

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

**Brig Gen (Ret) Kathleen Berg, Hawaii State Commissioner**

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

**Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room #229  
Honolulu, HI 96813**

**Friday, June 15, 2018  
9:00am-11:00am**

**MINUTES**

Attendance

Council Members Present:

- CAS Heidi Armstrong, Complex Area Superintendent, Leeward: Campbell-Kapolei, HIDEO
- Brig Gen (Ret) Kathleen Berg, State Commissioner, Hawaii State Council, MIC3
- CAS Robert Davis, Complex Area Superintendent, Central: Leilehua-Mililani-Waialua, HIDEO
- Lt Col John Hill for Col Stephen Dawson, Commander, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii (USAG-HI)
- CDR John Dewey, Staff Judge Advocate, U.S. Coast Guard (US CG) 14<sup>th</sup> District
- CAS John Erickson, Complex Area Superintendent, Central: Aiea-Moanalua-Radford, HIDEO
- Ms. Lanelle Hibbs, Complex Area Superintendent, Kailua-Kalaheo, HIDEO
- Ms. Donna Fujimoto-Saka for Governor David Ige
- CAPT James Jenks, Chief of Staff, Navy Region Hawaii
- Mr. Scott Fujii for Senator Michelle Kidani, Hawaii State Legislature
- Ms. Amy Kunz for Dr. Christina Kishimoto, Superintendent, HIDEO
- Lt Col Bryan Edwards for Col Raul Lianez, Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH)
- Ms. Wendy Nakasone-Kalani, School Liaison Officer (SLO)
- Ms. Cherry Okahara, Military Liaison, HIDEO
- Col Douglas Pierce, Commander, Hickam Air Force Base, 647<sup>th</sup> Airbase Group
- Col Neil Mahabir for Col Peter Santa Ana, Director, J1, U.S. Pacific Command
- Ms. Napela Shim for Representative Justin Woodson, Hawaii State Legislature

Unable to Attend:

- Mr. Raymond Fujino, Executive Director, Oahu Interscholastic Association

1. Call to Order: 9:00 a.m.
2. Welcome/Farewell

The following military liaisons to the council were bid farewell and thanked profusely:

- COL Stephen Dawson, US Army Garrison Hawaii (USAG – HI)
- CDR John Dewey, US Coast Guard, 14<sup>th</sup> District
- Col Peter Santa Ana, Director, J1, U.S. Pacific Command

The following new military representative was welcomed:

- CDR Matt ten Berge, US Coast Guard, 14<sup>th</sup> District

The following guest presenters were welcomed, as were the alternates and guest attendees:

- Mr. Dan Miyamoto and Ms. Theresa Sanchez, Office of Curriculum and Instructional Support, HIDOE
3. Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes: The minutes from the December 8, 2017 meeting were approved as written.
  4. Report: National Commission Activity
    - Commissioner Berg reported that Mr. Bill Hampton of the Defense State Liaison Office (DSLO) was introduced to state commissioners at the last MIC3 Annual Business Meeting (ABM) in October 2017; he is the compact member states' contact for the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy. He announced at the ABM the approval of the new DOD Instruction 1342.29, which outlines how military representatives to State Councils are appointed. In the spring of this year, Berg received notice of an e-book published for them, titled the *Military Representative to State Council of the Military Interstate Children's Compact Resource Guide*. All state council members were provided with a copy of that booklet. Commissioner Berg directed members to look at page 7 where the DOD instruction is mentioned and appointment of a state's "lead military representative" is described. This is a slight change for Hawaii, since prior to this the state had an exemption from DOD that allowed us to have multiple military representatives (then called military liaisons to the state council), since we had all military services present in significant numbers in our state as well as USPACOM. The instruction still allows states to have multiple representatives, but the Army representative is officially designated by DOD as the lead.
    - As explained by Commissioner Berg, since reaching the milestone in August 2014 of getting all the states plus Washington, DC to join the Compact, there has been a big effort by the MIC3 National Office to get state councils up and running in all states. A required member of every state council is the military representative, and some states had been having trouble getting the DOD to appoint a representative to their council. With the publication of the new DOD instruction and Mr. Hampton's engagement, that issue has been resolved. Hawaii has never had any difficulties with that, and the Hawaii State Council has been fully functional since 2010.
    - HIDOE Military Liaison Cherry Okahara added that National Office has also done a rebranding of MIC3 and updated their website, which she encouraged all members to visit (<http://www.mic3.net>). Their new color scheme is quite attractive, and she is updating the state council members' binder contents to reflect the new look and new publications. She mentioned the multiple legal advisories that are now available on the website; a couple of the legal opinions directly address Hawaii issues. She reminded the group that these improvements were done under the direction of the MIC3's new executive director, Cherise Imai, who was Okahara's predecessor as the HIDOE military liaison. She and Commissioner Berg both expressed appreciation for Imai's work in Hawaii and now in the MIC3 National Office, where she is a great help to Hawaii when needed. Berg shared her new state commissioner business card, which uses the new MIC3 logo and color scheme.
  5. Old Business
    - a. Update: Training/Meeting Report  
HIDOE Military Liaison Cherry Okahara described very productive meetings that she and school liaison officers (SLOs) had with HIDOE personnel, as well as meetings with several

