
Honoring
**PATRICIA “PAT” (COCKETT)
BERGIN**
Distinguished Alumna



Patricia “Pat” (Cockett) Bergin has dedicated her life’s work to her community and the improvement of public education in the state of Hawaii.

Bergin was raised in Keaukaha Hawaiian Homesteads and attended Waiakea Kai and Waiakea Intermediate Schools. Upon graduation from Hilo High School in 1960, she attended the University of Hawaii Hilo for two years before transferring to Kansas State University, where she received both a bachelor’s and master’s degree. Bergin taught in the Manhattan Unified School District while her husband, Billy, completed his veterinary education.

Returning home in 1968, Bergin taught at Kealakehe Elementary School and Waimea Elementary and Intermediate School before entering administrative training. She became vice-principal of Kohala High and Intermediate, then principal at Hookena Elementary and Intermediate School in South Kona. Bergin was then reassigned to Waimea Elementary and Intermediate School, where she served as principal for nine-and-a-half years before transferring to District and State Educational Specialist positions.

Bergin served as Deputy District Superintendent in both East and West Hawaii, and as Hawaii District Superintendent from 1994-1999. She ended her 35-year DOE career in 2005 while serving as State Educational Specialist responsible for migrant education programs, which she is credited for bringing to the State of Hawaii.

For the last 10 years, Bergin has been actively involved in the Charter Education movement, serving on the leadership team of Kanu o ka Aina Learning Ohana (KALO), the non-profit support organization of the public charter school. She has provided support as mentor/trainer for school administrators, interim co-administrator of the school, administrator of preschool education, and coordinator of Ka Huli MUA, consortium of preschools on three islands. She also serves as adjunct instructor for Chaminade University for a M.Ed. program in Educational Leadership for Charter School Administrators.

Bergin was recently appointed by Gov. David Ige to a three-year term on the Hawaii Board of Education, where she serves as vice-chair of the Student Academic Committee, member of the Human Resources Committee, and the Superintendent Search Committee.

The Bergins have raised six children: daughter Erin, sons Bill, Holi (deceased) and Brady, as well as Dr. Bergin’s sister’s children, Kathleen and Christopher Kaaua, upon the passing of their mother.
