

1 Hawai`i Department of Education. She works at Hawai`i's
2 Department of Education Behavioral Counseling Research Center
3 and former leader of Boys and Girls Club pilot program. Dion.

4 (Applause.)

5 So I think I'll just go from my left to, from my
6 immediate left, this person. We'll start with Josie. So if you
7 can just do a 10- to 12-minutes talk, tell us about your
8 programs that you do and those over there -- (voice fades).

9 MS. BERNARD: Good morning, everyone.

10 AUDIENCE: Good morning.

11 Goodwill Industries Imi Loa Program

12 BY MS. JOCELYN HOWARD:

13 I may be sitting up here, but I'm still a Micronesian.
14 So before I proceed, I would like to do an appropriate cultural,
15 in opening. (Speaking in foreign language.)

16 You know, when people ask me where do you work, I say
17 Goodwill. And they ask me, "What store?" (Laughter.) Yeah,
18 Goodwill has a lot of stores.

19 But Goodwill also has human services programs that are
20 many. We have a waiver program. We have a first-to-work
21 program. We have a C program. We have, you know, people who
22 are receiving food stamp program. Many other programs.

23 And one of our newest programs is the immigrant
24 program for the COFA nation. Actually, no longer a new program
25 because now we have the newest program which is for the Hawaiian

1 Homeland program.

2 Before I talk of Goodwill, Goodwill is already doing a
3 lot of things for the Micronesians, and that's because of the
4 many Micronesians who are working for Goodwill and also the many
5 Micronesians who are receiving services from this Goodwill
6 program.

7 And so with that, I would like to also acknowledge the
8 other Micronesians who were here before me and also came after
9 me who are in this audience. Please stand up when I call your
10 name. And in doing that, just to show that Goodwill is working
11 for Micronesians on different levels.

12 So sitting in the audience right there, Felys Suvai
13 [phonetic]. Please stand up. Felys is from Chuuk. Kawa
14 (indiscernible) from the Marshall Islands. Earlier we had
15 Reverend, Mr. Onamwar, who said the opening prayers.

16 And then I don't see the others, but we also have
17 employers from Pohnpei. One of them is actually the daughter of
18 the former governor, (indiscernible). And we also have
19 (indiscernible) from Pohnpei. And we also have Dan
20 (indiscernible) from Palau, Republic of Palau.

21 So just in saying that, you can already know that
22 Goodwill is already taking care of the problem. And as I was
23 sitting listening to Dr. Hilda Heine, she's stating, you know,
24 lots of the needs and things like that. And I reflect on the
25 Goodwill mission, which is that Goodwill helps people with

1 employment barriers to reach their full potential and become
2 self-sufficient. I feel very proud that I feel like we're
3 already taking care of one of the needs, which is employment.

4 So in saying that -- the microphone went off. There
5 you go. July 2007, the immigrant program was formed. And I was
6 asked to name it a Micronesian name. And I said cannot because
7 Micronesians have lots of languages. So to show our respect for
8 the host culture, I ask for Hawaiian name.

9 So that's why our program is called Imi Loa. And the
10 meaning is to seek knowledge and explore new horizon. And I
11 thought it just fits the purposes of why we Micronesians migrate
12 and, you know, we sacrifice so much to travel this long --
13 (microphone problems) -- not only here in Hawai`i, but we go all
14 the way to the Mainland and all the way to the different parts
15 of the world.

16 So our immigrant program is focused mainly on the
17 people, the population from the COFA nation. And some of the
18 needs that we address, of course, aside from work, we also help
19 each individual with their individual goals, which are including
20 housing needs, childcare, continuing their education, either GED
21 or, you know, obtaining a college degree. So that's a lot of
22 challenges, a lot of work to do.

23 Like I said, the program had only started in July. So
24 like, as of today, how many months so far? Like eight months?
25 Our last quarter, we had serviced more than 50 people, and we're

1 able to help 12. And as of today, I can say we have helped 20
2 people find jobs.

3 And aside from that, we also have people, you know,
4 enrolled in college. We also help people enroll in GED
5 programs. And one of the biggest challenge that we have is, and
6 we try to provide, is the information. And like one of the
7 person who asked the question said knowledge is power, and that
8 is very true.

9 We see our program as a place for Micronesians to come
10 to, to get the informations that they need, aside from just
11 employment, to be able to make it here in Hawai`i. And I see
12 that as the most need for Micronesians.

13 We talk about acculturation. We try to provide the
14 informations on acculturation so that people can, you know, be
15 able to go to work and know that they have to call when, you
16 know, they cannot make it to work or, you know, to know that
17 it's okay to talk to their bosses, not to be scared.

18 You know, it's so typical of us to be afraid of the
19 people of power and, you know, just to give them the assurance.
20 I think that's really, really important. And like Canisius
21 said, when he went to his interview with Dr. Hilda, he was so
22 scared. But when he went in there and saw that she was
23 Micronesian, he was at ease.

24 And I think that's what makes our program also
25 successful, the fact that it is built by Micronesians and it's

1 also run by Micronesians. 'Cause when our people walk through
2 that door, they come in with -- you know, like you get to see
3 that they're so comfortable.

4 And, in fact, like some people come in and scold me.
5 Like, I didn't know your daughter's working in here. If I knew
6 you were the one, I would have come long time ago. So, I mean,
7 like -- and then my supervisor will, like, what are they talking
8 about 'cause that's not appropriate here in Hawai`i, but so
9 appropriate in Micronesia. And that's how we, you know, we
10 provide services in our office.

11 I will stop here and I'll be open to questions later
12 on and allow my colleagues to also say what they need to say
13 about their programs. Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

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16 Marshallese Education Day

17 BY MR. JUSTIN LANI:

18 (Speaking in foreign language.) As Julia said, my
19 name is Justin, and I'm here on behalf of the Marshallese
20 Education Day Committee. This committee was established by the
21 Hawai'i (indiscernable) who work for the Leeward, Honolulu, and
22 Central school district and member of the community.

23 The Marshallese education event is planned for
24 April 26th at McCoy Pavilion at Ala Moana Park from 10:00 a.m.
25 to 4:00 p.m. And the motto of the event is -- (speaking in