

Aliamanu School receives top military-friendly school award

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Aliamanu Intermediate School was the recipient of the Joint Venture Education Forum (JVEF) Norbert Award on Aug. 27 at the Hawai'i Okinawa Center in Waipahu. The award recognized the school for its outstanding assistance and support of students from military families. The school, which has an educational partnership with Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, was selected out of 140 competitors.

JVEF is a cooperative venture between the U.S. Pacific Command military community and the Hawai'i Department of Education. Its purpose is to facilitate military participation in Hawai'i public schools to advance the quality of education for public school students.

Under JVEF, military commands form educational partnerships with schools in which active-duty and civilian volunteers from the commands assist students in the classroom and on the playground. In addition to tutoring, mentoring and coaching children, volunteers help maintain and upgrade school grounds, buildings and equipment.

JVEF also provides about \$5,000 a year to each partnership school. These funds have been used to purchase everything from library books to sports gear to paint and weed whackers for grounds upkeep.

Aliamanu is one of four public schools that have formal JVEF educational partnerships with the shipyard. Last school year, shipyard Sailors supported quarterly field activity days with the students and helped prepare a storage room so it could be used to house a new high-tech media center.

Aliamanu was selected by JVEF as a military-friendly school that best displayed transitioning services and aid to military families, maintained an informative and current Web site for incoming transfer students, and had outstanding military parental involvement.

In addition, Aliamanu made reasonable accommodations for military students whose frequent family moves limit their curricular and extra-curricular activities. JVEF praised the school for encouraging students to participate in physical, mental and socially-enriching programs despite their transitory living situations.