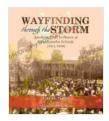
# Speaking Truth to Power: A Historical Look at Kamehameha Schools from 1993 to 1999



Wayfinding through the Storm: Speaking Truth to Power at Kamehameha Schools 1993-1999 by Gavan Daws

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Kamehameha Schools, a renowned educational institution established in 1887 by the will of Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop, has played a pivotal role in the lives of Native Hawaiian learners for over a century. During the period of 1993 to 1999, Kamehameha Schools embarked on a transformative journey, marked by a profound commitment to equity and self-determination for its students. This article delves into the challenges faced, the strategies implemented, and the remarkable outcomes achieved during this significant era.

## The Catalyst for Change

In 1993, a pivotal moment occurred when the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs (AHCC) filed a lawsuit against Kamehameha Schools, alleging that the institution was not fulfilling its mission to benefit Native Hawaiian learners. This lawsuit served as a catalyst for deep introspection and a renewed commitment to realizing Princess Pauahi's vision.

#### The Journey towards Equity

The lawsuit prompted Kamehameha Schools to embark on a comprehensive review of its policies and practices. A task force, composed of community leaders, educators, and legal experts, was established to develop recommendations for addressing the concerns raised. The task force's report, released in 1995, became the roadmap for the institution's transformation.

One of the key areas addressed was admissions. Kamehameha Schools implemented a new admissions policy that prioritized Native Hawaiian ancestry and financial need. This policy ensured that more Native Hawaiian students from diverse backgrounds had access to the institution's highquality education. Additionally, Kamehameha Schools invested heavily in faculty development and curriculum reform. The goal was to create a learning environment that was culturally responsive and empowering for Native Hawaiian students. Teachers received training in Hawaiian culture, language, and history, and the curriculum was revised to incorporate more Hawaiian perspectives and content.

## The Pursuit of Self-Determination

Alongside the focus on equity, Kamehameha Schools also embraced the principle of self-determination. This meant empowering Native Hawaiians to take control of their own education and destiny.

In 1997, Kamehameha Schools established a new governing board, the Kamehameha Schools Board of Trustees. The board was composed entirely of Native Hawaiian leaders, representing a significant shift towards self-governance.

The board's first act was to adopt a new mission statement: "To fulfill the vision of Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop by improving the capability and well-being of Native Hawaiians through education." This mission statement placed a renewed emphasis on empowering Native Hawaiians and ensuring that the institution remained accountable to its Native Hawaiian beneficiaries.

#### **Challenges and Triumphs**

The journey towards equity and self-determination was not without its challenges. Kamehameha Schools faced criticism from some quarters for its focus on Native Hawaiian learners. Others questioned the institution's departure from its traditional boarding school model.

However, Kamehameha Schools remained steadfast in its commitment to its mission. The institution engaged in ongoing dialogue with the community, seeking input and feedback on its progress.

The institution's efforts were met with growing support from the Native Hawaiian community. Kamehameha Schools became a symbol of hope and empowerment for Native Hawaiians, demonstrating that they could achieve educational excellence on their own terms.

## Legacy and Impact

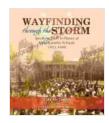
The period of 1993 to 1999 was a transformative era for Kamehameha Schools. The institution's commitment to equity and self-determination has had a profound impact on Native Hawaiian learners and the broader community.

Today, Kamehameha Schools is recognized as a national leader in indigenous education. Its innovative programs and practices have served as a model for other educational institutions seeking to address the needs of marginalized communities.

The legacy of this era continues to inspire and guide Kamehameha Schools as it continues its journey of serving Native Hawaiian learners and contributing to the well-being of the Native Hawaiian community.

The story of Kamehameha Schools from 1993 to 1999 is a testament to the power of speaking truth to power. By confronting its challenges head-on and embracing the principles of equity and self-determination, Kamehameha Schools transformed itself into an institution that is truly responsive to the needs of its Native Hawaiian beneficiaries.

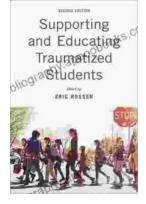
As we look back on this transformative era, we are reminded of the indomitable spirit of the Native Hawaiian people. Their unwavering determination to achieve educational excellence and self-determination has left an indelible mark on the history of Kamehameha Schools and continues to inspire generations of Native Hawaiian learners.



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