



# Na Ho'olaha I Na Kumu o PDK

*To spread far and wide the news of PDK*

University of Hawaii Chapter 0067  
Founded in Hawaii in 1949

PHI DELTA KAPPA  
Research -- Service -- Leadership

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## **PDK/Hawaii and Office of School Redesign Meeting**

The Office of School Redesign (a joint project of the University of Hawai'i College of Education and the Hawai'i Department of Education) will be joining us for a dinner and reception at the Elks' Club in Honolulu (2933 Kalakaua Ave.) on September 19, 2007 from 4:30 to 7:30 pm. The (partially subsidized) cost of the dinner and parking for members is \$20.00, paid by September 17. Non-members are welcome to attend if space is available. The cost for non-members will be \$30.00 (parking \$5). (*Member price for new members.*)

Please join us for an opportunity to meet the new dean of the College of Education; Dr. Christine Sorensen. Dr. Sorensen comes to the University of Hawai'i with a tremendous background in establishing community partnerships that focus on improving the success of students. The Hawai'i chapter of PDK and the Office of School Redesign would like to formally begin work with Dr. Sorensen to promote academic achievement and ensure that all high school students in Hawai'i graduate with the knowledge and skills necessary for post-secondary education.

### *Menu for buffet dinner:*

Salad and appetizer: Caesar salad, teriyaki chicken and beef skewers  
Sides: fried rice, garlic mashed potatoes and sauteed vegetables  
Dinner entrees: roasted salmon and classic roast pork loin  
Desserts: assorted petite fours and fresh fruit platter  
Includes: hot coffee, tea dinner rolls

### *Schedule:*

4:30 Opening Reception  
5:30 Introduction of honored guests  
5:45 Address by Dean Christine Sorensen  
6:00 Opening songs and chants  
6:15 Dinner  
7:30 Closing



*Dr. Christine Sorensen*

R.S.V.P. by September 14, 2007 by calling John Thatcher at (808) 935-2395.

You may also reach John via email at [thatche@aloha.net](mailto:thatche@aloha.net). This reception is being coordinated by former PDK Hawai'i Chapter President, Loretta Krause. Loretta can be contacted via email at [lkrause@hawaii.edu](mailto:lkrause@hawaii.edu). The Project Coordinator of the Office of School Redesign, Gary Griffith, can be contacted at (808) 956-2521 or via email at [garywg@hawaii.edu](mailto:garywg@hawaii.edu). Those interested in joining the reception virtually can contact John Southworth at (808) 956-6871 or via email at [south@hawaii.edu](mailto:south@hawaii.edu)

## **Peace Day Hawaii Coming September 21, 2007**

Hawaii became the first U.S. State to establish September 21st as "Peace Day" by law. Every year, this special day is used to promote peace programs, improve international relations, and increase educational awareness of peace in Hawaii. This date coincides with the United Nation's Peace Day. Please check out the <http://peace.oceanit.com> website for the latest information about the programs and events related to "Peace Day" in Hawaii.

### **Part 1: "Expressions of Peace" Art and Literary Contest**

The "Expressions of Peace" Art and Literary Contest involves two-dimensional art work or literary pieces 500 words or less (essays, poetry, etc.). The deadline for the contest was Friday, September 7, 2007.

Note: The Phi Delta Kappa, Hawaii Chapter approved reimbursing Neighbor Island schools for the cost of mailing artwork to the State Capitol for display on Peace Day. All submissions will become a donation to the sponsors. They will not be returning them. For further information, contact PDK/Hawaii President John Thatcher via email at [hatche@aloha.net](mailto:hatche@aloha.net) or call 808-935-2395 for more information.

### **Part 2: Peace Day Distance Learning–Enrichment "Media Share"**

For those unable to submit an actual art piece there is an electronic alternative using Distance Learning – Enrichment

We are inviting you to post your artistic expressions in the Nicenet classroom for others participating in the event to observe. For those willing to take the plunge and engage in discussion about your art, please join us LIVE by using Talking Communities and iVisit on Sept 21, 2007.

In honor of Hawaii's, September 21, 2007 statewide "Peace Day", we will be conducting a Distance Learning - Enrichment forum. To participate, you will learn how to post your media (literacy contribution or digital photo of a 2-D/3-D art work) on Nicenet, the electronic classroom, and then share it's content with professional graphic artists. In turn you will learn how others perceive your artistic expressions.

The purpose of this event is to demonstrate how sharing artistic media can be the catalyst for understanding another's point of view. Discussion about the art and story behind it generates feelings and reveals truths about what we believe to be most important to us. This knowledge of another's feelings is the first step in learning to achieve peace. Please join us in this exciting forum by first reading the Topics, Introductions, and Guidelines. Then have fun in CREATING and POSTING your PICTURES that stimulate the process of PEACE.

More details and the schedule are posted on the Nicenet "Hawaiian Peace Day - September 21, 2007" class. For further details send email to John Southworth at [johnsout@gmail.com](mailto:johnsout@gmail.com) or phone 808-956-6871.

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## **NCLB Update**

Battle lines have been drawn in the fight to reauthorize the 2002 federal law called "No Child Left Behind" (NCLB)! According to U.S. Department of Education Secretary Margaret Spelling's point of view, NCLB is working and it is working very well! In a January 2007 report Building on Results: A Blueprint for Strengthening The No Child Left Behind Act, Secretary Spelling asserts that "more reading progress has been made by nine-year-olds in five years (1999-2004) than in the previous 28 years combined; math scores for fourth-and eighth-graders and nine-and 13-year-olds have reached new heights; and achievement gaps in reading and math between African-American and Hispanic nine-year-olds and their white peers have fallen to all-time lows."

