCOUNTRY HIGH SCHOOL?
3. CENTRAL LOCATION OF SCHOOL: BETWEEN PUKALANI AND MAKAWAO?
PUKALANI BYPASS? BELOW EDDIE TAM GYM?
4. RESPONSIBILITY FOR JUSTIFYING A NEW HIGH SCHOOL: DOE STAFF? OTHERS?
5. LOBBYING EFFORTS: WITHIN D.O.E. THE D.O.E. BOARD. STATE LEGISLATORS.
6. DISCUSSION OF CALENDAR:

October 12	This initial meeting.
November 1	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.

7. OTHER ITEMS...

BACKGROUND NOTE: This is a copy of a letter that was sent to Maui's legislators and to DOE Board members to urge them to begin the financing and eventual construction of a new upcountry Maui high school.

Kula Elementary School PTA

Kula, Maui, Hawaii 96790

December 17, 1988

Dear Senator Mamuro Yamasaki,

We urge you to make the design and the future construction of a new up-country high school a top priority in the upcoming legislative session. This school would serve the communities from Ulupalakua to Pauwela (Kula, Pukalani, Makawao, Olinda, Kokomo, Paia, Haiku, and Huelo).

We ask that you include the necessary funds (estimated by the DOE at \$125,000) to begin the design studies and site selection in **THE FIRST YEAR** of the Biennium Budget. This will allow construction to start at the earliest possible date so that the new high school will open for the 1993-94 school year when the surge in high school enrollments will start.

We feel that we can provide you with the necessary justifications for this project because we realize that you will need strong reasons to argue on behalf of any expenditure of scarce public funds.

ENROLLMENT. Much of the growth during the late 1980's occurred at the elementary levels due to the sudden increase in births that began in 1980.

For example: There are 1000 more students in the lowest four grades compared to the top four grades. (For the 4-year period, kindergarten through third grade, there are now 4,083 students in the central/up-country/south Maui area, the area that feeds into Maui and Baldwin High Schools. This compares with only 3,082 students in the 4 grade levels, 9th through 12.)

When the present K-3 group soon enters high school, there will be no room for them unless Baldwin High School and Maui High School are greatly expanded above their design capacities, or a new high school is built.

With the projected population changes in Central Maui and Kihei, coupled with the above-mentioned surge in primary enrollments, Maui High School and Baldwin High School will be needed just to take care of the down-country needs. Consequently, it has become absolutely necessary to begin a design and site selection decision during the first year of the Biennium. We cannot wait.

At present, we understand that DOE policy allows for the consideration of a new high school if there are at least 750 students. Since about 1,100 students already now commute daily from the up-country area to the already crowded Maui High School campus (Baldwin is even more crowded), we feel it is absolutely necessary to begin constructing an up-country high school for the expected 1,700 students who will need to be transported daily from up-country to the down-country area.

EDUCATIONAL QUALITY. Beyond trying to accommodate the sheer number of additional future enrollments, we ask you to consider several quality considerations.

- a. Students in the Kahului, Wailuku and Kihei areas will be greatly benefited if Maui High School and Baldwin High School are kept at their design capacities. Those students do not deserve the problems of mega-campuses.
- b. Upcountry students will save approximately 1-1/2 to 2 hours daily in their commuting. This will have numerous benefits for the students. They will not be as tired; they will be able to spend more time on their school work; and they will be able to remain after school to participate in a great variety of after school educational and sports activities (which they cannot do now because they must catch the bus home).
- c. The addition of an up-country high school should give many additional students varsity playing experiences as well as provide the M.I.L. with an additional team for sports competition. Furthermore, because Maui High School and Baldwin High School have grown so large, there is decreased competition with smaller Lahainaluna and St. Anthony High School. If an up-country high school is started, it will reduce the size of MHS and BHS and provide a more equitable distribution of power within the M.I.L.
- d. The high school administrators will most certainly find it easier to cope with numerous social, disciplinary, and drug problems if we do not allow our high schools to exceed certain size limits. A new up-country school will keep our high schools on Maui within those limits.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS In addition to the educational and enrollment justifications for a new high school, there will be several benefits to our up-country communities.

