

MEMORANDUM

February 1, 1957

TO: R. Allen Watkins
FROM: Walter H. Ehlers
RE: Pre-School and Questions Raised by the Executive Committee
of the Honolulu Community Chest.

At the Wednesday, January 30, 1957 hearing of the Budget Review Committee of the Honolulu Community Chest, the document presented to all Chest agencies includes some statements about the Palama Pre-School which are not entirely correct.

The statement was made, for example, by the Kindergarten and Children's Aid Association that they have suffered a drop in enrollment at Na Lei and Liliha Kindergartens "due to the lower rates offered at Palama Settlement." OUR PRESENT ENROLLMENT OF 76 CHILDREN SHOWS THAT ONLY 4 CHILDREN CAME FROM KCAA SCHOOLS. OF THE 4 CHILDREN, ONE WAS "EXPELLED" FROM KCAA AND THE PARENTS WERE GIVEN A LETTER SAYING THAT THE BOY WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTED IN ANY OTHER KCAA PROGRAM. ONE CHILD WOULD NOT CONTINUE GOING TO LILIHA AND THE MOTHER WAS FORCED TO LOOK ELSEWHERE. THE OTHER TWO HAVE BEEN WITH US FOR TWO YEARS BUT PRIOR TO THAT TIME HAD GONE TO A KCAA SCHOOL.

The KCAA statement to the Chest that our fees are lower and hence people are taking their children to Palama Settlement is not true. In ACTUALITY, OUR RATES ARE IDENTICAL. Palama fees are \$30.00 per month for day care from 7:30 to 5 p.m. for a 5-day week. KCAA rates are \$36.00 per month for a 6-day week. If you multiply 5 days x 4.3 weeks, you get 21.5 days, which divided into \$30.00 gives you a rate of \$1.39 per day. The KCAA rate is 6 days x 4.3 weeks which gives you 25.8 days. This divided into \$36.00 gives you \$1.39 per day.

A statement was made by two members of the KCAA who were present at the Wednesday meeting that Palama Settlement took 2 teachers away from them because we were able to pay higher wages. In answer to this, I must point out that Palama teachers are paid BELOW THE TEACHERS PAY SCALE QUOTED IN THE COMMUNITY CHEST CLASSIFICATION AND PAY SCHEDULE. (Due to the fact that our teachers, although they have many years of experience, do not have the college degrees required.) In setting up our teachers pay scale, I took into account our Pre-school income, what the teachers had been paid, and their educational background.

The KCAA eliminated the kindergarten hours of 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. on October 1, 1956. (Children who stayed for lunch paid an extra \$8.00 per month.) THIS HAS MADE IT NECESSARY FOR PEOPLE WHO WANT THEIR CHILDREN TO STAY ONLY A SHORT SESSION TO LOOK ELSEWHERE FOR A

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SCHOOL. Of Palama Settlement's Pre-school enrollment of 76 children, only 10 are day care. The rest (or 66 children) are kindergarten children and leave by 2:30 p.m.

Palama Pre-school is able to operate on one shift of teachers whereas KCAA operates with 2 shifts of teachers each day.

Almost 90% of the children at Palama Pre-school come from the immediate area.

In regard to our finances, it was never understood that the Pre-school was to be self-supporting. Generally speaking, pre-schools operated under a Community Chest program are subsidized to some extent by the Chest. In 1956 our deficit for the pre-school which is charged to the Chest was approximately \$260.00. For 1957 THE PRE-SCHOOL IS BUDGETED TO BE ENTIRELY SELF-SUPPORTING AND WILL NOT REQUIRE ANY CHEST SUBSIDY.

Attached to this memorandum is a copy of fees of private kindergartens and day-care agencies as of December 1956. The fee schedule shows that Palama is charging the same as some of the private schools although we are not as high as the highest. I would like to point out, however, that we are in a poorer neighborhood than some of the kindergartens listed.