

1 somebody, in every child there is a brilliant student  
2 (indiscernible) there somewhere. They just need to be nurtured.

3 And with no public education on Micronesian cultures  
4 and if we don't educate ourselves, then our (indiscernible)  
5 language, attitudes, ignorance, frustration, (indiscernible),  
6 and those are (indiscernible) added on to the social problems  
7 that are already here. It's no win-win situation for anybody.

8 Thank you.

9 \* \* \* \* \*

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. HOWARD: Thank you so much, Joanna. And so what I  
12 have learned from you is that the success that your program has  
13 done to help Micronesians students here in Hawai`i  
14 (indiscernible) involvement (indiscernible) establishing  
15 partnership and parenting (indiscernible). Did I say that  
16 already?

17 Very good. All right. So let's hear from Mary  
18 tell about her program and what her program does, some of the  
19 (indiscernible) of her program, challenges, what still needs to  
20 be done (indiscernible).

21 Bilingual Coordinators at Central Middle School

22 BY MS. MARY MILNE:

23 Thank you, Josie. I'm here on behalf of the  
24 (indiscernible) ELL project. And what is that is a pilot  
25 program about the principals from the McKinley came together to

1 wrote out a grant. And they got funded from Title 3, and they  
2 wanted to hire bilingual speakers to be part-time teachers, and  
3 I'm one of eight bilingual speakers in the project.

4 What it is is that they wanted to -- they wanted to  
5 help the students meet standards. And with that, they  
6 (indiscernible) trying to address -- it's different for each  
7 school. And I'm gonna talk on (indiscernible) Central Middle  
8 School because that's where I'm currently working at.

9 At Central Middle School (indiscernible) supervisor  
10 and we talk about what are the issues that we need to address in  
11 the school within the Micronesian population. It's student  
12 attendance, student achievement, parental involvement. These  
13 are the three areas that we're trying to address.

14 And how we are going about doing that is that poor  
15 student attendance, it's because it's a -- (indiscernible)  
16 middle school. It's harder for students to come to school  
17 because they are at that age where it's hard to come to school,  
18 peer pressure, and things like that.

19 And how we are trying to address that is, you know,  
20 we're trying to build a relationship for the student. And by  
21 doing that, I think it really helps 'cause -- and also with the  
22 families. Because if the student's not coming to school, we do  
23 home visits, phone calls. And it can be very challenging.

24 And for student achievement, we work one-on-one with  
25 the student. I have a group of students that I'm monitoring and

1 I monitor how they're doing in class. If they're not doing  
2 well, then, you know, (indiscernible). I work with the teachers  
3 and (indiscernible) the parents and figure out how we can help  
4 the students (indiscernible).

5 And for parental involvement, we've been doing  
6 workshops for parents. We've been -- for this year we did  
7 parent orientation. We did that last year too. And in the  
8 orientation (indiscernible), we try to educate them about the  
9 American system, education system, and also what to expect here,  
10 and what to expect (indiscernible), and what's different from  
11 here, the education system here, what's different in the  
12 (indiscernible) and trying to get them acculturated to the  
13 education system here.

14 And another thing that we did was homework workshops  
15 that I think it was very successful. We have a lot of parents  
16 that came too. And one of the parents said, "Oh, how can I help  
17 my child? I don't know how to speak English." So what we try  
18 to teach them or, you know, tell them is, like, you don't have  
19 to know how to speak English to help your child. You know.

20 My parents (indiscernible). I don't even remember  
21 them helping me doing my homework. But, you know, they set  
22 rules at home. And if I don't do my homework, I cannot watch TV  
23 or go outside. And they can also do that, (indiscernible) set  
24 rules (indiscernible) so they can do their homework, things like  
25 that.

1           What are the success of the project? Well, it was a  
2 one-year project that (indiscernible). They funded it for  
3 another year. It's because there was a significant increase of  
4 parental involvement. They show that the parents were more  
5 receptive to hear from someone that could speak their own  
6 language. I think that's very (indiscernible).

7           What are the needs? I think, because I work in the  
8 middle school, many of the students are starting to drop out in  
9 middle school and high school. And I think there is a need for,  
10 you know, to build a newcomers' center for students that come  
11 here so they can have that support. As Dion said, that sense of  
12 belonging, so they can succeed in high school and graduate and  
13 get a high school diploma.

14           What can the government do to help? I think the  
15 government in Micronesia should have classes for students and  
16 parents to, you know, learn about the culture here and  
17 expectations here before coming to Hawai'i 'cause it's very  
18 important. And I think if we have more (indiscernible) you  
19 know, programs like this, I think it would be easier for  
20 students, the Micronesian students, to succeed in school.

21           I think this conference is very -- I thank everybody  
22 for coming to the conference. I think it's very educational  
23 (indiscernible) opportunity for (indiscernible) and people to  
24 come together and share ideas.

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\* \* \* \* \*

1 (Applause.)

2 MS. HOWARD: Thank you so much. (Indiscernible) two  
3 things (indiscernible). One thing is that the Department of  
4 Education is doing something to help our children and that they  
5 are -- another thing that I did hear you throughout the whole  
6 thing, the need for Micronesians working for Micronesians, that  
7 acculturation (indiscernible) that really help our people to  
8 succeed for this program successful. Thank you, Mary.

9 And let's hear from John, and he'll talk about  
10 his program in the Department of Health.

11 Ala Moana Health Center

12 BY MR. JOHN ISHODA:

13 Aloha. (Indiscernible; not speaking in microphone.)

14 I'm so used to talking without a mike.

15 Anyway, yesterday I was trying to decide whether I  
16 should write down what I have to say. And I hear my daughter's  
17 voice. One day she told me, "Dad, you're getting forgetful.  
18 You're getting old." There goes my honesty -- teaching her  
19 honesty is the best policy.

20 Before I proceed, I would like to acknowledge a lady  
21 that's been very active in (indiscernible) throughout the  
22 communities here on O'ahu. I'm talking about you, Barbara Tom.

23 MS. HOWARD: Stand up, Barbara. She needs to be  
24 recognized.

25 (Audience applause.)