principals she had as the HIDOE military liaison. She addressed a Military Impacted Principals meeting with Dr. Kishimoto, the superintendent, specifically to provide information on the legal opinion regarding Kindergarten entrance in Hawaii. She participated in the Radford Complex Principals meeting, and she and Col (Ret) Dave Tom from USPACOM J1 provided a briefing to new state council member Representative Justin Woodson of the State Legislature on both the Interstate Compact and the Joint Venture Education Forum (JVEF). Council members were provided with the updated “ICEOMC Hawaii State Council Brief and Training Report.”

b. Update: Hawaii Case Matrix

HIDOE Military Liaison Cherry Okahara directed council members’ attention to the updated Hawaii Case History Matrix, which tracks Compact issues that are brought to her or to the state commissioner. She noted that the military SLOs and the teachers and staff of Hawaii’s military-impacted schools do a terrific job of handling almost all of the Compact questions that military families and schools have. Some questions, however, are more complex or unusual and require more consultation. The two cases recently added to the case matrix were from 2017 and dealt with kindergarten and first grade entrance. Okahara described the case involving a DOD civilian employee’s family and their desire for their underage child to continue in kindergarten in a Hawaii public school upon their transfer from Virginia to Hawaii. The child started kindergarten in Virginia in September 2017 and the transfer was to occur later in the fall of 2017. She and Commissioner Berg reiterated some of the facts and legal opinions regarding applicability of the Compact only to children of active duty military members and, more specifically, applicability of the Compact kindergarten rule to allow underage children to attend kindergarten in Hawaii, contrary to the Hawaii law, only to military children and then only under very limited conditions when four specific requirements are met. A robust discussion followed that included one of the military representatives on the council sharing personal experiences, including his child’s experience with schooling in England then transferring to American schools; some of the background information regarding the change to Hawaii’s kindergarten entry age, including its inviolability as a state law; and possible ways that underage military children can have a kindergarten experience in Hawaii apart from the public school program so that their entry to first grade is on track with what their parents had expected for them. Okahara described the second case added to the matrix, which was about ensuring that a child transitioning in who had finished kindergarten but would have been too young to start in Hawaii could start first grade in Hawaii when he arrived, even though school will have already started in Hawaii, if he does not start first grade in the sending state. Doing so would result in the child not being in school almost two months and starting late in Hawaii, already behind his peers in age and experience. The recommendation to the parents was to start the child in first grade in the sending state to make the transition from kindergarten to first grade there, even though the child will have to leave that school when they move to Hawaii. Principals in Hawaii have flexibility when it comes to first grade entrance, but do not have flexibility with regard to kindergarten entrance age because that age is set in law. The matrix explains each case and its resolution. Copies were provided to all council members.

c. Update: State Compact Dues

Hawaii’s annual dues as a member of the Compact total \$20,021 for the fiscal year 1 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019. Partial payment of \$8,000 will be made by the HIDOE to MIC3 in the current HIDOE fiscal year. The remaining will be processed when the HIDOE receives their general funds for the next HIDOE fiscal year. Dues are currently set at \$1 for every school-aged military dependent living in the state per the military database, DEERS (Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System). These dues are about \$800 less than the previous year. Commissioner Berg reported that she has heard there will be a request for a dues increase at this coming MIC3 ABM scheduled for October of 2018. More information will be forthcoming.

