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FILED IN THE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF HAWAII

JULY 25 2003
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF HAWAII

JOHN DOE, a minor, by his mother)
and next friend, JANE DOE,)
)
Plaintiff,)

v.)

KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS/)
BERNICE PAUAHI BISHOP ESTATE;)
and CONSTANCE H. LAU, NAINOA)
THOMPSON, DIANE J. PLOTTS,)
ROBERT K.U. KIHUNE, and J.)
DOUGLAS ING, in their capacities as)
Trustees of the Kamehameha Schools/)
Bernice Pauahi Bishop Estate,)
)
Defendants.)

Civil No. CV 03-00316 ACK LEA

COMPLAINT FOR
DECLARATORY RELIEF,
INJUNCTIVE RELIEF,
AND DAMAGES, *summary*

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

INTRODUCTION

1. This action challenges the legality of certain policies and practices implemented by Defendants with respect to admission to campuses that are part of the Kamehameha Schools/Bernice Pauahi Bishop Estate (KSBE). Plaintiff alleges that KSBE's self-described "preference [for] children of Hawaiian ancestry" constitutes invidious discrimination on the basis of race in violation of 42 U.S.C. § 1981. Plaintiff seeks a declaratory judgment that the challenged policies and practices are illegal and unenforceable; a permanent injunction against any further implementation of the challenged policies and practices or any other admissions policy or practice at KSBE that grants a preference on the basis of "Hawaiian ancestry"; a permanent injunction admitting Plaintiff to a KSBE campus; damages; and a reasonable attorney's fee.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

2. The Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1343(a)(4). Plaintiff's claim arises under a law of the United States—namely, 42 U.S.C. § 1981—within the meaning of § 1331. By this action, moreover, Plaintiff seeks to recover damages and secure equitable and other relief under an Act of Congress providing for the protection of civil rights, namely, 42 U.S.C. § 1981.

3. Venue lies in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1), as jurisdiction is not founded solely on diversity of citizenship, and all Defendants reside in this judicial district.

PARTIES

4. Plaintiff is a minor who brings this action by his mother as next friend. Plaintiff is a native and resident of the State of Hawaii, but neither he nor his mother is of "Hawaiian ancestry." They bring this action anonymously on the basis of their reasonable fears of retaliation by KSBE students, their parents, and members of the public for challenging KSBE's preference for applicants of "Hawaiian ancestry."

5. Plaintiff has twice applied for admission to a KSBE campus—for the 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 school years. With respect to his most recent application, Plaintiff "has been placed on [KSBE's] waiting list." Plaintiff is ready and able to apply for admission for future school years, and intends to do.

6. Plaintiff is qualified to attend a KSBE campus, having been informed by the KSBE Admissions Office that he "was a competitive applicant to Kamehameha Schools."

7. Defendant Kamehameha Schools/Bernice Pauahi Bishop Estate (KSBE) is a perpetual, charitable trust estate established under the last will of Bernice Pauahi Bishop, great-granddaughter and last royal descendant of Kamehameha the Great.

8. Defendants Constance H. Lau, Nainoa Thompson, Diane J. Plotts, Robert K.U. Kihune, and J. Douglas Ing are the incumbent trustees of KSBE (Trustees). Collectively, the Trustees set policy for KSBE and have responsibility for oversight of KSBE. With respect to the matters described herein, the Trustees were at all times

acting within the scope of their authority as officers of KSBE and in furtherance of the interests of KSBE.

9. The Trustees are sued only in their capacity as trustees of KSBE.

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

10. The last will of Bernice Pauahi Bishop directed the trustees of her estate to “erect and maintain in the Hawaiian Islands two schools . . . to be known as, and called the Kamehameha Schools.” To that end, the Trustees and their predecessors have established, and currently maintain a “school-system with three campuses on Oahu, Maui and Hawaii serving more than 4,400 students in kindergarten through grade 12.”

11. The KSBE schools are private, in that KSBE is not an agency or instrumentality of any government; they are commercially operated, in that KSBE charges tuition for children to attend the schools; and they are nonsectarian, in that KSBE has been judicially determined to be a secular institution.

12. As KSBE’s own documents testify, the very first trustees of the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Estate “recognized it was Pauahi’s intent to give [Native] Hawaiians a limited preference in admissions.” *Questions and Answers About KS Admissions Policies*, <http://www.ksbe.edu/services/admissions/policy.html> (visited on June 23, 2003). This admissions “preference policy has been adhered to by successor trustees for 114 years,” i.e., up to and including the present day. *Id.*

13. Thus, KSBE forthrightly acknowledges that its “policy on admissions is to give preference to children of Hawaiian ancestry.” <http://www.ksbe.edu/services/admissions/mainpage.html#Purpose> (visited on June 23, 2003).

