

**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, May 17, 2016  
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**

**MINUTES**

Attendance:

Council Members Present:

1. CAS Heidi Armstrong, Campbell-Kapolei, HIDOE
2. Brig Gen (Ret) Kathleen Berg, State Commissioner, Hawaii State Council, MIC3
3. CDR John Dewey, Staff Judge Advocate, USCG 14<sup>th</sup> District
4. Mr. John Erickson, Complex Area Superintendent, Moanalua-Radford-Aiea, HIDOE
5. COL Richard Fromm, Commander, USAG-HI (LAST MEETING)
6. Ms. Korene Horibata for Dr. John Brummel, Complex Area Superintendent, Mililani-Leilehua-Waialua, HIDOE (FIRST MEETING)
7. Ms. Lanelle Hibbs, Complex Area Superintendent, Kailua-Kalaheo, HIDOE
8. Ms. Cherise Imai, Military Liaison, HIDOE (LAST MEETING)
9. Ms. Amy Kunz for Stephen Schatz, Deputy Superintendent, HIDOE
10. Mr. Thomas Lee, Military Liaison, Office of Governor David Ige
11. CAPT Mark Manfredi, Chief of Staff, Navy Region Hawaii
12. Ms. Wendy Nakasone, School Liaison Officer
13. Col Peter Santa Ana, J1, USPACOM
14. Mr. Doug Wadsworth, Chief of Staff, for Col Sean Killeen, Commander, Marine Corps Base Hawaii

Unable To Attend:

1. Mr. Raymond Fujino, Executive Director, Oahu Interscholastic Association
2. Senator Michelle Kidani, Hawaii State Legislature
3. Lt Col Chris Hauver for Col Renzy Smith, 647<sup>th</sup> Airbase Group
4. Representative Aaron Johanson, Hawaii State Legislature

1. Call to Order: 9:00am
2. Welcome/Farewell
  - a. W – Ms. Korene Horibata for Dr. Brummel, North Central Complex Schools
  - b. F – COL Richard Fromm, Garrison Commander, US Army Hawaii
  - c. F – Ms. Cherise Imai, Military Liaison, HIDOE
3. The minutes from the January 12, 2016, meeting were approved unanimously with five minor corrections.

4. Report: National Commission (MIC3) Report

a. GPA Calculation

- i. Commissioner Berg reported that the item was submitted to the MIC3 National Commission and will be discussed at the Executive Committee meeting this summer in July. Under discussion is a possible policy or guidance letter by the Compliance Committee/National Office.
- ii. Essentially, the situation is that school districts do not change student letter grades as they transfer to a new district. But districts do recalculate student GPAs, which are derived from those letter grades, by converting the point values to the receiving district's grade point scale. A draft handout that HIDOE compiled was distributed to members to show how the conversion process is carried out in HIDOE on their 4-point grading scale (which means that a grade of A earned in a regular high school course is given 4 points). It was pointed out that HIDOE policy is to award "merit points" only for grades earned in nationally standardized programs such as Advanced Placement and the International Baccalaureate. This policy is consistent with that of the DoD Education Activity (DoDEA).
- iii. Ms. Imai reported that the document is under internal review by the department, and once approved it will be distributed to the complex areas for review and comment. Once officially approved, the guidance will be disseminated widely. Ms. Nakasone commented that the SLOs will also place it on their websites for incoming families. (OPEN ITEM)

5. Old Business

- a. Update: Brief/Training Report – Ms. Imai reported that training for Oahu is almost completed, and the new school year will address the Honolulu Complexes and neighbor islands.
- b. Update: Hawaii Case Matrix– Ms. Imai updated the Council on two cases this past semester: one regarding a student GPA and the other about PE credit.
- c. Position: Military Family Education Liaison (MFEL) – Previously the MFEL position was held by a SLO, but due to DoD guidance regarding the ethics regulation for DoD employees that prohibits them from holding any state position, that SLO had to step down. The position needs to be filled with someone who is not a federal employee. As an aside, because having a SLO on the council was so useful, the council members approved adding a SLO representative to the Council. The MFEL position, however, still remains vacant. Over the last few months, two candidates submitted applications, which we will review and contact them, providing an update at the fall meeting of the council.
- d. USPACOM Information on Current Combat Locations
  - i. The Windward Complex piloted the forms that were developed by a JVEF ad hoc committee to provide service members with a way to apply for "excused absences" should the military member be deployed "to a combat zone or combat support posting"; the compact is very clear that not all deployments are eligible for this accommodation. Part of the process includes using an annually updated list of such locations provided to HIDOE by USPACOM. Col Santa Ana said he signed a document that does just that not long ago, and he will forward the document to Commissioner Berg. (OPEN ITEM)
  - ii. SAS Kunz said HIDOE is currently reviewing the department strategic plan – and although the STRIVE HI accountability program does not specifically include "excused absences" as described in the compact rule, there may need to be some specific language created to accommodate the compact's requirement

for additional excused absences for students whose military parents are assigned to combat related deployments.

