

**INTERSTATE COMPACT ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY CHILDREN
HAWAII STATE COUNCIL
GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING**

Brig Gen (Ret) Kathleen Berg, Hawaii State Commissioner

**Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room #414
Honolulu, HI 96813
Tuesday, January 12, 2015
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**

MINUTES

Attendance

Present:

Brig Gen (Ret) Kathleen Berg, State Commissioner, Hawaii State Council, MIC3
Dr. John Brummel, Complex Area Superintendent, Mililani-Leilehua-Waialua, HIDOE
CDR John Dewey, Staff Judge Advocate, USCG 14th District
Mr. John Erickson, Complex Area Superintendent, Moanalua-Radford-Aiea, HIDOE
COL Richard Fromm, Commander, USAG-HI
Mr. Raymond Fujino, Executive Director, Oahu Interscholastic Association
Lt Col Chris Hauver for Col Renzy Smith, 647th Airbase Group, Deputy Commander, JBPHH
Mr. Cody Hensarling, Office of Representative Aaron Johanson, Hawaii State Legislature
Ms. Lanelle Hibbs, Complex Area Superintendent, Kailua-Kalaheo, HIDOE
Ms. Cherise Imai, Military Liaison, HIDOE
Senator Michelle Kidani, Hawaii State Legislature
Col Sean Killeen, Commander, Marine Corps Base Hawaii
Ms. Amy Kunz for Stephen Schatz, Deputy Superintendent, HIDOE
Mr. Thomas Lee, Military Liaison, Office of Governor David Ige
Ms. Wendy Nakasone, School Liaison Officer
Col Peter Santa Ana, J1, USPACOM
Ms. Christina Shioi for CAS Heidi Armstrong, Campbell-Kapolei, HIDOE

Not Able To Attend:

CAPT Mark Manfredi, Chief of Staff, Navy Region Hawaii

1. Call to Order: 9:05 am.
2. Welcome – Commissioner Kathleen Berg introduced the council and welcomed new members to their first meeting: CDR Dewey, Lt Col Hauver, Mr. Hensarling, Col Killeen, and Mr. Lee.
3. The meeting minutes from May 19, 2015 were passed unanimously with one correction under New Business, letter f, item v, revised to “Votes required are 23...” Motioned for approval by Col Santa Ana and seconded by Senator Kidani.
4. Binder Distribution and Review
 - a. Commissioner Berg reviewed the information binders with the council. Topics included are based on information provided at the national meeting in November

2015. MIC3 resources—compact rule book and flyer—are available if council members request additional copies.

- b. Does each state need to provide an annual report as is mentioned in the rule book?
(OPEN ITEM)

5. Report: National Commission (MIC3) Report (Commissioner Kathleen Berg)

a. Overview

- i. The annual meeting of the Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission was held in Seattle, 5–7 November. National Commission Chair Kate Wren-Gavlak, California state commissioner, was reelected as chair; Hawaii State Commissioner Berg will serve again as past chair.
- ii. Kindergarten Age – Brought to the commission at the request of the Hawaii State Council, this concern is nationwide and was discussed at length at the national meeting. The commission determined that each state needs to address each case individually, since the states’ laws on eligibility vary. In our state, the only exception to Hawaii State Statute on eligibility is the state compact rule, which overrides state law.

b. School Liaison Officer Perspective – A session for SLOs was facilitated by Ms. Imai. SLO Wendy Nakasone-Kalani reported that 10 School Liaison Officers attended, primarily Navy Region SLOs.

- i. Some best practices: Developing good relations between the district and the base commanders; parents need to follow the chain of command to resolve issues and may contact the SLO, if needed; parent briefings are important—many parents are not aware of the compact.
- ii. Challenges: District flexibility can be an issue; some SLOs do not have access to their chains of command, and could use this support.
- iii. Requested from MIC3: Nationwide matrix on district information on exit tests and GT requirements; encourage other service SLOs to attend the annual meeting.

c. Compliance Committee Report – A handout was provided.

- i. Report on compact execution status: Hawaii is identified as a “mature” state with commissioner and council in place and operating effectively, thus able to assist other new states with establishing their councils.
- ii. One issue hampering implementation in some states is the appointing of the state commissioner by the governor’s office, because the process takes so long and also results in changes in commissioners with changes in governors. Hawaii’s statute requires the HIDOE Superintendent to appoint the commissioner, with approval by the Board of Education; the process takes less time and allows for more stability and continuity.

d. Rules Committee Report – Handouts were provided.

- i. Charter Schools: Since charter school laws differ from state to state, the Rules Committee determined that making any new rules to apply specifically to charter schools (such as requiring that slots be reserved) was not feasible. However, insofar as a state’s charter schools are public schools, all the compact rules do apply to them.
- ii. Temporary Housing: Although it was agreed that this is an issue almost everywhere, the Rules Committee determined that with so much local variation, it was a local school district issue and a preparation issue by parents prior to a move. Temporary housing was beyond the scope of the compact.

