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Index

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Ann Lenders	13A
Business	24A
Comics	14A
Horoscopes	15A
Opinion	8A
Sports	18A
Weather	2A

Battle raging over princess' \$10 billion trust

By **BRUCE DUNFORD**
Associated Press Writer

HONOLULU — Five of Hawaii's most prominent citizens are locked in a legal battle royal over their management of a Hawaiian princess' \$10 billion charitable trust, defending themselves from each other as well as the state attorney general.

One trustee of the Bishop Estate was indicted last week on theft charges. Another is being tried on colleagues' accusations that she abused her power overseeing the estate's Kamehameha Schools, the wealthiest private school in the nation.

And all five are accused by the attorney

general of improperly using estate assets to create a self-serving economic empire.

"It is my firm belief that so long as the current trustees remain in power they will deploy the resources of the estate and its influence to protect their personal interests over those of the beneficiaries," Attorney General Margery Bronster said after a year-long investigation ordered by Gov. Ben Cayetano.

Bronster has petitioned the courts to remove the five well-paid and politically powerful trustees.

Bronster accuses the five of engaging in kickback schemes, awarding improper con-

tracts, making sweetheart deals for family and friends and using improper business practices.

Attorney Renee Yuen, who represents indicted trustee Henry Peters, said the removal petition is another step in "the government's orchestrated campaign" to control estate assets.

"In the future, this dismantling of the Bishop Estate will be seen as the ultimate robbery of the native people directed by non-Hawaiians," Yuen said.

The Bishop Estate trust was established in 1884 by the will of Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop, a descendant of King Kamehameha,

the chief who unified the islands in the late 18th century.

The trust, estimated to be worth about \$10 billion, is fueled by revenues from 337,000 acres of once-royal lands.

The princess' will established the Kamehameha Schools, which is open only to K-12 students of Hawaiian ancestry, as the sole beneficiary. Today, the 600-acre hillside campus overlooking Honolulu serves 3,100 students, with smaller schools planned for the islands of Maui and Hawaii.

See **BISHOP:**
Page 6A

County puts emphasis on privatization

By **CANDACE PERRY**
West Hawaii Today

HILO — The administration and County Council are preparing to submit proposals for the upcoming state legislative session, which will be similar to last year, but with an emphasis on privatization.

"We need to establish meaningful competition," said Mayor Stephen Yamashiro, in regards to the state privatization bill.

When privatization first occurred on the mainland, the mayor said the government lost all of their contracts to private companies. But after a revision of programs, the government was able to win most of them back.

State-run facilities like the prison, hospitals, airports and sporting boat harbors could have their contracted services put out to bid.

"Some people have the feeling they should also be run privately," he said.

The mayor is looking at a number of proposals dealing with the Transient Accommodation Tax and

See **OFFICIALS:**
Page 4A

Pedaling duo attempts to unify the planet

By **ARLENE STEPHEN**
West Hawaii Today

It's a feat never before accomplished — pedaling around the world by land and by sea, but two men from England are in Kailua-Kona to spread the word of their fantastic journey.

Jason Lewis and Steve Smith began their "pedal for the planet" mission in England in 1994.

"We are using this as a vehicle to spread an awareness of the planet we live on," Lewis said, "including people and environment. We're trying to bring young people of different cultures together, a world unity and world citizenship among young people."

It seems an unlikely alliance, a former singer in a band (31-year-old Lewis), and a 32-year-old environmental scientist, but the men, who have been friends since they were 20 years old, have a common goal.

The purpose of the trip is to circumnavigate the globe using human power, showing young people they can accomplish whatever they set out to do.

The men biked to Portugal from England on the first leg of their trip, then pedaled across the Atlantic to Miami, a 111-day crossing in a 4-foot-by-26-foot wooden vessel built



TALKING TO STUDENTS — Steve Smith talks to Kahakai School students about the boat he and Jason Lewis took across the Pacific Ocean. The on-board electrical power for navigational systems and computers were from batteries charged by a wind generator and solar panels.

like a kayak with an enclosed cockpit, the toughest part of their trip so far, Lewis said. They are doing it solo, no support craft with them.

From Miami they ventured across

the United States, one on in-line skates, the other on a bicycle, to San Francisco where they departed for Hawaii. The trip across the mainland took longer than expected because

one was involved in an accident.

After 53 days they arrived in Hilo in mid-November, then by land to

See **MEN:**
Page 4A

...Men attempting to pedal around world

From **Page 1A**

Kailua-Kona where they plan to stay until their departure for Australia in April.

Lewis and Smith, who have a following of supporters, are giving free slide shows along the way and have given talks and slide shows in more than 400 schools on their journey, most of the time speaking to grades 3 to 5, focusing on living their dreams and establishing a cultural exchange program.

"It will probably take us until the end of 1999 to get to Australia," Lewis said, "then we will cut through Indonesia and Malaysia."

"They hope to return to London by 2002, but have made a few trips back during their expedition.

"This is our life, our profession. We have nothing to go back to," Lewis said.

They carry dehydrated food and have a desalinator to make fresh water. The only problem encountered while on the high seas was

when the desalinator broke down crossing the Atlantic, but an emergency desalinator kept them going.

"I've never been frightened in a storm," Lewis said. "One develops a high level of trust in the boat, which becomes part of you."

Although they are the first people to pedal across the Atlantic, Lewis said they really aren't interested in records. They want to use the expedition as a tool.

Meanwhile they give slide shows to charitable organizations and sell subscriptions to a newsletter published every six months. They have established a nonprofit organization headquartered in California to raise funds for the trip and for educational programs. They are also hoping to support the trip with grants they have written.

Smith said any organizations interested in free slide shows or teachers interested in a global learning exchange can contact the men by calling 1-800-943-0114, for free

slide shows or becoming part of their seven week curriculum, an amalgamation of disciplines including marine biology and health and fitness.

"We call it experiential learning," he said.

They are looking for a double-axel boat trailer for temporary use. Anyone with information can call their toll-free number.

The men will be available to answer questions while displaying their vessel and showing slides from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday at HP Bike Works on Lulia Street in the old industrial area in Kailua-Kona, and 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Sunday at B&L Bicycles and Sports on Kopiko Place in Kailua-Kona.

For more information about the "Pedal for the Planet" expedition, global online academic learning systems (GOALS) call Smith and Lewis or check their web site, www.goals.com.