

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.)

15 \* \* \* \* \*

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

1 foreign language) -- which means educating mind for the future.  
2 Basically the purpose of this event is to bring Marshallese  
3 community and families together to celebrate education.

4 The committee also recognize the challenges the  
5 Marshallese students and parents face when they move to Hawai`i.  
6 And as a member of the community, this community, the community,  
7 we want to be proactive, to have a little bit challenge. And  
8 so, therefore, our goal or the goal of the event, the  
9 Marshallese Education Day, is to help families to learn about  
10 different expectations in Hawai`i schools from those back home,  
11 to increase parental involvement and participation in their  
12 children education -- and inform student on how to pass, achieve  
13 their educational and career goals.

14 We have a short program that will be done during the  
15 day, and we're hoping to have the speeches from the regional  
16 leaders from the government. Hopefully, we'll try to get  
17 somebody from the ministry, Marshall Island minister of  
18 education. And we just got the information that Mayor Mufi  
19 Hannemann will be there as well.

20 Following the speeches, we'll have traditional musics  
21 and dance, followed by presentation of award to Marshallese  
22 student that are doing good in the school around the island. So  
23 member of the community, the community is gathering all the name  
24 of the students that are achieving good academic standing so  
25 they can be recognized at that time.

1           We will also have a breakout session for parents and  
2 students in the afternoon, and we're hoping that this breakout  
3 session will, the parents and the students will have a chance to  
4 hear and interact with speakers from the panel and learn about  
5 services that are offered here in Hawai`i.

6           Right now we have about 20 service provider who have  
7 or are willing to participate in the event. And we're so  
8 grateful that, you know, they will be there to talk about their  
9 services and programs. And we're hoping that the parents and  
10 the student or the community will have a chance to learn what  
11 kind of services' out there.

12           With a few more days to go, the committee is carrying  
13 out the planning and making progresses. And we've been  
14 receiving a lot of contributions and help from individuals or  
15 organizations, gearing up our preparation for the event. And  
16 we're very grateful for all the help that we've been getting  
17 from everybody.

18           It's a challenge to do something this big. And I just  
19 wanted to express our appreciation for all the help that we've  
20 been getting from the community, individual organization, and  
21 especially the member of the committee that have been meeting  
22 twice a week on their own time, you know, try to come up with  
23 plans, coordinate this event that will be beneficial to the  
24 Marshallese student here in Hawai`i.

25           They know and realize the challenges the family face

1 in the school and wanted to help or come up with something that  
2 we'll be able to give them some -- or help the families face the  
3 challenges they do when they first come to Hawai`i. And the  
4 target group are student and parents.

5 So our committee has been going out to the community,  
6 informing the community leaders that this event is coming up  
7 and, you know, they should be able, they should come to the  
8 event to learn and get information out of it. We're hoping that  
9 when people leave this event, they will have some better  
10 understanding of their role and responsibility as parents and  
11 students.

12 I'm privileged to be here and I wanted to thank my  
13 colleague here in front, Beverly, the UH Center for Pacific  
14 Studies for giving us this opportunity to speak on -- (audience  
15 interruption). Thank you. (Speaking in foreign language.)

16 \* \* \* \* \*

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. PETER: Thank you very much, Justin. (Microphone  
19 problems.) In 1986, I was still a student at the University of  
20 Guam, and that's when the Compact, to start kicking in. Back  
21 then, education was a major reason for Micronesians to travel  
22 abroad to Guam and Hawai`i.

23 And then right at the beginning of the Compact,  
24 we see education has also continues to be a major force and  
25 reason, as presented earlier by Dr. Hilda Heine and yesterday by