Secretary Spelling offers three points to ensure student success (e.g. a stronger effort must be made to close the achievement gap through high state standards and accountability) and a series of "tools" (e.g. all students reading and doing math at or above grade level by 2014; timely information and options for all parents) that will allow educators, policymakers and parents to "get the job done".

Here are some opposing viewpoints. In the just-released 39th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll, in 2003 6% of those surveyed held a "very unfavorable" opinion of NCLB. By 2005, 12% of those polled held a "very unfavorable" view of NCLB. By 2007, 17% held a "very unfavorable" view of NCLB. The same poll also asked this question: "Just your impression, how would you rate the overall impact of the "No Child Left Behind" Program" with these findings: 26% of the "national totals" indicating the NCLB is "helping", 27% of the "national totals" indicating that NCLB is "hurting" and 41% of the 2007 "national totals" indicating that NCLB is "making no difference".

In an August 24, 2007 Danville Register & Bee news story "Most Schools Meet 'No Child' Requirements", 72% of Virginia's public schools met annual performance benchmarks in reading and mathematics under the NCLB law, and this translates to 1,316 of 1,823 schools in Virginia meeting all the "adequate yearly progress" goals in 2006-07. Four-hundred-sixty-seven (467) Virginia schools failed to meet objectives; the status of 36 schools is pending. According to The Associated Press reporter Zinie Chen Sampson, "the figures are largely tied to increased student success on the state Standards of Learning exams."

Then, in an August 29, 2007 Danville Register & Bee news story "Lawmakers Seek to Loosen No Child Rules for Students Learning English", lawmakers rewriting the No Child Left Behind law want to loosen testing rules for students with limited English skills. According to the news story the proposal being circulated would allow states to measure how well students first learning English are doing at acquiring language skills instead of judging them on standard reading tests plus "The proposal would encourage states to develop foreign-language reading and math tests, and it would allow students to be tested in their native language for five years instead of three."

Finally, an April 19, 2007 Danville Register & Bee news article "'No Child' Law Raises Fears of School Segregation" by Associated Press author Frank Bass points out that nearly two million children's test scores are not being counted under the law's required racial categories. Several other points in the April 2007 article include:

1. 15% of "excluded" students are white;
2. 26.6% of "excluded" students are hispanic;
3. 26.6% of "excluded" students are black;
4. 23.8% " of "excluded" students are Asian/Pacific Islander;
5. 8.1% of "excluded" students are American Indian.

The focus of the April 19 news story is the Henry C. Dwight Elementary School (Connecticut) located in a "poor, gritty immigrant neighborhood" with a "racially and economically diverse" population making its future under NCLB "uncertain even though it is currently meeting its goals". Connecticut by the way is leading a multistate lawsuit challenging NCLB "arguing it is too costly for Connecticut to administer writing tests as frequently as the government requires".

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## FOUNDATION REPRESENTATIVE E-NEWSLETTER

### *Calling All Foundation Representatives!*

We'd like to begin an on-going conversation about the role of the Foundation Representative. And, of course, the experts on this ARE foundation representatives! Please go to:

<http://pdklistsrv.pdkintl.org/t/796687/12421773/370/0/>

<http://pdklistsrv.pdkintl.org/t/796687/12421773/370/0/> for more information. Don't miss out!

Be sure your chapter scholarship winners are listed in the annual report. We're in the midst of preparing the PDK Annual Report. If your chapter gave chapter scholarships for the 2007-2008 school year, please be sure that this information has been sent to Connie McCoy, [cmccoy@pdkintl.org](mailto:cmccoy@pdkintl.org). We want your winners included in the listing.

### ***Food for Thought***

It's likely that your chapter members who make donations to the PDK Educational Foundation want to know two things:

<http://pdklistsrv.pdkintl.org/t/796687/12421773/371/0/>

<http://pdklistsrv.pdkintl.org/t/796687/12421773/371/0/>.

### ***Educational Travel Scholarships***

There are still a few spots left for our visit to beautiful Italy from November 3 – 10 this year, and the New Zealand trip from April 11 – 22 is filling up fast. Check out both these terrific Educator-to-Educator Professional Development Tours at <http://pdklistsrv.pdkintl.org/t/796687/12421773/205/0/> <<http://pdklistsrv.pdkintl.org/t/796687/12421773/205/0/>.

Educator-to-Educator Professional Development Tour Scholarships are available for both these exciting trips, but interested PDK members must act quickly! Apply by September 15th for the Italy trip and by November 15th for New Zealand at the website above.

### ***Annual Fund Awards***

Are your members waiting to hear about how your chapter fared in the annual fund awards? Look for that information in early October. And be thinking now about how you want to celebrate the great news about your chapter's support of this important work through the Educational Foundation.

The PDK Educational Foundation was created in 1966 by George H. Reavis, an outstanding Kappan and Ohio educator. Dr. Reavis made a large gift to Phi Delta Kappa and envisioned a foundation that would greatly expand PDK's program activities. Today the PDK Educational Foundation supports a variety of scholarships, seminars, student activities, and publications. These programs are funded wholly by member donations to the Educational Foundation.

To ensure you receive emails from PDK, please add [pdkintl.org](http://pdkintl.org) to your favorites, address book, or safe list.