- iii. Mid-term Transfers and Course Credit: Several items were considered including awarding of credit, equity of grading scales, and standards regarding allowable time gaps and attendance.
 - 1) The Rules Committee sent a request to the Executive Committee that a policy statement be prepared recommending collaboration and communication of all parties to find viable solutions and to not propose rules about awarding of credit, grades, etc.
 - 2) Col Killeen suggested that research be conducted into college admissions on GPA calculations. Mr. Hensarling shared that Rep Johanson worked for the Yale Admissions office, and he shared this application of admissions logic vs. GPA calculations: GPAs are reviewed in context, according to the area(s) the applicant is from. It was determined that there needed to be awareness at the college admission officers level of the unique aspects of military students' GPAs. Commissioner Berg will bring this suggestion up to the National Commission. (OPEN ITEM)

6. Old Business

- a. Update: Training/Meeting Update – Ms. Cherise Imai shared the Brief and Training Report with the council.
- b. Update: Hawaii Case Matrix – Ms. Cherise Imai shared the case matrix, current as of 7 January 2016. This matrix documents those compact issues that rise above the ordinary daily application of the rules by involving personnel beyond just the school or raising questions about the applicability of the compact or how it should be applied to resolve the issue(s) in the case. On-time graduation issues involving the sending state schools, kindergarten issues, and questions about credit transfers and GPA calculations appeared in many of the matrix entries. It was noted that this matrix could serve as a state report, should one be a requirement.
- c. Update: Pilot Deployment Excused Absence Process – The compact mandates excused absences for military students whose parents are deployed to combat zones or combat support postings, as long as the child is doing okay in school and does not already have many absences. This became an issue because under the HIDOE Strive HI assessment of the schools, excused absences are not allowed. The Joint Venture Education Forum (JVEF) thus got involved and developed this pilot process for the application for and granting of “excused” absences. The J1 of USPACOM provided the memo on current combat locations used in the process. The process was to be piloted in the Windward complex, since the JFEF committee chair was the CAS there. Commissioner Berg reported that with the change in complex area superintendent and with large deployments no longer the norm, there did not seem to be the same need for the process as previously. She shared that the new CAS Lanelle Hibbs, present at today’s council meeting, would be following up on the pilot activity. She asked J1 to publish the memo on current combat locations at least annually for distribution. (OPEN ITEM)
- d. Position Vacancy: Military Family Education Liaison (MFEL) – This position is still vacant, and we are seeking possible candidates to fill it. A copy of the position description was provided to all council members (OPEN ITEM)

7. New Business

- a. State Compact Dues Payment – Hawaii’s dues were \$21,971 for SY15-16. This is somewhat lower than in previous years, reflecting the downsizing of the military stationed in Hawaii.
- b. Commissioner Status Renewal – Commissioner Berg was extended as the state compact commissioner for two additional years by Superintendent Kathryn Matayoshi. At the national level, Commissioner Berg is in her second term as the past chairman, having served since August 2012 as the national chair.
- c. MIC3 Executive Director – The executive director of MIC3, BG (Ret) Stephen Hogan, was appointed as the adjutant general (TAG) for Kentucky by their newly elected governor in December. MIC3 is seeking a new Executive Director as BG (ret) Hogan’s appointment was effective immediately.
- d. MIC3 Rules Committee Request for Information: Temporary Lodging – a request has come in from the committee for information about the impact on military students and best practices for dealing with the issues caused by temporary lodging of military families before they can get permanent housing on base.
 - i. Ms. Kim Crutchfield, Navy School Liaison, suggested that schools that serve military students in temporary lodging allow the student to remain in the school until the end of the year.
 - ii. Col Santa Ana suggested we educate incoming families on the option of Geographic Exception, recognizing that this is based on school availability/enrollment and parents would need to drive the student to the school (if excepted).
 - iii. Dr. Brummel stated that schools like Hale Kula Elementary School (which serves Schofield Inn) have fluctuations in enrollment and may be able to allow the student to remain in the school based on availability.
 - iv. SLO Nakasone-Kalani mentioned that all schools try to accommodate if possible. She also mentioned that Schofield Inn and some other temporary housing places provide a statement of non-availability, while Tripler does not provide this document. The document can be used start their child in the school where they will likely attend when the family is approved for base housing.
 - v. Mr. Erickson stated that when he was principal at Hickam Elementary, he tried to accommodate families and students based on available seats.
 - vi. Col Santa Ana said the challenge for families is maneuvering all the different requirements of housing, temporary lodging, and schools. Much of planning is on the parent—and doing what is best for the child. Just like the compact is focused on the child, if we keep this in mind as the parents transition, he said that you can’t be wrong.
 - vii. Ms. Crutchfield said getting housing involved is important.

8. Next State Council Meeting – May 2016 (Date/Location TBA)

9. Public Comment (5 min per individual)

- a. Ms. Jean Grice, DODDS Pacific Liaison at USPACOM, asked about the various states’ council military liaisons and council composition. Commissioner Berg shared that when the compact became active, the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) identified for each state which military service was to provide the military liaison to that state’s council. Initially the Army was identified for

Hawaii, but we petitioned to have that changed so that we could have all the services as well as USPACOM participate with a liaison on the Hawaii State Council. She stated that consequently Hawaii has one of the larger of the state councils. She shared that some states are challenged with developing their councils and that the national commission is focused on the new states and their implementation of the compact.

- b. Ms. Park Kalulehiwa asked if there is any discussion of adding “Gold Star” families for eligibility under excused absences? Commissioner Berg said she could bring this up nationally; however, she hoped this would fall under the “spirit of the compact” for schools to consider when asked. Generally, principals can be flexible about allowing this. Col Santa Ana added that the camps are held throughout the year. It was suggested that the HDOE consider distributing a memo explaining the program. **(OPEN ITEM)**
- c. SLO Nakasone-Kalani added that a parent recently contacted her, and she spoke to the school principal. She suggested that the parents call the School Liaison Officer for assistance.
- d. Ms. Tammi Chun reported that the ESEA was reauthorized and that it includes a requirement for a military identifier in state education databases.

10. Adjournment: 11:04 am.

Point of Contact: Brig Gen (Ret) Kathleen Berg, Commissioner, Hawaii State Council
Email: kberg@hawaii.edu, Phone: 808-956-4952

DRAFT