e. MIC3 – Hawaii State Council Annual Report

- i. At the last council meeting it was mentioned that the statute includes language on an annual report, and the question was asked if our council was doing one. Commissioner Berg provided some background that may explain why such language is still there. She reported that in the model legislation and the first set of proposed rules there was a part that mandated the collection of data and reporting of all applications of the compact rules. When the commission met in 2009, its second annual meeting, those states then represented discussed every proposed rule and voted to make each one part of the compact or not. At the time, the national No Child Left Behind Act had put a huge data collection burden on all school districts nationwide. The school officials in attendance as state commissioners argued against levying yet more data collection and reporting requirements on their school districts. They were successful in getting the proposed rules related to mandatory data collection and reporting excluded from the final set of compact rules. There were references, however, to the data and reporting rule(s) in other parts of the statute that should have been removed when those rules were not approved. There is no requirement that data be collected and a state annual report made.
- ii. As related information, it was mentioned that there is a requirement in the new Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) for every state to include a military identifier in the statewide student database so that data can be disaggregated to monitor the status and progress of military dependent students in that state's public schools.
- iii. Col Santa Ana said that finding a correlation between the military readiness in relation to the effectiveness of the schools is important and could be valuable.

6. New Business

a. State Compact Dues Invoice

- i. We received our FY17 dues invoice for \$21,226 from MIC3 earlier this month. Dues have decreased somewhat from what they were when Hawaii first joined the compact. Hawaii's dues are funded through the Legislature and General Funds. HIDOE will pay the dues once the funds are transferred from the state, which usually happens in July.

b. MIC3 Rules Committee Request for Information: Temporary Lodging

- i. Concerns were raised at the national level regarding placement of students in a school near their family's temporary lodging facilities (TLF) upon arrival in a state, and then subsequent movement of the child to a new school/district once the family's permanent housing was secured. Questions were asked about how the various locations/schools/states where this is happening a lot were handling this extra transition burden. Hawaii was identified as one of the states that could provide the Rules Committee with information so they might more fully understand the situation and evaluate what help might be offered by MIC3. We would like to send a report to the committee in June. Some of the information we can share was discussed.
- ii. In Hawaii, school enrollment is allowed under these conditions:
  1. Signed/confirmed housing lease document (e.g., at Hickam ES)

2. If housing is not available on Schofield, families can obtain an Army Certificate of Non-Availability that will allow a family to reside in off-base TLF but still enroll in an on-post school, which may negate the need for a change of school when the family gets permanent housing (depending on where that permanent housing is on base).
  3. Families can research and apply for a HIDOE Geographic Exception so that a child is allowed to enroll in a particular school regardless of where the family resides. This can allow a student to stay in a school even though the family no longer lives in the school's geographic area.
- iii. Deadlines:
1. Each council member should respond to the questions asked by the Rules Committee (on the handout) and email their input by Wednesday, 1 June to Commissioner Kathleen Berg, [kberg@hawaii.edu](mailto:kberg@hawaii.edu) and Cherise Imai, [cherise\\_imai@notes.k12.hi.us](mailto:cherise_imai@notes.k12.hi.us).
  2. The MIC3 Executive Committee will review the requested state reports in preparation for discussion at the MIC3 Annual Business Meeting in October 2016. **(OPEN ITEM)**
- c. Commissioner Berg shared another item of information discovered in the statute when she was reviewing the earlier question about an annual report. The compact rules apply to children of “active duty” members of the “uniformed services” and those terms are all defined in Chapter 100 – Definitions. In that section it says, “‘Uniformed service(s)’ means: the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard as well as the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Services.” The existence and inclusion of the latter two groups was a surprise to some on the council. Military liaisons on the council helped describe these organizations, commenting that these individuals wore various military uniforms in the case of the Public Health Services. Tripler Army Medical Center has a Public Health Command, and there is a large NOAA installation on Ford Island. We will reach out to these organizations and to the MIC3 National Office in the next few weeks.
- d. Mr. Lee shared that the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii – Military Affairs Council (MAC) is discussing the military's perception of Hawaii's public schools, noting that it is often a misperception that is not supported by current information and recent milestones reached by HIDOE. They are collecting information on Hawaii's public schools and discussing how to address the misperceptions by sharing the good news stories.
- i. CAPT Manfredi stated that the Navy is working on this as well.
  - ii. Commissioner Berg said the JVEF Communication Group is working on a Leilehua HS video. Ms. Crutchfield said Radford High's students are also filming a video. Contact information was provided to Mr. Lee so that these parallel efforts can complement each other.
7. Next State Council Meeting – Late September or early October, date and location TBD.
8. Public Comment (5 min per individual) – None.
9. Adjournment: 10:21am

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