

PATRICIA HAMAMOTO

Career Educator – Classroom Teacher – School Administrator
State Superintendent of Education

Patricia Hamamoto retired from Saint Louis School, a grade 6-12 Catholic Marianist school, where she served as principal from February 2010 until December 2013. Ms. Hamamoto also served as superintendent of the Hawaii State Department of Education from December 2001 until her retirement December 2009. She previously served as interim superintendent from October 2001 and as deputy superintendent from February 1999. Before entering state administration, she was principal of President William McKinley High School for seven years.

As superintendent, Ms. Hamamoto oversaw a unified statewide school system of more than 172,000 students and 259 schools with an annual operating budget of more than \$2.4 billion – the nation's tenth largest public school system. Under her leadership, the Department of Education aggressively adopted standards-based education and implemented significant reform measures under the state's reinventing Education Act of 2004 and the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

She is a career educator with more than 40 years of teaching and administrative experiences. In 1968 she began teaching in Huntington Beach California and in 1972 returned to Hawaii to continue her journey in education. Her tenure with the Department of Education began in 1975 as an intermediate school teacher, then high school teacher, vice-principal at the secondary level and principal of an elementary school, a high school and finally as state superintendent.

During her long career, she was active in many educational organizations which included; Council of Chief State School Officers; Hawaii Teacher Standards Board; Pacific Resources for Education and Learning; Teacher Education Coordinating Committee; University of Hawaii College of Education Advisory Council; Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development; American Association of School Administrators; and Hawaii Association of Independent Schools.

Ms. Hamamoto is a graduate of Maryknoll High School. She has a Master's Degree in Education Administration from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and a Bachelor's of Arts Degree from California State University at Long Beach as well as a Lifetime Certificate of Teaching from the State of California.