- a. Most certainly there would be less traffic on the already overcrowded Haleakala/Pukalani Highway. This will save considerably on commuting times and may save money by delaying the need for future expansions of Haleakala highway.
- b. There will be significantly reduced bussing costs (estimated by the DOE to grow to over \$1 million annually in the late 1990's).
- c. Students will be attending a school which represents their up-country community. This should allow the students and their families to feel a greater pride in their school. School spirit and sense of community should increase. At present there is no Maui High School "community".

Finally, we would like to close with a profile of the voter numbers within Maui County. We cite these figures both to illustrate the rapid growth of the up-country area and to demonstrate the number of people (in addition to the students directly affected) who will be grateful for your support of this project.

YEAR	TOTAL VOTERS	PAIA	PUKALANI
UP-COUNTRY		HUELO/HAIKU	KULA/MAKAWAO
1972	4963	1767	3196
1980	6801	2028	4773
1988	8687	2506	6181

Please contact us if you need any additional information or if you would like to meet with our Kula PTA. We wish you much success in the upcoming legislative session and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely yours,

Alec McBarnet, President

Kula Elementary PTA

Dick Mayer, V-Pres.

Kula Elementary PTA

----- **REPORT to UPCOUNTRY P.T.A. S : 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:

- Formation and membership of a high school coordinating committee.
- Location of school: Can we get land donated?
- Responsibility for justifying a new high school: DOE Staff? Others?
- Lobbying efforts: Within D.O.E. The D.O.E. Board. State Legislators.
- 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 1989-90	Authorization to plan for upcountry high school. 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	<u>Upcountry High School opening. WE HOPE!!</u>

RR 1 Box 518
518 Lower Kimo Drive
Kula, Maui, HI 96790
September 16, 1991

Mr. Alec McBarnet, Chair
Maui County School Advisory Committee
Department Of Education
Wailuku, Maui, HI 96793

Dear Mr. McBarnet,

I am writing to request that the Maui County School Advisory Committee discuss, and if necessary investigate, the manner in which the final site for the proposed Upcountry High School was selected.

Three years ago (October 1988) a committee of concerned PTA leaders and DOE administrators began meeting to establish an upcountry high school. This meant that we would have to lobby the Board of Education and the State Legislature to appropriate funds for the new upcountry high school.

From the beginning, our committee received excellent support from District Superintendent Lokelani Lindsey. Our efforts were so successful that within a year (Spring 1989) we were able to get the support of the Board of Education and the State Legislature. Funds were appropriated for land acquisition and the master planning of the campus. Subsequently (Spring 1991), funds were appropriated for the design and construction of the campus and many of the buildings.

The site selection process was initiated when the state government selected a consultant to investigate potential sites and to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS). The consultant met with representatives of the above-mentioned committee and also with the general public to identify potential sites. Most of the sites selected were in the Pukalani/Makawao area on lands owned by Maui Land and Pineapple Company (MLP).

MLP was kept informed of the potential sites during the process and had ample opportunity to respond as to the impact of the site selection on their company's operations. To my knowledge, they made no substantive effort during the subsequent two years to supply any input to the site selection considerations. The Maui Land and Pineapple Company was well aware of the location of the five sites which were comprehensively reviewed during the draft and final environmental impact statement process. Again, they made no effort to indicate their special concerns until the final public meeting was held by the consultants in June of 1991. At that time, they came to a meeting held in Kalama School to say that they did not favor the particular Apana Street site which was the first choice of three significant entities: a) the final draft of the EIS statement favored the Apana Street site; b) District Superintendent Lokelani Lindsey publicly had acknowledged it to be her preference; and c) perhaps most importantly, the vast majority of the community and the members of the committee which had lobbied for the school, had endorsed the Apana Street site.

During this time, there had been numerous articles in the Maui News to inform the general public and potential land owners as to the status of the site selection process. Maui Land and Pineapple Company was on the mailing list to receive copies of the draft and final EIS. They certainly had adequate opportunity to give input on the costs and benefits of the various sites to their company.

Furthermore, to my knowledge, and despite all the publicity concerning the upcountry high school, Sports Shinko, a major land owner and potential developer in the upcountry area, never presented any input into the site selection process.

