



Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission HAWAII — FY2023 End of Year Report



Hawaii's Compact Membership and Influence

The State of Hawaii became a member of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children in 2009, in the second year of the Commission's operation. The Hawaii State Legislature enacted the requisite Compact law in July of that year, and in October the Hawaii State Board of Education appointed as Hawaii's State Commissioner retired Brigadier General Kathleen Berg, whose mission was to oversee the Hawaii State Council and facilitate the Compact between Hawaii and other member states. It would take until 2014 for all 50 states and the District of Columbia to become Compact members. Berg and a delegation from Hawaii that included then State Representative K. Mark Takai, one of the sponsors of Hawaii's Compact law, attended the second annual business meeting of the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) held in fall 2009 in California. Berg was elected vice chair of the Commission and represented Hawaii in leadership positions as vice chair, then chair, and past chair from 2009 through 2016, and still serves as Hawaii's state commissioner. Also part of that 2009 delegation was then Hawaii Department of Education (HIDOE) Military Liaison Cherise Imai, who added to her HIDOE job responsibilities the administrative support for the State Commissioner and the Hawaii State Council. In 2016, Imai was chosen by MIC3 to be their third Executive Director (ED), and she moved from Hawaii to Kentucky, where she still leads the National Office as MIC3 ED. Current HIDOE Military Liaison Cherry Okahara was hired as Imai's replacement.

The military is an important component of the population and economy of Hawaii. The state is home to all five DOD services (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force) and DHS's Coast Guard, with twelve key military installations and bases across the state. With nearly 42,000 active duty members assigned here, per data from the DOD Defense Manpower Data System in September 2021, Hawaii is ranked eighth among the states and has the highest number of military-dependent children per capita in the nation. According to the DOD DEERS Database in July 2022, the number of school-age military dependents in the state was 17,864. However, not all of those students were enrolled in Hawaii's public and charter schools; schooling options in the state also include private and parochial schools and homeschooling. Although accurate numbers are very difficult to get, it has been estimated that military-dependent students make up at least 8% of the total public and charter school enrollment in Hawaii, which was 168,634 in the official count taken at the start of the 2022-23 school year.

The Hawaii Department of Education (HIDOE) is a statewide school district of 258 schools in 15 Complex Areas. Each Complex Area consists of two to four school complexes, a complex being a high school and the elementary and middle schools that feed into it. Each Complex Area has its own Complex Area Superintendent (CAS) and support staff. There are 56 public schools listed on the HIDOE Military Families website [<https://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/ParentsAndStudents/MilitaryFamilies/Pages/Home.aspx>] as having significant populations of military-dependent students. All are located on Oahu, with the largest concentration of military students is in the Central District.

Hawaii State Council

From its first meeting in April 2010, the Hawaii State Council has met regularly and complements a number of other organizations created in the state to support military students in Hawaii public schools, including, but not limited to, Joint Venture Education Forum (JVEF), the Military Youth Advisory Council (MYAC), Military Impacted Principals Council (MIPC), and Hawaii Education Liaison Officers Council (HELOC).

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 composed 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]

Brig Gen (Ret) Kathleen Berg (10/2009) Hawaii State Commissioner Hawaii State Council	Governor Josh Green (1/2023) State of Hawaii	Keith Hayashi (8/2021) Superintendent Hawaii State Department of Education
Ms. Cherry Okahara (7/2016) Military Liaison Hawaii State Department of Education	Senator Michelle Kidani (1/2015) Hawaii State Legislature Senate Committee on Education	Mr. John Erickson (8/2013) Complex Area Superintendent Moanalua-Radford-Aiea Complex Hawaii State Department of Education
VACANT Military Family Education Liaison	Representative Justin Woodson (3/2017) Hawaii State Legislature House Committee on 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) Complex Area Superintendent Campbell-Kapolei Complex Hawaii State Department of Education	Col Monica Gramling, USAF (6/2023) Commander, 647 th AB Group, 15th Wing Deputy Commander Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam
Mr. Raymond Fujino (5/2015) Executive Director Oahu Interscholastic Association	Col Angenene Robertson, USAF (5/2021) Director, Manpower and Personnel HQ USINDOPACOM, Camp Smith HI	CAPT Anthony Pecoraro, USN (3/2023) Chief of Staff Navy Region Hawaii
CDR Jarod S. Toczko, USCG (9/2020) Resources Division Officer US Coast Guard District 14	COL Steven McGunegle, USA (7/2022) Commander US Army Garrison Hawaii (USAG-HI)	Wendy Nakasone Kalani* School Liaison Officer US Army Garrison Hawaii (USAG)
Col Jeremy Beaven, USMC (5/2023) Commanding Officer Marine Corps Base Hawaii		*Appointed by the Hawaii Education Liaison Officers Council

