

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

Brig Gen (Ret) Kathleen Berg, Hawaii State Commissioner

**Admiral Arthur W. Radford High School
Transition Center
4361 Salt Lake Blvd
Honolulu, HI 96818**

**Wednesday, January 15, 2020
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

MINUTES

Attendance:

Council Members Present:

- Maj Rob Johnson for Col Thomas Barrett, Commander, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii (USAG-HI)
- Brig Gen (Ret) Kathleen Berg, State Commissioner, Hawaii State Council, MIC3
- CDR Matt ten Berge, Resources Division Officer, U.S. Coast Guard (US CG) 14th District
- Dr. Deyon Nagato for CAS Robert Davis, Complex Area Superintendent, Central: Leilehua-Mililani-Waialua, HIDOE
- CAS John Erickson, Complex Area Superintendent, Central: Aiea-Moanalua-Radford, HIDOE; also representing Dr. Christina Kishimoto, Superintendent, HIDOE
- Mr. Raymond Fujino, Executive Director, Oahu Interscholastic Association
- Ms. Lanelle Hibbs, Complex Area Superintendent, Kailua-Kalaheo, HIDOE
- Ms. Wendy Nakasone-Kalani, School Liaison Officer, Hawaii Education Liaison Officers Council (HELOC)
- CAS Sean Tajima, Complex Area Superintendent, Leeward: Campbell-Kapolei, HIDOE
- Ms. Maggie Williams, Military Family Education Liaison
- CAPT Lyn Yatko Director, J1, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command

Unable to Attend:

- CAPT Darren Guenther, Chief of Staff, Navy Region Hawaii
- Col Tammie Harris, Commander, Hickam Air Force Base, 647th Airbase Group/Deputy Joint Base Commander
- Governor David Ige
- Senator Michelle Kidani, Hawaii State Legislature
- Lt Col Col Raul Lianez, Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH)
- Ms. Cherry Okahara, Military Liaison, HIDOE
- Representative Justin Woodson, Hawaii State Legislature

1. Call to Order: 9:05 a.m.

2. Welcome/Farewell:

Members of the council and those attending in the gallery were welcomed to Radford High School's Transition Center, which the school graciously offered for this meeting of the Hawaii State Council. All attendees were asked to introduce themselves.

Commissioner Berg then requested that the order of presentation of the agenda items be changed to allow Mr. Ray Fujino's report on the Chapter 12 Homeschooling Working Group, agenda item 6.b., to be moved up and replace item 4, since the report on the National Commission Activity is primarily about the MIC3 Annual Business Meeting, which is item 6.a. There being no objections, the agenda was adjusted.

3. Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes: The minutes from the October 3, 2019, meeting were approved as corrected.

4. Chapter 12 Homeschooling Working Group Update and Proposed Amendments

- In his presentation, Mr. Raymond Fujino explained that his council membership is for his position as the Executive Director of the Oahu Interscholastic Association, but this presentation is in his HIDOE role as part of the group that is addressing the update and proposed changes to Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) Chapter 12. The initiative to amend Chapter 12 was the result of a request in May of 2018 by a military family moving to Hawaii to transfer online credits to a public high school on Oahu. The student earned the credits while being homeschooled at the family's previous location. Mr. Fujino has been the HIDOE point of contact for homeschooling for the last couple of years. Accepting such credits was against Chapter 12 rules about homeschooling. However, the request was judged to be very reasonable: the credits were from an online program from an accredited institution and supported with transcripts, grades, and other documentation. The credit transfer was allowed, and a committee that included Mr. Fujino and a number of military School Liaison Officers began working on the issue of online courses. In the meantime, a memo was developed from the Superintendent to allow acceptance of credits from online programs from accredited institutions. But HIDOE rules needed an update, especially in light of the growing demand for online distance learning. Homeschooling is one of the exceptions to compulsory school attendance, which is what Chapter 12 covers. Consequently, Mr. Fujino became part of the working group whose purpose was to provide recommendations to update the HAR Chapter 12 Compulsory Attendance Exceptions as it relates to Homeschool.
- In his slide presentation, Mr. Fujino provided an overview of the HAR Chapter 12 exceptions and data on homeschooled students in Hawaii. His data showed nearly 3,800 compulsory attendance exceptions, 20% for "non-DOE alternative programs" (includes online programs and the National Guard Youth Challenge

program) and 78% (3,003) for homeschooling. By examining the federal impact aid cards, the working group was able to determine that, for school year 2018-19, 79 of the 3,003 homeschooled students were military. The working group identified growing needs and the demand for online distance learning, and they analyzed state data, research, and national trends to inform those needs. They reached out to other states and involved stakeholders in their work. They identified credits, assessments, and transitions as issues around the focus of appropriate education within homeschool, preserving students' and parents' choice to homeschool.

