



Media Contact:

Terrence George

Chair, Hanahau'oli Board of Trustees

tgeorge@castlefoundation.org

808-561-9709

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lia Woo Selected as Hanahau'oli Head of School

HONOLULU (November 23, 2018)—The Board of Trustees of Hanahau'oli School announces the selection of Lia Woo, M.A., M.Ed., as its Head of School.

Ms. Woo is the first graduate of Hanahau'oli to serve as Head; her association with the school dates back 38 years, when she first entered Junior Kindergarten. After graduating from Hanahau'oli and then from Punahou, Ms. Woo received a B.A. in Communications from Boston College in 1998, an M.A. in Learning, Design & Technology from Stanford University in 2002, and an M.Ed. in Private School Leadership from the University of Hawaii in 2016. After curriculum leadership roles at Kamehameha Schools, It's All About Kids LLC, and Hawaii Pacific University, she joined Hanahau'oli as a teacher in the Kulāwi (2nd and 3rd Grades) classroom in 2012, where she taught for four years. Thereafter, Ms. Woo served for two years as the School's first Director of Curriculum & Innovative Technology. Since June 2018, she has been Interim Head of School. Ms. Woo is married to Chris Aguilera, a senior executive at Title Guaranty; their daughters Ava and Ceila attend Hanahau'oli.

Board of Trustees President Terry George noted, “In seeking a new Head, the Board identified several attributes of leadership which mattered the most as our School heads into its second century. Among those qualities are deep understanding of progressive education and skill in attracting and supporting high-quality faculty. We also sought a strategic thinker who will partner with the Board and community to articulate a long-term vision for Hanahau'oli while respecting the place of tradition in a 21st century school in a world where technological change is accelerating. Lia Woo demonstrates these qualities and more.”

About Hanahau'oli School

Founded in 1918 by Sophie Judd Cooke and serving 211 students in multi-age classrooms from junior kindergarten through sixth grade, Hanahau'oli has become a beacon for learning innovation and progressive education in Hawaii and nationwide. The school's goal is to cultivate and graduate lifelong learners, creative thinkers, passionate problem-solvers, and impactful citizens.

In 2011, with major support from the Clarence T.C. Ching Foundation, Hanahau'oli's Professional Development Center opened to provide educational workshops and seminars for teachers from other schools. In 2012-14, the school nearly doubled its endowment through the Robert G. Peters Endowment Initiative. The school received a maximum seven-year accreditation in 2017 from the prestigious Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Hanahau'oli School is located at 1922 Makiki Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822. On the web at www.hanahauoli.org.

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