14. To be sure, the stated preferential policy is seemingly qualified by the phrase, “to the extent permitted by law.” *Id.* But KSBE’s understanding of the law is that it permits the preference *without qualification*. Thus, in describing “the legal status of [its] admissions policy,” KSBE cites as authoritative and conclusive the fact that “[i]n 1999, the IRS concluded that ‘The Estate’s admission policy is consistent with the requirements for recognition of exemption as an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the [Internal Revenue] code.’” *Questions and Answers About KS Admissions Policies, supra.*

15. The preference touted by KSBE is more than just theoretical. Plaintiff is informed and believes that except for a *single* student admitted last year, only persons of “Hawaiian ancestry” have been admitted to KSBE in the past *four decades*.

16. Even that single admission did not herald a change in policy. Instead, the admission of a non-Native Hawaiian was publicly described by the Trustees as a surprise to them and as a “situation” that “brought the problems with the admissions process into sharp focus.” Indeed, the Trustees are adamant that they “did not change the admissions policy” but rather “upheld the school’s policy of preference for children of Hawaiian ancestry.” The obvious implication is that the Trustees would not

change the policy in the future either; to the contrary, they “pledged to work with the Hawaiian community to carefully review [KSBE’s] admissions process” so that the anomaly of a non-Native Hawaiian admission would never happen again.

17. The Trustees made good on their pledge. Among other measures, the KSBE admissions process explicitly probed the racial characteristics of applicants: the “Ethnic Ancestry Survey 2003-2004” asked for the fractional racial mix of each applicant’s four biological grandparents.

18. The requested information was put to efficient use: consistent with the Trustees’ promise, KSBE announced last month that it is not offering enrollment to *any* non-Native Hawaiians for the upcoming school year.

19. Plaintiff is informed and believes that at least one person of “Hawaiian ancestry” whose qualifications were equal to or less than those of Plaintiff was admitted to a KSBE campus for the 2002-2003 or 2003-2004 school year.

20. Plaintiff is informed and believes that were he of “Hawaiian ancestry,” he would have been admitted to a KSBE campus based on his applications for the 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 school years.

DECLARATORY RELIEF ALLEGATIONS

21. An actual and substantial controversy exists between Plaintiff and Defendants as to their respective legal rights and duties. Plaintiff contends that KSBE’s admissions policy giving “preference to children of Hawaiian ancestry” constitutes

discrimination on the basis of race in violation of 42 U.S.C. § 1981. Defendants contend otherwise.

22. Therefore, declaratory relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2201(a) is appropriate.

INJUNCTIVE RELIEF ALLEGATIONS

23. If not enjoined by this Court, Defendants and their agents will continue to implement admission policies and practices at KSBE that “give preference to children of Hawaiian ancestry.” This continuing course of conduct will cause Plaintiff to suffer irreparable injury, including but not limited to Plaintiff’s inability to compete for admission to a KSBE campus on an equal footing without regard to his race and Plaintiff’s failure to be admitted to a KSBE campus because of his race. Plaintiff has no plain, speedy, and adequate remedy at law for such injury.

24. Therefore, injunctive relief under 42 U.S.C. § 1981 is appropriate.

CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Denial of Equal Rights Under the Law—42 U.S.C. § 1981)

25. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and reallege each allegation set forth in Paragraphs 1-24 above.

26. Section 1 of the Civil Rights Act of 1866, 14 Stat. 27, now provides in relevant part that “[a]ll persons within the jurisdiction of the United States shall have the same right in every State and Territory to make and enforce contracts . . . as is enjoyed by white citizens.” 42 U.S.C. § 1981(a). As interpreted by the courts, § 1981

prohibits private, commercially operated, nonsectarian schools from denying admission to prospective students on the basis of any race whatsoever; such a prohibition is within the constitutional power of Congress.

27. KSBE is, or operates, a system of private, commercially operated, nonsectarian schools.

28. In granting a self-described "preference" to those prospective students with "Hawaiian ancestry," KSBE admission policies and practices deny admission to other prospective students because they lack such ancestry. That denial constitutes discrimination against prospective students on the basis of "Hawaiian ancestry."