- Mr. Fujino described a thorough process the group went through to arrive at their recommendations, but then described a roadblock they ran into dealing with the section on educational neglect. This issue overlapped with child welfare and the work another task force was doing on chronic absenteeism. There was a lot of discussion among council members, wide-ranging, mentioning law enforcement, human trafficking and other legal and social issues beyond the schools, requiring a more comprehensive approach. With homeschooling growing, however, attention will have to be paid to the broader environment to prevent homeschooling being used as a way to isolate children or bring them harm. Regardless of this particular roadblock, the group made a number of recommendations for amendments and additions to Chapter 12.
- Mr. Fujino went through the several recommendations that the working group made. They suggested adding definitions for some terms used but not defined and for new terms (distance learning) as well as amending definitions to meet current usage. They recommended requiring some documentation as part of the parents' Notice of Intent to Homeschool and clarifying the process when a family moves to a different school area or out of state (Notification of Termination of Homeschooling). They recommended some changes to the testing and progress reports of homeschool children: maintain opportunity to access statewide testing but reduce the mandatory test participation to just grade 3, which research shows is a critical milestone, with achievement at grade 3 being a predictor of future educational success/failure. And the group recommended adding two new sections to Chapter 12. A new section, Transition into the Public School, would describe a transcript review: homeschooled students to transition back into the public school; high school credits from an accredited distance learning program to be accepted; high school principal to determine if credits are accepted; and homeschooled students to earn a high school diploma from the local public high school when meeting the credit requirements for graduation. And the other new section, an Appeals Process, which would establish the right to appeal a decision by the principal related to the acceptance of credits.
- Council members expressed their gratitude to Mr. Fujino for all the information he shared and for the opportunity for discussion. Members were very impressed by the broad representation of stakeholders in the working group and with their

comprehensive treatment of each issue and topic. The military School Liaison Officers who participated on the working group said they learned a lot that helped them understand the process and issues; they felt privileged to be a part of a DOE working group and were grateful for the experience. Mr. Fujino said he, too, learned a great deal and that there were still many steps still ahead. The working group will present to the Board of Education (BOE) and get their input, then revise and go out for public hearings. Although they hope to have changes made by the next school year, he advised that it could take longer. CAPT Yatko, who sits on the BOE as a military representative, offered her assistance for the Board presentation. There was more discussion among council members with Mr. Fujino about the educational neglect issue, chronic absenteeism and truancy, and the complexities of the issue.

5. Old Business

a. Update: Training/Meeting Report

Members were given a handout on the upcoming 3rd Annual Transition Centers Best Practices Conference scheduled for February 20, 2020, at Dole Cannery in Honolulu. Most of the transition centers in schools in Hawaii serve transitioning military students, so there will be information on the Interstate Compact at the conference. The point of contact in the HIDOE for transition centers is now Theresa Sanchez, who is the main planner for this year's conference. HIDOE Military Liaison Cherry Okahara has worked with Ms. Sanchez in the past, but Ms. Okahara is currently on medical leave. She is doing some work from home, but for this conference Ms. Sanchez is the contact.

b. Update: Hawaii Case Matrix

Commissioner Berg reported that the latest case to come to her attention was via email from a parent unhappy that their child's GPA as calculated by Radford High School was not as high as the GPA from the child's previous school. She described her response to the parent that included reference to the HIDOE information sheet on GPA calculation, noting that the parent could use that to calculate the GPA to check on Radford's calculation, as well as a description of current practices among schools regarding not changing grades from other schools and recalculating the grades according to the rules of the incoming school, noting that there is no universal way to calculate GPA because methods and scales vary by institution, state, and country. One big difference is often in how grades may or may not be weighted when they are from honors courses, Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate programs. She also included in closing that colleges all recalculate applicants' high school GPAs according to what their institution values. The response from the parent was an emailed thank you, and no complaint was made to Radford. Since her emailed

explanation seemed to resolve the issue, Commissioner Berg shared that explanation with the SLOs to help in their dealings with parents.

