



# Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission HAWAII – 2017 Annual Report



## Hawaii State Council Members

Specific guidance for the composition and the operation of the State Council can be found in HRS 311D - 2. The Council is to be comprised of the following:

*[§311D-2] State council. There is established within the board of education for administrative purposes the state council on educational opportunity for military children. The board of education shall establish the state council, as required by article VIII of the compact. The membership of the state council shall include, at a minimum:*

- (1) The superintendent of education or the superintendent's designee;*
- (2) The complex area superintendents of the administrative districts that contain the Leilehua, Radford/Moanalua, and Kalaheo school complexes;*
- (3) A complex area superintendent from the Leeward district;*
- (4) The military liaison from the department of education;*
- (5) A uniformed military representative from the United States Pacific Command;*
- (6) One installation-level uniformed military representative from each branch of service of the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Coast Guard;*
- (7) The governor or the governor's designee;*
- (8) The chairperson of the senate education committee or the chairperson's designee;*
- (9) The chairperson of the house education committee or the chairperson's designee; and*
- (10) Other offices and stakeholder groups the state council deems necessary.*

*Members of the state council may delegate voting authority to another person for a specified meeting or meetings. The state council shall appoint or designate a military family education liaison to assist military families and the state in facilitating the implementation of this compact. The compact commissioner and the military family education liaison designated herein shall be ex-officio members of the state council, unless either is already a full voting member of the state council. The council shall establish policies and procedures governing its operations but subject to the open meeting requirements of chapter 92. [L 2009, c 152, pt of §1; am L 2011, c 82, pt of §1]*

<b>Brig Gen (Ret) Kathleen Berg</b> (10/2009) Hawaii State Commissioner Hawaii State Council	Governor David Ige (1/2015) State of Hawaii	Dr. Christina Kishimoto (8/2017) Superintendent Hawaii State Department of Education
<b>Ms. Cherry Okahara</b> (7/2016) Military Liaison Hawaii State Department of Education	Mr. John Erickson (8/2013) Complex Area Superintendent Moanalua-Radford-Aiea Complex Hawaii State Department of Education	Mr. Robert Davis (1/2017) Complex Area Superintendent Mililani-Leilehua-Waialua Complex Hawaii State Department of Education
Ms. Lanelle Hibbs (7/2015) Complex Area Superintendent Kailua-Kalaheo Complex Hawaii State Department of Education	Mr. Sean Tajima (7/2018) Interim Complex Area Superintendent Campbell-Kapolei Complex Hawaii State Department of Education	Mr. Raymond Fujino (5/2015) Executive Director Oahu Interscholastic Association
Senator Michelle Kidani (1/2015) Hawaii State Legislature Senate Committee on Education	Representative Justin Woodson (3/2017) Hawaii State Legislature House Committee on Education	CAPT Lyn Hammer (7/2018) Director, Manpower and Personnel HQ USINDOPACOM, Camp Smith HI
CDR Matt ten Berge Resources Division Officer US Coast Guard District 14	COL Thomas Barrett (7/2018) Commander US Army Garrison Hawaii (USAG)	CAPT James Jenks (10/2016) Chief of Staff Navy Region Hawaii
Col Douglas Pierce (7/2017) Commander 647 <sup>th</sup> Air Base Group Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam	Col Raul Lianez (6/2017) Commanding Officer Marine Corps Base Hawaii	Wendy Nakasone Kalani School Liaison Officer US Army Garrison Hawaii (USAG) *Appointed by the Hawaii Education Liaison Officers



## Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission HAWAII – 2017 Annual Report



### Points of Contact

Brig Gen (Ret) Kathleen Berg, Hawaii State Commissioner and Ms. Cherry Okahara, State of Hawaii Department of Education (HIDOE) Military Liaison serves as the point of contacts for Hawaii.

### Summary of Achievements, Activities and Presentations

The Hawaii State Commissioner and HIDOE Military Liaison have reached a broader audience in terms of presenting information and providing briefs on the Compact. In addition to meetings with principals for refresher training as well as an introduction to new administrators, Brig Gen (Ret) Berg and Ms. Okahara has also advised HIDOE personnel along with community members at various workshops and meetings to learn more about the Compact. Presentations and briefs were provided at the following:

- Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Area Commanders' and Senior Enlisted Meeting
- Honolulu District Principals' Meeting
- Kailua-Kalaheo Principals' Meeting
- Military Family Life Counselor Orientation
- Military Culture Course
- HIDOE Community Engagement Office Workshop Series – 1) Windward District 2) Leeward District 3) West Hawaii District

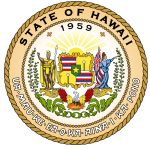
Two (2) state council meetings were held on January 20, 2017 and December 8, 2017. We were fortunate to have newly appointed Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) Executive Director, Ms. Cherise Imai and MIC3 Legal Counsel attend and participate at our January 20 meeting.

