



March 3, 1993

Letters to the Editor
The Honolulu Advertiser
605 Kapiolani Blvd
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Sir:

Gael Mustapha's DOE response to my interview by Tom Kaser (2/25/93) appeared to be "we object to a visitor's eagerness to bash what is being done ... without having all the facts."

I was sorry to learn that the DOE is still interpreting anything but congratulations as 'bashing.' (A number of my comments actually supported DOE policy.) I was sorry to see that disagreement is still being reduced to nothing more than ignorance. I was sorry to see that "Raywid (from New York)" was being pegged as someone who couldn't possibly understand Hawaii's situation. Actually, I have enjoyed and gained from abundant opportunity to learn about Hawaii's schools.

It might also be worth noting that what is happening elsewhere is not entirely irrelevant for Hawaii. The SCBM program was, after all, modelled on a mainland program -- that of Dr. Joe Fernandez "(from New York)." It should also be of more than passing interest that Fernandez has not waited for schools-within-schools to "come out of SCBM decision making" as Mustapha counsels. He announced citywide school choice in New York as of last September, and 30 new innovative schools-within-schools are currently being planned. This is the sort of action that follows on a recognition that school-based management alone is not enough.

Sincerely,

Mary Anne Raywid
Administration & Policy Studies