Points of Contact

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

Summary of Achievements, Activities and Presentations in FY2023 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023)

After a challenging previous year in the emergency response phase of the pandemic, Hawaii Public Schools began school year 2022–23 fully opened and prepared to exist with COVID-19. The previous year’s interim superintendent was selected for the position and continued his leadership of Hawaii’s public schools as Superintendent Hayashi. Hawaii State Commissioner Berg and HIDOE Military Liaison Okahara continued to advise HIDOE personnel on issues involving the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children and assist them in applying Compact rules where appropriate, working closely with the military services’ school liaison officers (SLOs) to resolve any Compact issues. They regularly attended meetings—virtual during 2022 and in-person in 2023—of Joint Venture Education Forum (JVEF) and the Hawaii Education Liaison Officers Council (HELOC), interacting with members of the military, education, and business communities, as well as meetings with new uniformed military liaisons to the Hawaii State Council. They also hosted a visit to Hawaii by MIC3 Executive Director Cherise Imai, March 28 and 29, 2023, facilitating and often assisting her, in the conduct of multiple office calls and training events.

Presentations and briefs were provided at the following events and meetings:

- September 27, 2022 – Hawaii DOE Virtual District Educational Specialist (DES) Meeting as part of the School Liaison Officer Brief (HIDOE Military Liaison Okahara)
- October 13, 2022 – Joint Venture Education Forum (JVEF) Liaison Member Meeting via WebEx, MIC3 update (Commissioner Berg)
- February 9, 2023 – Joint Venture Education Forum (JVEF) Liaison Member Meeting in-person, MIC3 update (Commissioner Berg)
- March 28, 2023 – US Indo-Pacific Command J1 & J10 office call with J1 Col Angenene Robertson, J10 Allison McQueen, Rose Greco (J1 Quality of Life Office), Ann Biggers (J1 Quality of Life Office), Jean Grice (DoDEA Pacific Liaison), and MIC3 Executive Director Imai (Commissioner Berg)
- March 28, 2023 – Office Call with Hawaii DOE Superintendent Keith Hayashi (MIC3 ED Imai, Commissioner Berg, HIDOE Military Liaison Okahara)
- March 29, 2023 – Hawaii DOE Transition Centers Best Practices Conference, Compact 101 Training for 80 participants (MIC3 ED Imai, Commissioner Berg, HIDOE Military Liaison Okahara)
- March 29, 2023 – Pacific Region (Japan, Okinawa, Korea, Alaska) Air Force School Liaisons, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, training for 20 participants (MIC3 ED Imai)
- March 29, 2023 – Joint Services Parent Training for 30 participants (MIC3 ED Imai)
- March 29, 2023 – Aiea-Moanalua-Radford Complex school Vice Principal Administrators Brief (ED Imai)
- March 29, 2023 – Joint Services Military Family Life Consultants Brief (MIC3 ED Imai)
- April 19, 2023 – Purple Up HIDOE Leadership Meeting at Radford High School, coordination and Purple Star NORBERT Hawaii Award presentation (HIDOE Military Liaison Okahara)
- April 28, 2023 – Office Call with CAPT Anthony Pecoraro, Chief of Staff, Navy Region Hawaii; Jordan Garrett, Regional Director, Community (N9), Navy Region Hawaii; Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) Child and Youth Programs (CYP) Installation Director Tomoko Dangerfield; and School Liaison Officer Cherise Yamasaki (Commissioner Berg and HIDOE Military Liaison Okahara)
- June 3, 2023 – Joint Venture Education Forum (JVEF) Liaison Member Meeting, Hawaii State Council report (Commissioner Berg)

- June 29, 2023 – Virtual Compact 101 Training for Campbell-Kapolei Complex principals and registrars from 18 schools (Commissioner Berg and MIC3 ED Imai)

Two meetings of the Hawaii State Council were held in FY2023, the first virtually via WebEx and the second in-person at the Hawaii State Capitol:

- July 21, 2022 – Hawaii State Council Meeting, main agenda items: Compact citation correction; follow-up discussion on application of Compact to National Guard and Reserve (NGR) members; Hawaii request for a legal advisory opinion regarding the accreditation requirement in SEC. 3.102 Application for Transfer of Student Records and Enrollment, (b) Kindergarten and First grade entrance age, including the definition of “accreditation” as used there and the subsequent Advisory Opinion Number 1-2022 approved June 16, 2022.
- May 31, 2023 – Hawaii State Council Meeting, main agenda items: Compact Rules changes approved at 2022 Annual Business Meeting in November, including two changes prompted by Advisory Opinion Number 1-2022, requested by Hawaii; new *Compact Rules* book; discussion of the data collection rule in the Model Compact Language (in preparation for upcoming Tier Groups meetings and the 2023 ABM).