Meeting agendas and minutes are posted on <http://bit.ly/InterstateCompact>

The Hawaii State Council has also made progress towards a **Grade Point Average (GPA) Calculation** factsheet for Hawaii Public Schools and eventual publication on the HIDOE website. This is to help resolve the misunderstandings that parents had brought to the MIC3 National Office related to the GPA recalculations done when students transfer from one school to another. In 2016 Commissioner Berg and then HIDOE Military Liaison Cherise Imai began a process to have the HIDOE's GPA calculation procedure documented so that parents could do their own calculation the same way the HIDOE does the recalculation of transferring students' grades. A draft document was provided to Ms. Imai by the HIDOE.

There were changes in HIDOE personnel and one of Ms. Okahara's first tasks as HIDOE Military Liaison was to get caught up on this matter. Ms. Okahara met with new HIDOE point of contact, Mr. Dan Miyamoto and he was able to create a new version of the document (reformatted and with updated information as needed). In November, Ms. Okahara provided Mr. Miyamoto with feedback from Commissioner Berg and MIC3 Executive Director Imai. A new version (dated December 6) was drafted. That document was shared with the Council at the December 18 meeting. Because the final document must pass through an approval process within the department before distribution and posting, it will likely be during 2018 that this project is completed. The HIDOE uses a two-part formula to calculate a student's GPA. The course grade is converted to points and multiplied by the number of attempts to determine the total course points. Then the sum of total course points is divided by the sum of attempts to determine the GPA.

Another important matter that has been a continual and persistent inquiry that prompted Commissioner Berg to seek an official legal opinion is **Kindergarten Eligibility**. Incoming families who are not familiar with Hawaii state law or who have come from states where children are allowed enroll in kindergarten at the age of four have expressed frustration with this and have tried to seek ways to get around it. Hawaii schools and administrators have encountered families that move



## Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission HAWAII – 2017 Annual Report



to Hawaii, establish residence here, then one of them returns to the previous state and enrolls their child, having their child attend only one day in most cases, then coming back to Hawaii.

Commissioner Berg asked for an official legal opinion from the MIC3 National Office as a way for our school personnel to better understand the conditions under which they must allow a military child to attend kindergarten in Hawaii even though the child is only 4 years old, which would be a violation of a state law, as well as the conditions under which enrollment must be denied, consistent with state law.

The legal opinion establishes that if the family moves to Hawaii then one of them returns to the previous state and enrolls the child, the condition in MIC3 Rule 3.102 (b) (3) (i) likely cannot be met. And if the child attends only one day, then the conditions in MIC3 Rule 3.102 (b) (3) (ii) "which require a transcript showing a record of attendance and academic information could not possibly be available."

With continued coordination with the Joint Venture Education Forum (JVEF), which the majority of our council members are members of as well, Hawaii continues to consider and explore ways to help our military dependents transition in and out of our school system.

We reviewed and discussed the possibility of **Temporary Residency and Remote Enrollment for military students**. JVEF formed an Ad-Hoc Committee to discuss the legislation passed in California and Arizona where school aged military children met temporary residency requirements if their active duty parent had official orders to a military installation within a school district. This allows them to remotely enroll in schools (in California and Arizona) prior to relocating. Proof of residence is still necessary to meet residency requirements; however, parents have up to 10 days after the arrival date stated on their orders to provide proof. Acceptable addresses are on-base temporary lodging, purchased or leased home or apartment, and federal government or public-private venture off-base military housing.

The group consensus was that such legislation was not necessary in Hawaii in that allowances could be made via HDOE policy changes. Currently, remote enrollment is not doable in Hawaii because of HDOE's policy that students must be on island to register. We also met with concerns from the Navy regarding potential problems for their personnel who try to locate housing ahead of moving to the state by using the Internet, where there is a history of people being scammed trying to do this. Discussion will continue on possible solutions to the overarching problem of many students having to transition twice when moving to Hawaii and living for long periods of time in temporary housing before moving to permanent housing on base or on the economy, a move that often necessitates a school change.