



News Release

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Community leaders merge at Pohakuloa

POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA, Hawaii—Big Island civilian and military community leaders merged at this Army installation in an effort to network and share information among each other at Pōhakuloa Training Area (PTA), February 23,

In attendance were 38 key community leaders of the Big Island, including Mayor Billy Kenoī and Hawaii County council members Brenda Ford and Donald Ikeda, and Hawaii County Police Department Chief Harry Kubojiri.

“We wanted to bring community leaders together for one common purpose, primarily to establish better partnerships for the community, environment and our local economy,” said Lt. Col. Warline Richardson, PTA garrison commander. “The Big Island mayor’s campaign motto is ‘Together We Can,’ and I believe that all government agencies, whether federal, state, or county must understand each other’s roles and the effects that we have on each other as well as the benefits.”

A community is a group of people with an intention, belief, resources, preferences, needs, risks, and a number of conditions present that share in common an environment, according to Richardson.

“Each community leader plays an integral part in the deployment and redeployment of military personnel that train at PTA and their supportive families,” Richardson noted, “whether their role is as a parent, family member, veteran, or supporting agency during this Global War on Terrorism.”

Richardson gave the attendees a commander’s overview, which was followed by a depleted uranium update by Col. Howard Killian, deputy director, Installation Management Command-Pacific region; Future Projects in Hawaii update by an aide of Lt. Col. Jon Chytka, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District; “Buying Local First” campaign by Michael Williams, Uniserv Technology and editor of B2B magazine; and a community appreciation speech by Mayor Billy Kenoi.

Two of the key highlights of Community Leaders Day were presentations for environmental work and for leadership recognition.

The deputy assistant secretary of the Army, Environment, Safety and Occupational Health, Addison (Tad) Davis, presented the Kilauea Military Camp (KMC) staff with the 2008 Secretary of the Army’s Environmental Award. KMC was selected runner-up in the Army-wide competition for the best environmental program. Moments later, Lt. Col. Warline Richardson, formally recognized past Big Island Mayor Harry Kim for his leadership role and support of Soldiers, Marines, veterans, and PTA during his tenure as mayor. Since Harry Kim was not available, his son Garrett accepted the recognition plaque on his behalf.

The day ended with a range training area presentation by Robert Misajon, PTA future operations and plans planner, at the Pu’u Pōhakuloa; a visit to the new Saddle Road construction area and update by Dave Gedeon, Federal Highways project manager of Saddle Road; and a visit to one of the air monitoring equipments and operations information provided by Dave Faucette, land rehabilitation and management coordinator, PTA Integrated Training and Area Management.

“We have seen the results of today’s event,” said Richardson. “Attendance was absolutely spectacular. Our Big Island mayor is absolutely priceless and extremely sincere as he expressed his concerns and bears the heart of the people. I was honored to be the event’s host, and I look forward to more of these community events in the future.”