Micah Kane, SBA ‘87, chair of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands since 2003, was appointed trustee of Kamehameha Schools. Governor Linda Lingle made the following announcement on July 17, 2009:

“I’m very happy that Micah has been selected as a Kamehameha Schools trustee. I have worked closely with Micah for the past 11 years, and have watched him develop into one of Hawaii’s finest and most respected leaders.

“He has the skills and experience, combined with the heart and compassion, to serve as a trustee of this valued organization that is of such great importance to Hawaiians and non-Hawaiians alike.

“I am confident that Micah will do an outstanding job carrying out the will of Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop in overseeing the governance of Kamehameha Schools, which is among the most important institutions for perpetuating Hawaiian culture for future generations while preparing Hawaiian students for the 21st century.”

Menlo College conducted a phone interview with Micah in early August, and he provided his insights into this new appointment.

“It gives me the opportunity to be in an environment of a community building people, and it’s an honor to give back. I’m excited with the opportunity.”

The selection process was a traditional executive search, independent of the Governor, and independent of Kamehameha Schools, and conducted through a process of the probate court, and Kane, a Kamehameha graduate, was named by Probate Judge Colleen Hirai to a five-year term starting Sept. 1.

His scope of responsibilities includes the duty of managing assets of the trust. The Estate of Bernice Pauahi Bishop, the last of the Hawaiian alibi, includes trusts lands set aside as resources to educate native Hawaiian children, and the Trustees administer those funds for their education. Kamehameha Schools, founded in 1883 by Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop as a nonprofit trust, operates schools on Oahu, Maui and the Big Island for more than 6,700 students of Hawaiian ancestry. It is the state’s largest private landowner with more than 360,000 acres.

“Native trusts function within a broader community, so if we perform at a high level, it impacts the whole community,” says Kane. The trusteeship is a part-time position, and after twelve years serving in the administration of Governor Lingle, including seven years in the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Kane is looking forward to time with his family and a vacation with “time off to understand the Kamehameha Institution, and then re-engage with the business community.”

Micah is a 1987 graduate in business from Menlo College, and he also received an MBA in 1991 from the University of Hawaii.

“Menlo College was a big part of my life. Due to the multi-ethnic community I experienced there, I was prepared well for graduate school. In addition to the great professors, I remember Coach Ray Solari, (my football coach) a coach of life, whose teachings apply to what he’s doing. Players used his blueprint for the future. I was lucky to play under him. Every week he gave us a thought to help us live our lives. I can’t wait for Ray’s book! I’m looking forward to the next chapter in my life and a chance to give.”

By Tina Fairbairn, Director of Advancement Services and the Annual Fund