AFTER the June meeting at Kalama School to discuss the final EIS and to allow the general public to give its FINAL input to the DOE, the Maui District Board of Education Member, Mr. Meyer Ueoka, apparently met privately with Maui Land and Pineapple Company and Sports Shinko. Exactly what happened and who met with whom is unclear to me. However, according to conversations which I had with Mr. Ueoka, he was able to reach an agreement with those two private companies which would allow the school site to be moved to an alternate site mauka of the site preferred by the EIS, District Superintendent and the community. In exchange the two companies would apparently provide certain unspecified benefits.

As a community member, I feel it is necessary to have in writing what "deal" (if any) has been struck which would permit a change in the site selection. To date, we are unclear as to exactly what the future students, the upcountry community, and/or State will gain by moving to the lower ranked mauka site.

I urge the Maui County School Advisory Committee to request that a formal written agreement be obtained from both Maui Land and Pineapple Company and from Sports Shinko acknowledging their contributions (if any) to the State and/or the community to compensate for the change in location. For example, will they provide a \$5 million water system, a new science building, a sports facility, etc. In my opinion the mere donation of a piece of land by MLP would be inadequate since the land could be obtained at relatively low cost by the State since it is valued at agricultural tax rates.

The general concern for the mauka site is the increased traffic that will result along Makawao Avenue if the mauka site is selected. Traffic will either be backed up to Makawao or expensive traffic signals will have to be constructed on the new Pukalani by-pass highway to handle the two left-hand turns that would need to be made by Makawao and Haiku students who are going to the mauka site.

I am truly sorry that I cannot be with you this evening to discuss this matter in person. I wish to assure you that I have no intention to delay the start of construction of the new upcountry high school. After all, I have worked hard for three years to get this needed school built. However, if the process of site selection has been subverted by secret deals, I feel our community and our students need to be protected.

Sincerely yours,

Dick Mayer, Instructor
Maui Community College

RR1 BOX 518
KULA, MAUI, HI 96790
January 14, 1992

Dear Parents,

Aloha. During the past few years we have worked very hard to get a new high school to serve the upcountry area. We formed an alliance of all the upcountry PTA groups (Kalama Intermediate School and the five elementary schools: Haiku, Kula, Makawao, Paia, and Pukalani).

Together we lobbied the Department of Education and our State Legislators to give very high priority to the rapid establishment of an Upcountry High School. They listened to us. Moreover, with great enthusiasm they provided the funds for the site selection, land purchase, campus master plan, building design and initial phase of building construction.

The goal was to open the school in the fall of 1994, so that the present 6th and 7th graders could enter the school as 9th and 10th graders. Until last June we were on schedule. Our PTA-based committee recommended site #4 between Apana Road and the soon to be constructed Pukalani bypass as the best site.

After our final meeting and at the recommendation of the Maui member of the Board of Education the site was changed to a location above Pukalani at the intersection of the Haleakala and Lower Kula Highways. This upper site has now been endorsed all the way up to DOE Superintendent Charles Toguchi.

As you may know some community members are at this time asking that the site selection be changed from the selected site. They want the DOE to open up the site-selection process and select either the Apana site or some other one.

We are asking you to urge the DOE not to delay the process any further. The delay to-date may have already jeopardized the possibility of a September, 1994 school opening. Any further delay may permanently delay the construction, and ultimately may even force the State to use the funds elsewhere, i.e. not for our much needed Upcountry High School.

PLEASE CONTACT ONE OR SEVERAL OF THE FOLLOWING. Urge them not to delay the land acquisition, the continued planning and design, and the construction of the upcountry school at the selected upper site. Some may wish the site to be at another location, however the time for more talk is over.

State Superintendent Charles Toguchi
Maui District Superintendent Lokelani Lindsey
Your School PTA leaders.
Your community association.

P.S. We personally feel that the Apana Street site is the best one for the high school and we do not like the process by which it was changed to the upper site. However, we need the high school now and we need parents, the school PTA's, and the community associations to work together for the benefit of all our upcountry children. Or do you want another generation of children commuting to the overcrowded Maui High campus on our overcrowded roads? Complicating all of these discussions is the fact that Kalama Intermediate School is now reaching capacity. We note that a new intermediate school for Pukalani/Kula may need to utilize the Apana site allowing Kalama to serve the needs of Makawao/Haiku/Paia.