

## JVEF celebrates military involvement in Hawai'i schools

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The Joint Venture Education Forum (JVEF) held its eighth annual forum Aug. 27 at the Hawai'i Okinawa Center, Waipahu to celebrate the partnership between Hawai'i's military community, the Hawai'i Department of Education and other community organizations.

Under the theme, "Partnership for Success—Investing in the Future," the event highlighted the JVEF mission in support of Hawai'i public schools, providing a quality education for all students.

"It's a celebration," said Ruth Hatcher of U.S. Pacific Command (USPACOM). This is a good chance for the Department of Education, the educators and the military to celebrate a year of accomplishments and look forward to another year ahead."

During the conference, a JVEF spokesperson reported several different accomplishments during the year, including success stories from several Hawai'i public schools. JVEF recognized the men and women of the armed forces who represent the military school partnerships.

"We're teaching the future," said Chief Machinist's Mate Michael Salgy of Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard. "All the students going to school now are going to be the future, not only for the Navy, but for the entire country. We look at it as an investment for our future and we have a great time doing it."

Heidi Armstrong, the principal of Iroquois Point Elementary School, has more than 730 students in her school. More than 40 percent of the student population is military-affiliated.

"With the support of JVEF, we're able to provide things and activities that we wouldn't be able to do without their support," said Armstrong. "For instance, we were able to establish a transition center."

The transition center allows students and their parents new to the area to acclimate with their community by providing support and making connections and friends, said Armstrong.

"We were also able to purchase state-of-the-art computer labs," said Armstrong. "We also received support to have art projects and level-reading textbooks."

Iroquois Point Elementary School received the Norbert Commendation award for the support they provided to military families and students. Sailors from the Afloat Training Group on Ford Island, Naval Munitions Command Detachment Pearl Harbor, and Soldiers from Schofield Barracks supported the elementary school.

Nimitz Elementary School and Aliamanu Middle School also received the Norbert Commendation award.

"The military is a tremendous support. The families are involved, the militaries are involved, and it's very evident that they're dedicated in wanting the best for the students," said Armstrong.

JVEF is a cooperative venture between USPACOM and the Hawai'i DOE serving more than 15,000 military dependent children attending Hawai'i public schools.

Since 2000, JVEF received an annual appropriation via the Department of Defense of \$5.5 million through the efforts of Sen. Daniel K. Inouye. Through these funds, Hawai'i public school received new playgrounds, textbooks and support for curricular programs.

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