

1 education of our children because we can do it. We are here on
2 this panel because we made it; and if we invested in our
3 children (indiscernible). Thank you.

4 * * * * *

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. PETER: Thank you very much, Dion. And last, but
7 certainly not least, from the Pacific Resource and Education
8 Learning, and Micronesian United Network, Mr. Filibert.

9 MR. FILBERT: Thank you, Jo Jo. Correction.
10 Micronesian Community Network. Micronesians United is another
11 one.

12 MR. PETER: And I know they're sitting in their seat.
13 That's not the guy.

14 MR. FILIBERT: Yeah. But I'll be speaking more of
15 MCN, Micronesian Community Network, and I'll let Hilda be the
16 proud representative -- (audience interruption).

17 Micronesian Community Network

18 BY MR. CANISIUS FILIBERT:

19 So yeah, Dion talked about the feeling of belonging to
20 something (indiscernible). And Micronesian Community Network
21 also serves that purpose because, as Hilda was saying, one of
22 the good things that have come about because of all of this
23 discussion and issues coming up is the Micronesians themselves
24 organizing and getting together.

25 And MCN was really sort of --. The idea for it came

1 from Mary Matayoshi, who is the executive director for the
2 Volunteer Resource Center of Hawai`i, because a grant from the
3 Hawai`i Community Foundation, one of the (indiscernible) grant
4 was made available for the purpose of creating community
5 leadership among the Micronesians.

6 And so she formed a group, kind of the current
7 Micronesian (indiscernible) back in 2004. That was towards the
8 end of 2004. And so convened the group and organized it, got
9 the grant, originally for 25,000, I think, but only got 9,000
10 awarded. And that seed money actually began the organization of
11 MCN.

12 Since then, there have been a lot of other
13 collaborations, other agencies, groups, persons, who have been
14 very supportive of MCN or efforts for Micronesians in general.
15 And one of the persons who's been very involved with MCN is
16 Mrs. Barbara Tom with the -- I know I'm gonna get this wrong --
17 Parkinson's Disease or some program of that type. But
18 (indiscernible) not that she has Parkinson's but, uh.

19 And so in the beginning of 2005, a group came together
20 that included Richard Salvador, who is sitting right there. And
21 actually, Richard became the first president of the Micronesian
22 Community Network. And he took on that role for about two
23 years. And then just recently, last year, I took over for
24 Richard.

25 And so Richard was really sort of the -- originally,

1 we were supposed to have officers, but we never got to that
2 point. We kept talking about our by-laws and never elected
3 officers.

4 But when I came onboard, I thought that we needed to
5 have other Micronesians in the leading roles for MCN. So other
6 Micronesians who are officers are Ms. Callista Mar-bo [Phonetic]
7 who is with Pact Hawai`i, and she's our treasurer. And Richard
8 Alex from Pohnpei; he's our vice president. And Ms. Grace
9 Isaac -- I don't know if she's here, but she's our secretary.
10 Then we also have Ms. Adeline Foo-lee-yar-tee [Phonetic] from
11 Palau, and she's the coordinator.

12 Our office are mainly located with the McKinley
13 Community School for Adults. And for MCSH, through the
14 generosity of Ms. Helen Satay, [Phonetic] the principal of
15 McKinley Community School, has really helped us.

16 She also gave us, MCN, a portable up at Stevenson
17 Middle School, upper Makiki. That's been the location where we
18 have our computers, donated by other agencies and groups. And
19 we meet there every -- well, right now we're sort of
20 transitioning and trying to decide which is the better time.
21 But prior to this month, we kept meeting at every third Friday
22 of the month.

23 And so in the beginning, MCN has been sort of like a
24 conduit for other organizations in the community to come; and if
25 they need it, to provide services to Micronesians because they

1 were sort of mandated to then be, sort of provided that outlet
2 for them, that we collaborate with them.

3 So we've done -- (indiscernible). That was back in
4 2005. We have the state capitol. Then we also helped with the
5 Hepatitis B or Hep B nonprofit organization for Hawai`i,
6 organized health fairs, mainly here in Honolulu. And I think
7 once we went out to Waipahu, other places.

8 So the Micronesian Community Network has really
9 been -- it began with that 9,000, or however small amount it
10 was. That ended a long time ago, but we're still going. We're
11 still running, and I think simply because we see for ourselves
12 the need to come together and talk amongst ourselves. Even
13 though we do get into some differences and we get very heated in
14 our discussions, but we do agree to disagree.

15 We do have committees that address certain issues,
16 like an education committee, which has probably been the most
17 active in the Micronesian Community Network. Actually,
18 because -- they had committed the (indiscernible) or what Joanna
19 was talking about. That sort of came about.

20 Because as we kept meeting, I found out that I was
21 doing some things for (indiscernible). I was doing
22 presentations in the school. (Indiscernible) is doing other
23 presentations. Joanna did some as well and other Micronesians.
24 And we thought why are we doing the same thing in different
25 places? And then it's sort of like a duplication of efforts.

1 So we decided let's get together and form a group and
2 do presentations, which is probably more effective than one
3 person going out and doing it by themselves. And because of
4 that effort, the Office of Community Services approached us
5 because they saw us doing it and they said, well, are you being
6 compensated by the Hawai`i DOE? I said no, we're just doing it
7 because we see the need; and of course, it's really for the
8 children. And so he said, well, you should. Well, do we?

9 I guess because it never came to mind; we're doing it
10 because we need to do it for our own children and our own
11 families. And I guess it was a good thing that that came around
12 because we needed to, I guess, sort of set a standard that, as
13 we go along, some of these things, we're doing it, we have our
14 own other jobs and we're not being compensated. So it's sort of
15 like an unfair thing, if you really look at it that way.

16 And so yeah, I think we are setting standards. But
17 we're very accommodating. Micronesians are very accommodating,
18 by the way. We'll talk (indiscernible).

19 Let's see. What other things for MCN? How we doing
20 on time? I hope I'm not going over.

21 MR. PETER: You still have a few minutes.

22 CONTINUED BY MR. FILIBERT:

23 Maybe just one more thing. So maybe my last point was
24 really juggling the roles. Because sometimes it gets to be a
25 little bit hectic when you're trying to do your own real job

1 duties. Not that MCN is not real, but -- I don't know how to
2 say it. It's the other real one, another reality show.

3 But we see the need to come together amongst ourselves
4 and talk and move along some of the issues. And really, some of
5 the bills that have come across the state legislature has been
6 also addressed at Micronesia Community Network.

7 And we've gone to the legislature. We provided oral
8 testimonies there. And some of it has helped. Other times it
9 sort of just fell on deaf ears, and maybe it's a juggle also
10 there at the legislature. You do your thing, but they take it
11 or not. But we're there. We're still there and we continue to
12 provide the support and the belongingness for Micronesians.

13 And so just to add. The numbers for Micronesian
14 Community Network members has really not been definite. We
15 don't really know. I mean, if you come, you're a member. If
16 you don't come, fine. But come back again; you're still a
17 member. So it becomes a problem for our treasurer Callista
18 because we try and get dues for members, but it never really
19 materializes.

20 But that's really not the driving force for MCN. It's
21 really the dedication of the Micronesians and for us coming
22 together. Thank you.

23 * * * * *

24 (Applause.)

25 MR. PETER: Thank you very much, Canisius. And on