c. Update: State Compact Dues

Hawaii's Interstate Compact dues for this fiscal year are fully paid.

d. Military Family Education Liaison (MFEL)

Hawaii's Military Family Education Liaison Ms. Maggie Williams shared a handout of her bio with council members and her correct email address (MFEL@gmail.com). She described to members some of her experiences moving to Hawaii and how and where she got information she needed, noting that the military housing offices could be used as a starting point for improving how newcomers learn about Hawaii schools. In answer to a council member's question, Ms. Williams explained that she was a volunteer and currently working closely with HIDOE Military Liaison Okahara. Commissioner Berg interjected that the MFEL position is written into the Compact law: every state is to have an MFEL as a member of their state council. The MFEL works with the HIDOE, since support for their work comes from HIDOE, but it is expected that they also will work with the SLOs, since educating military families is their focus. Ms. Williams said that she was trying to identify opportunities to get information to military families. Her activities with the PTA at Red Hill Elementary, where her son attends provides some opportunity. This prompted discussion and suggestions, which included the housing offices as well as school offices. Ms. Williams also described the comprehensive information packet Army SLOs prepared and make available from their offices. She has discussed with SLO Tamsin Keone how to make it more available, asking where is the first place military families have to go when they arrive. The group discussed web availability of that packet and possibly posting it or a link to it on the HIDOE website and possibly getting military service specific packets or links to the packets onto appropriate school websites.

6. New Business

a. Annual Business Meeting Report

Commissioner Berg reported on some of the major happenings at the Annual Business Meeting (ABM) for the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) held in late October 2019.

The Department of Defense made a change to the DOD representative to MIC3. Since formation of the Commission in 2008, the DOD representative has been from DoDEA. But the new representative is William Hampton, Deputy Director, Defense-State Liaison Office, DoD, Military Community and Family Policy. There is now a formal policy on ex-officio organization roles and the role of the DoD ex-officio member of the Commission Executive Committee.

There was a presentation by the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Officers Association Executive Director as well as by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Director of the Commissioned Personnel Center. Both organizations have uniformed personnel who are covered by the Interstate Compact. In the presentations, these commissioner officers are described as non-combatants but integral to the nation's defense. The first speaker described them as parallel to the National Guard Technician force.

Interestingly, Utah changed their Compact law in order to broaden coverage of the Compact in their state to the National Guard and Reserve. This has endangered their compact status, however, since a state may not unilaterally change the Compact law. The MIC3 Compliance Committee has cited them for this, and directed that what they want to do can be done by state law outside the state's Compact law. Both Kentucky and California have broadened Compact coverage in their states this way.

Nationally, there has been a call from the National Guard and Reserve for more parity with Active Duty members in terms of pay and services. Especially in the last several years, the Guard and Reserve have been mobilized and served alongside their Active Duty counterparts as part of the Total Force military. As chair of the National Guard and Reserve Coverage Task Force (NGRTF), Commissioner Berg reported at the ABM on the work of the task force thus far exploring whether compact coverage should be extended beyond the current coverage of Guard and Reserve members on Title 10 orders. Such an extension would be consistent with the national calls for parity, but some of the problems cited would not be solved by compact coverage. The Compact covers only school transitions; the social-emotional issues faced by military children are not directly addressed by Compact rules. The Compact covers only interstate moves, from state to state. Moves within a state, as may happen within a state's National Guard organization, are not covered. This argues for state-level laws to change coverage. The big worry is that states that want to expand coverage will follow Utah's example, and that could lead ultimately to the dissolution of the Compact—that now covers all 50 states and the District of Columbia—if many states compromise their compact status with unilateral changes to the Model Compact language.

With the many different duty status titles—Title 10, Title 32, Title 5—the legalities of compact coverage promise to be messy. There is work ahead for the NGRTF.

7. Next State Council Meeting: HIDEOE Military Liaison Okahara will contact council members to seek out possible dates in June or July of this year for the next meeting.
8. Public Comment (5 min per individual): There was none.

9. Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

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