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

Cooperation and Coordination with Other Organizations

Brig Gen (Ret) Berg, as Hawaii State Commissioner, is a Liaison Member of Joint Venture Education Forum (JVEF), a formal partnership between the HIDOE and the United States Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM) with membership and involvement of other community organizations. JVEF was formed in 1999 with a mission to facilitate discussion of the educational concerns and attend to the unique needs of military children and their families, such as transitions to the Islands, and to support Hawaii’s public school students. A key element of JVEF over the years has been the military-school partnerships, which matched most of the public schools on Oahu with a military unit whose members volunteered their time to help with various school projects throughout the school year. Most of the uniformed military members of the Hawaii State Council for the Interstate Compact are also Liaison Members of JVEF. JVEF meets regularly throughout the year, alternating monthly between meetings of the Liaison Members and of the various Focus Groups, and—up until the pandemic interruption—including one annual event. In FY23, meetings were both virtual and in-person, and the meeting agendas for three of the Liaison Member meetings in FY23 included an update from the State Commissioner. HIDOE Military Liaison Okahara, along with a member of the J1 Directorate at USINDOPACOM, serve as the administrative support team for JVEF. Its co-chairs are the USINDOPACOM J1 and the HIDOE Superintendent. Every year in April, JVEF works closely with the HIDOE in celebrating the Month of the Military Child among the military and civilian communities and the HIDOE schools, providing information from MIC3 and DoDEA to the JVEF membership. This year April 14, 2022 was Purple Up! Day, and at the JVEF meeting that day all attendees wore purple and viewed a presentation made by HIDOE of Month of the Military Child and Purple Up! Day highlights.

The Military Youth Advisory Council (MYAC), originally involving Radford High School and the base commanders of nearby Army, Air Force, and Navy installations, dates back to 1994 and was the model for JVEF. MYAC’s main focus was transitioning new students. It now serves the Radford Complex as a primary community group, meeting once a month at the Radford campus. Radford High School had one of the first Transition Centers in Hawaii schools. Its Student-to-Student Transition Center program has served as a model for many of the other Hawaii public schools’ transition programs, many of which have received funding from HIDOE and community partners as part of the K. Mark Takai Transition Center Network. MIC3 has regularly been part of the now annual Transition Centers Best Practices Conference, put on by HIDOE, Hawaii Business Roundtable, and the K. Mark Takai Foundation. For the 2023 conference, MIC3 Executive Director Imai

attended and presented along with Commissioner Berg a Compact 101 Training session. The training fulfilled a requirement for schools that seek to earn the Purple Star NORBERT Hawaii Award that distinguishes them as a military-friendly school. The current award program marries the previous NORBERT Award, originally developed in the early years of JVEF, with the more recently promoted nationwide Purple Star Schools program. Training of school faculty on provisions of the Interstate Compact is now part of the list of requirements developed by the Military Impacted Principals Council (MIPC) to qualify for the award. MIPC was an outgrowth of JVEF and provides for sharing of experiences and ideas and helps new principals come up to speed on the Compact and other military student issues.

There are many groups operating in Hawaii that serve military-dependent students in the public schools. People and organizations overlap, cooperate, and coordinate activities in support of military students. The Interstate Compact is just part of that effort and benefits from those organizations and events. Since the early 2000s, the HIDOE has funded, as a full-time position, the HIDOE Military Liaison as part of its administration. The position responsibilities include support for JVEF and Compact activities and requirements, as well as staffing for the Hawaii State Commissioner and State Council functions. The organization of Hawaii's school system as a single school district facilitates communication and compliance. And the several military services' school liaison officers (SLOs) in Hawaii have been very competent with many years of experience. Several years ago, the Hawaii Education Liaison Officers Council (HELOC) was formed. It meets monthly and includes all the SLOs, representatives from USINDOPACOM Quality of Life and Education section, military branches' youth services representatives, and the HIDOE Military Liaison.

Only two cases in FY23 rose to the attention of the Hawaii State Commissioner: one involved placement of a home-schooled military child at the appropriate elementary grade level and the other a request to waive a world history course requirement for a diploma from HIDOE. Both cases were essentially resolved by the time the Commissioner got involved, but each provided an opportunity for discussion of new issues and policies and spawned a plan to provide for school registrars to regularly meet and talk about Compact issues together so that Hawaii schools could be even more aligned in how they handle common requests. The lack of problems and complaints that come up through school channels or via direct calls to HIDOE Military Liaison Okahara or to State Commissioner Berg indicate that school level administrators, CASs, and SLOs are doing an effective job of implementing Compact rules for transitioning military students. The large forums that JVEF and MYAC provide are also sources of feedback from military members and parents, so that any issues that do exist gain visibility and can be resolved. The HIDOE Military Liaison has maintained a database of cases over the years so they can be shared with the State Council and the MIC3 National Office when appropriate.