

1 Topic 1: Strengthening Community

2 Introduction

3 BY MR. JOAKIM PETER:

4 Thank you very much, Canisius.

5 It was a good start this morning with Dr. Hilda Heine.
6 And I think she has brought those issues that we are going to be
7 dealing with for the next two days at the forefront in her
8 presentation this morning.

9 So with that, we have a panel this morning talking
10 about strengthening communities. And like Canisius said, my
11 name is Jo Jo Peter. I have the easy job of moderating this
12 panel. It is easy because we have on this panel a group of
13 young Micronesians who are working in the communities here and
14 in Hawai`i, dealing with Micronesians and people here in
15 Hawai`i, in the government and the nongovernment organizations.

16 What I would like to do is ask each and every one of
17 'em do a presentation at one time. They'll all be screaming at
18 once. So you all gonna try (indiscernible) what they're saying.

19 No. One by one, I'd like them to be talking about,
20 briefly, talk about their group and the organizations that they
21 represent and they work in and the service that they provide to
22 the different Micronesian communities here in Hawai`i or
23 Micronesians in Hawai`i and Micronesians in Micronesia, if
24 that's the case.

25 And also, give some examples on how your group or

1 organization help strengthening the communities, the Micronesian
2 communities here in Hawai`i; what particular needs or issues
3 does your group or organization address; and also what proves to
4 be successful; and some ideas as to why those practice work and
5 don't work; and also what other needs are there to be done for
6 you to work and you see out there as the needs of the
7 communities.

8 There are ways in which -- if there are ways in which
9 the government and other organization can help, I'd like you to
10 also address that or bring to the conversation here this
11 morning. And it will also help very much if you have particular
12 stories that you want to tell to highlight this points and
13 special concerns that you would like to share, as well as
14 particular requests that you would like to make.

15 Let me introduce the panel members first before we ask
16 each and every one -- each of 'em to do a 10- to 12-minute
17 presentation. And I would like to ask the audience to hold
18 until all of them are done, and then we will have about a half
19 hour for questions.

20 And again, like the overall housekeeper for this
21 conference, as mentioned earlier, please keep your questions
22 precise and directly addressing the particular concerns that you
23 may have for the panel members. If you are not sure as to who
24 you should address the questions that you have in mind, just go
25 ahead and ask it, and we'll try to figure out who among them

1 will address those questions.

2 But let me introduce the panel members for this
3 morning. For our strengthening communities panel, we have,
4 first of all, Jocelyn "Josie" Howard. And she's the program
5 coordinator for Imi Loa program, the immigrant employee --
6 (audience interruption) -- Goodwill Industries in Hawai`i.
7 Please welcome Josie.

8 (Applause.)

9 CONTINUED BY MR. PETER:

10 And the man who heed any request not to say anything
11 bad about me so I don't say anything bad about him, Canisius
12 Filibert. And he is the president of Micronesian Community
13 Network and program director for Pacific Resource and Education
14 and Learning, otherwise known as PREL. Filibert.

15 (Applause.)

16 For the Marshall Islands (indiscernible) and of course
17 a member of the Marshallese education committee, we have
18 Mr. Justin Lani.

19 (Applause.)

20 Joanna Jacob works for the Department of Education as
21 a bilingual school and home assistant here in Hawai`i; the
22 Honolulu District English Language Learners Program; and a
23 member of the Micronesian Cultural Awareness Program. Joanna.

24 (Applause.)

25 And (indiscernable) for Dionisialynn Bernard is

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