- d. **Position Vacancy: Military Family Education Liaison (MFEL)**

The MFEL position on the state council is defined in the Compact law, and after many years of having one of our local military SLOs fill the position, we were informed that no federal employee could be appointed as the MFEL. The position is considered a state government position, even though it is, like the commissioner, an unpaid position. We have had a few promising prospects over the last couple of years, both military spouses, but to date we have not had an applicant for the position. The position description was made available to council members, and they were asked to publicize the opportunity in any venues they felt were appropriate. Applications are to be sent to the HIDOE Military Liaison.
- e. **GPA Calculation: HIDOE Update**

Mr. Dan Miyamoto and Theresa Sanchez of HIDOE provided a report to the group about the current status of the HIDOE document, under development since 2016, that explains how a student's grade-point average (GPA) is calculated in Hawaii public schools. This project was begun by Cherise Imai and was an effort to address an issue that came up frequently to the MIC3 National Office and has come up in Hawaii high schools as well. With this council's concurrence, Imai and Berg endeavored to have the HIDOE develop a document that could be posted on the department's website so that parents could see it and understand the process that is used here, and Hawaii could serve as an example of how the issue could be addressed with parents. Of course, there is no universally accepted method for calculating GPA, since grade scales and methods vary by institution, state, and country, so it is complex and hard to understand. Nonetheless, HIDOE has made great progress in finalizing a one-page document that explains the four-step process used in our state's schools. Miyamoto and Sanchez shared the latest version, which looked very professional in full color, and they took council members through the explanations, charts, and examples, explaining along the way what weighted grades mean and the difference between honors courses and Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses. Council members provided feedback, and had a very informative exchange of questions, answers, and experiences about how GPAs affect class rankings. We learned that colleges do not generally accept a GPA given by a student's high school but actually recalculate the GPA using their own methods and scales. Council members were greatly encouraged that under the direction of Miyamoto and Sanchez, the project was very near completion so that an official document would be published on the website soon. Military SLO Wendy Nakasone-Kalani expressed great appreciation for HIDOE creating such a document because it will make the SLOs' work with parents so much easier to have documentation to use in explaining changes that parents question. It is expected that by the next council meeting there will be a final, official document to share with us.

## 6. New Business

- a. **State of New York Requirements Regarding Waiver Requests for Regents Examinations:**

Commissioner Berg reported that at the end of the MIC3 ABM last October, the State Commissioner from New York announced that the New York State (NYS) Board of Regents, which requires a Regents exam for students to meet graduation requirements, passed new regulations that provide an exception for transferring military students. The regulation states that if the student took an "end-of-course exam" at the previous out-of-state high school that they will in turn receive NYS Regents exam credit. As evidence, the NYS regulation requires a letter from the sending school principal stating that the "transfer military impacted student" did in fact take an end-of-course exam. This exam could be a state exam, regional exam, local exam, or teacher exam, but the principal must state in writing that the exam was taken as part of the course credit. In the past, a student would need to sit for and pass an exam upon arrival at a NYS high school, but with a principal's letter stating that the military student already took an end-of-course exam, the student would be exempt from the Regents exam. There is still some ongoing work to be done in finalizing the template for the principal's letter and still

some confusion as to whether the score the student earned on the end-of-course exam must also be disclosed in the principal's letter.

7. Next State Council Meeting: HIDOE Military Liaison Okahara will contact council members to seek out possible dates in September for the next meeting. Since the MIC3 annual business meeting will be held in October, a council meeting in September will allow for the identification and clarification of any issues this council may want taken to the national level.
8. Public Comment (5 min per individual)
  - a. Jean Grice, DoDEA LNO to USPACOM, commented on the potential difficulties that can arise when some school principals make accommodations beyond what the HIDOE policies allow. Since the military community is really quite small and information is shared widely, if other principals do not make the same accommodations, issues of fairness in the treatment of students can come up.
  - b. Col (Ret) Dave Tom from USPACOM J1 pointed out that Hawaii Compact dues of about \$20,000 based on \$1 per school-age military student resident in the state per the DEERS database is inconsistent with the number of school-age military students for whom Federal Impact Aid cards are submitted. Per the count of Impact Aid cards, there are about 14,000 school-age military students. The discrepancy of 6,000 students points out the severe undercounting of students that plagues the Federal Impact Aid program. He also asked if questions about credits for online courses and homeschooling come up frequently at the MIC3 National Office. There is ongoing work within JVEF on this topic in Hawaii. Commissioner Berg was not aware of questions on this topic being brought to the MIC3 national level. HIDOE Military Liaison added that Dr. Kishimoto, HIDOE Superintendent, had directed that various department staff meet to work on updating department definitions and policies regarding online and homeschool coursework, and that state council member Ray Fujino, who could not attend today's meeting, is the department's lead on homeschooling and one of those who will be involved in this work.
9. Meeting was adjourned and members asked to stay a few minutes to accommodate picture taking.

Point of Contact: Brig Gen (Ret) Kathleen Berg  
Hawaii State Commissioner  
Email: [kberg@hawaii.edu](mailto:kberg@hawaii.edu)  
Phone: 808-262-5008