29. Discrimination on the basis of "Hawaiian ancestry" is discrimination on the basis of race. Therefore, KSBE admission policies and practices that "give preference to children of Hawaiian ancestry" constitute discrimination on the basis of race. Such discrimination violates 42 U.S.C. § 1981.

30. As a direct and proximate result of this violation, Plaintiff has suffered, and continues to suffer, the following injuries: (1) being compelled to compete for admission to a KSBE campus on an unequal footing because of his race; (2) being denied admission to a KSBE campus because of his race; and (3) emotional distress, mental anguish, psychological trauma, depression, embarrassment, shock, indignity, humiliation, and other general damage.

31. Plaintiff is entitled to a declaration that the challenged admission policies and practices currently implemented at KSBE violate 42 U.S.C. § 1981 and are therefore illegal and unenforceable.

32. Plaintiff is entitled to a permanent injunction against any further implementation by Defendants or their agents of the challenged policies and practices or any other admissions policy or practice at KSBE that grants a preference on the basis of "Hawaiian ancestry," and to a permanent injunction admitting Plaintiff to a KSBE campus.

33. Plaintiff is entitled to compensation for the damages flowing from the above-described injuries. Plaintiff will establish at trial, according to proof, the precise amount of such damages.

34. Because the actions of Defendant KSBE were in blatant violation of the known rights of Plaintiff and were undertaken in willful and conscious disregard of those rights and in a manner that renders KSBE guilty of oppression, fraud, or malice with the intent to vex, harass, annoy, or injure Plaintiff, Plaintiff is entitled to recover punitive or exemplary damages from KSBE in addition to compensatory damages as aforesaid. Plaintiff will establish at trial, according to proof, the precise amount of such damages.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Wherefore, Plaintiff prays for judgment as follows:

(a) for a declaration that Defendants' current admissions policies and practices giving "preference to children of Hawaiian ancestry" violate 42 U.S.C. § 1981 and are therefore illegal and unenforceable;

(b) for a permanent injunction prohibiting Defendants or their agents from continuing to implement any current admissions policy or practice that grants a preference on the basis of "Hawaiian ancestry," or from adopting or implementing any such admissions policy or practice in the future;

(c) for a permanent injunction requiring Defendants to admit Plaintiff to a KSBE campus;

(d) for compensatory damages from all Defendants according to proof;

(e) for punitive or exemplary damages from Defendant KSBE according to proof;

(f) for costs of suit;

(g) for a reasonable attorney's fee pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1988(b); and

(h) for such other and further relief as the court may deem proper.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

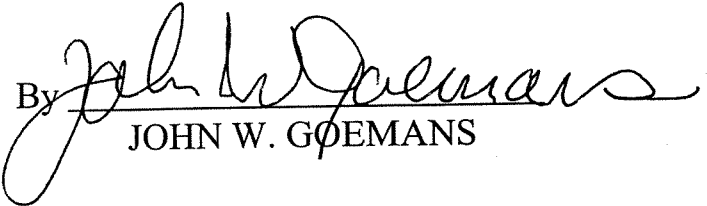
Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 38(a), Plaintiff hereby demands a jury trial of all issues triable of right by a jury.

DATED: June 25, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN W. GOEMANS

ERIC GRANT
JAMES F. SWEENEY
SWEENEY & GRANT LLP

By 
JOHN W. GOEMANS

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

District of Hawaii

JOHN DOE, a minor, by his mother and next friend, JANE DOE

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL CASE

V.

KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS/ BERNICE PAUAHI BISHOP ESTATE; and CONSTANCE H. LAU, NAINOA THOMPSON, DIANE J. PLOTTS, ROBERT K.U. KIHUNE, and J. DOUGLAS ING, in their capacities as Trustees of the Kamehameha Schools/ Bernice Pauahi Bishop Estate

CASE NUMBER: CV03-00316

TO: (Name and address of Defendant)

CONSTANCE H. LAU

Estate

ALL NAMED DEFENDANTS

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to serve on PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY (name and address)

JOHN W. GOEMANS Post Office Box 2849 Kamuela, Hawaii 96743 (808) 887-1199

ERIC GRANT JAMES F. SWEENEY SWEENEY & GRANT LLP 1527 "I" Street Sacramento, California 95814 (916) 341-0321

an answer to the complaint which is served on you with this summons, within 20 days after service of this summons on you, exclusive of the day of service. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. Any answer that you serve on the parties to this action must be filed with the Clerk of this Court within a reasonable period of time after service.

(S) WALTER A.Y.H. CHINN

JUN 25 2003

CLERK

DATE

(By) DEPUTY CLERK