



Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Army Dedicates Building to Children of Fallen Soldiers

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii – U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii (USAG-HI) will dedicate a new School-Age Center, Wednesday, to children of all fallen Soldiers of the U.S. Army in Hawaii.

The \$12.3 million School-Age Center is named “Napua Koa,” which is Hawaiian for “The Children of the Warrior.”

“To be a warrior is to sacrifice. Our Soldiers and their families have given a lot of themselves and endured personal hardships during lengthy deployments away from home,” said Col. Matthew T. Margotta, commander of U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii. “In return, we have promised to take care of our families, to provide them with quality programs and safe communities where they can grow and thrive.

“The School-Age Center and planned Child Development Center are the products of that promise, providing our children—the children of the warriors—tools and facilities to learn, to explore, or to just be kids,” Margotta added.

Besides having all the things one would expect to find in a place of learning--such as classrooms, study areas, a computer lab and multipurpose room--the center also has a “Techno Fun Room,” Performing Arts Room, outdoor soccer field and basketball court.

The Techno Fun Room contains the latest state-of-the-art gaming systems and electronic devices to support the children's daily learning experiences and provides a fun place to just kick back, relax and enjoy some time hanging out with friends from school. The Performing Arts Room provides props, costumes, music and scripts, allowing children to explore various performing arts, from dance to signing and even small stage productions.

Center staff expects the building to be at full capacity with the start of the upcoming Summer Day Camp program, which runs from June 1 to July 30. The children will have the

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opportunity to participate in swimming events, numerous arts & crafts activities, team sports, special interest clubs and weekly excursions to other educational venues.

“The most exciting addition to our educational experiences that we can offer our children, comes from the facility’s smaller demonstration kitchen,” said Julie Ariola, director of the center. “We’ll be able to provide children the opportunity to work on food projects and observe cooking demonstrations outside of the larger kitchen area.

“Even if it is something simple, like learning to make healthy snacks, or preparing salads, the demonstration kitchen allows us to set the seed of good nutrition at a time in their lives when children are most receptive to learning,” Ariola said.

Army school age centers offer before- and after-school programs for Army children, kindergarten through fifth grade. In Hawaii, more than 350 children are currently enrolled in these centers at Schofield Barracks, Aliamanu Military Reservation, Fort Shafter and Helemano Military Reservation.

The centers charge users a monthly fee, based on total family income, which covers all meals, transportation, supplies and staff labor costs.

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MEDIA NOTE: Media wishing to attend should R.S.V.P. no later than 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 1, and should meet Army escorts at Schofield Barracks’ Lyman Gate at 2:15 p.m., Wednesday, June 2. For further information, please contact Loran Doane, Media Relations chief, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Public Affairs at (808) 656-3157 or cell (317)-847-2222.