

**U.S. Attorney Ed Kubo**  
**Speech at Hawaii Deployment Ceremony**  
**Aloha Stadium**  
**Saturday, August 16, 2008**

General Lee, Families and Friends, Distinguished Guests, and most importantly, to our Soldiers:

I am honored to be speaking at this very emotional occasion for all of us. In some respects this seems like a graduation of sorts with our families looking on as you are about to embark on a challenging future.

At that same time, and speaking as one of those parents saying aloha to you today, I can tell you that we are very proud of you, and what you are doing for our Nation. There is no doubt we will worry as parents, as grandparents, as spouses and other family members.

But we are confident in your abilities --- in your training --- and in your character. You make us proud because we saw you grow up to be who you are today. You make us proud because you are willing to be the best our Nation has to offer the world. You are an American Soldier.

Before you depart to another part of this globe, I would like for each of you to remember the values spoken about by General Douglas MacArthur. General MacArthur was an American Hero and one of only four army officers in U.S. history to be a five star General. (Marshall, Bradley, Eisenhower and MacArthur)

In 1962, after retiring, General MacArthur gave his last speech at his beloved West Point Academy. His words still guide all Soldiers today. In so many words, he said that, "**Duty**"..... "**Honor**"..... and "**Country**"..... are three important words which

must guide you in what you want to be, in what you can be, and in what you will be.

These words are your rallying point, --- to build courage when courage seems to fail, to regain faith when there seems to be little cause for faith, to create hope when hope fades.

Soldiers, as you depart – never forget these values. Duty, Honor, and Country is the basis for the strength of our Nation, and you shall be our ambassadors in making our world a safer place to live. In this respect, you are Heroes --- and, we are so very proud and honored that you belong to our family --- our Ohana.

Please also remember that as you depart, you must stay focused. Do your mission, and do it well. I know that you will be thousands of miles away from home. But, we will be fine here at home, and we will be strong while waiting for your return.

As the United States Attorney for Hawaii, I speak for all of us in law enforcement when I say that you should not worry about your families back home. Our promise to you is that we will take care of your families and keep them safe while you are away.

After all, this is our culture in Hawaii, as well as the culture of all of us in the Pacific. We take care of one another because we are one family --- one Ohana.

And so, our mission is clear --- and that is to keep your families safe, and to care for and embrace them as part of our family while you are away. Hawaii is a safer place today. We are in our 6<sup>th</sup> straight year of a decrease in crime here. We have what I consider to be --- the best police officers in the country --- and as a result, today, Hawaii has one of the lowest crime rates in our Nation. And, so I want you to remember this, and not to worry about us while you are away.

So, in closing, on behalf of your loved ones and families here today, I say to each of you: We love you, and we will miss you. But, don't worry about us --- just do your duty, and do it well, --- and with honor for our country. We'll see you when you return.

Good luck to all of you. Stay safe, and may God Protect and Bless all of you.

Aloha.