



Governor's E-Newsletter

October 15-21, 2005



Aloha and Welcome from the Governor's Office in Hawai`i!

It is with pleasure that we send you this e-newsletter.

Quote of the Week

"We will work hard to eliminate the tax on food, medical services and on prescription drugs. We'll put a special focus on those who are earning the least."

- Governor Lingle, discussing tax cuts her Administration will propose in the next Legislative Session.

Thought of the Week

"Fortunately, you... believe that the arts are essential to a complete education for our children and are willing to demonstrate your conviction by your actions and decisions."

- Marilyn Cristofori, executive director of the Hawai`i Alliance for Arts Education, thanking Governor Lingle for releasing funds to support the arts in Hawai`i.

Upcoming Events

October 22, Governor Lingle will deliver remarks at the Hawai`i Medical Center's Annual Ola Pono Ike (Health is Knowledge) Dinner.

October 22, Governor Lingle will attend the Hawai`i

Governor Presents \$1 Million Dollars to Easter Seals in Support of Early Childhood Education



Governor Lingle met with children, parents and service providers to discuss the importance of early childhood education and intervention. The Governor also presented a \$1 million check to John Howell, president of Easter Seals Hawai`i to fund the construction of a

new multi-purpose center in Kapolei. The multi-purpose center will provide early intervention for children with special needs, offer services for youth and adults with developmental and physical disabilities and conduct family and community support programs. Photos courtesy of Eric Arveson.

Governor Encourages Realtors to Assist with Affordable Housing Solutions



Governor Lingle met with members of the Hawai`i Association of Realtors and congratulated members for their successes and contributions to Hawai`i's expanding

Women's Legal Foundation Annual fund-raiser, which will support a broad range of community programs that benefit women, children and families in Hawai`i.

October 23, Governor Lingle will be an honorary starter at the 11th Annual Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure.

October 23, Governor Lingle and Lt. Governor Aiona will welcome Hawai`i's Little League champion teams and their families to Washington Place to watch the second game of the World Series.

October 24, Governor Lingle will help announce the winners of the Kids Voting Hawai`i Statewide "My Vote Gives Me Power" Poster Contest.

October 24, Governor Lingle will deliver remarks at the "Healthy and Ready to Work" conference, which focuses on developing Hawai`i's untapped workforce individuals with disabilities.

October 25, Governor Lingle will deliver remarks at a conference of the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education.

October 26, Governor Lingle will meet with Undersecretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Karen Hughes to discuss Hawai`i's role in the United States' public diplomacy efforts in the Asia-



economy. The Governor encouraged Realtors to help her

address the state's affordable housing shortage through both legislative and non-legislative means and thanked the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs for their work to create a business-friendly environment.

Photo: Governor Lingle met with Realtor of the Year Joel Criz and his family.

Governor Lingle Promotes Tourism Industry, Honors Students



The Governor attended the Hawai`i Hospitality Sales and Marketing Association luncheon, where she delivered keynote remarks about the visitor industry's impact on the state's robust economy and the state's efforts to

invest in tourism. The state has taken many steps to perpetuate the success of the industry, including renovating lobbies in the Hilo airport, investing in state harbors and improving ticketing counters at the Kahului airport. The Governor also assisted in presenting six \$1,000 scholarships to travel industry management students. The students were selected for their high grade point averages, solid resumes, personal essays and community involvement.

Governor Congratulates Emerging Pacific American Leaders



Governor Lingle met with the 8th graduating class of the Emerging Leaders Course of the National Pacific American Leadership Institute (NAPALI). As the first Governor in the

program's history to meet with the graduates, Governor Lingle emphasized the importance of leadership within local

Pacific region.

October 26, Governor Lingle will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Hawai'i International Film Festival.

October 27, Governor Lingle will participate in the Maui Drug Court's 12th graduation ceremony.

October 28, Governor Lingle will participate in the groundbreaking ceremony for a new Kaheawa Wind Power Farm on Maui.

October 28, Governor Lingle will join police officers from the Maui Police Department and other counties in demonstrating the new Wireless Enhanced 911 emergency service, which the Governor signed into law last year.

October 28, Governor Lingle will visit Baldwin High School Library and meet with Principal Steve Yamada, and Librarian Frances Oshita.

October 28, Governor Lingle will visit Maui Community College to tour the student services center.

[Governor's Weekly Radio Show](#)

The show can be heard live from 7:05-8:00 a.m. Wednesdays on www.hawaii.gov/gov or on the following radio stations:
O'ahu (KHVH AM 830)

communities and thanked the graduates for their initiative to serve their neighbors, while preserving cultural values and traditions. Photo: Governor Lingle congratulated graduates of the Emerging Leaders Course of the National Pacific American Leadership Institute.

Celebrating 50 Years of Brigham Young University - Hawai'i



Governor Lingle visited Brigham Young University of Hawai'i (BYUH) campus to take part in the University's Golden Jubilee Week. The Governor congratulated the

school for serving as a symbol of international education and leadership in the state, and thanked Dr. Shumway, president of BYUH, and students for their involvement in her recent mission to China and Korea.

Governor Welcomes Faith-Based and Community Efforts to Strengthen State



The Governor attended the Hawai'i Conference on Faith-based and Community Initiatives and emphasized the importance of partnerships to meet community needs in the areas of substance abuse, hunger, unemployment and

youth at-risk. "Everyone should know that faith-based organizations and community-based organizations are a key to our ability to help those in need," Governor Lingle said.

Photo: Governor Lingle was congratulated by Jeremy White, former associate director for the White House Faith-based and Community Initiatives Office.

Governor Addresses Toastmasters

Maui/Kona (KAOI 1110 AM)
Hilo (KPUA 670 AM)
Kaua`i (KONG 570 AM)

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Governor Lingle attended an Open House and meeting for potential members of the First Hawaiian Bank Toastmasters Club. A former toastmaster, the Governor emphasized the importance of the

program and the skills she now uses as an elected official. Last summer, Governor Lingle met with members of the Ho`oponopono Pa`ahao Toastmasters Club at Halawa Prison and praised members for using public speaking as an outlet for rehabilitation.

"Dedicated to Hawai`i's Troops"



Photo courtesy of SSG Tran

SSG Kevin Tran of the 804th Signal Company from Hawai`i (third from left) and members from the El Salvador Coalition.

We invite you to submit digital photos of your loved ones who are serving our country in the defense of freedom and liberty. Please e-mail your photos and a brief caption to governor.lingle@hawaii.gov.

Department of the Week-

Defense

Hawai'i troops helping to secure polling sites

BY CAPT. KEVIN WONGMUNA
Special to The Advertiser

ANAACONDA, IRAQ — To prepare for the Iraq constitutional referendum, soldiers from the Hawaii-based 227th Combat Engineer Company and 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regiment have been working to help the residents of villages near Logistical Support Area Anaconda improve security for the historic event.

To assist with a daily testing process, soldiers from the 227th set up concertina wire, a type of barbed wire, around polling sites in the villages of Abu Hishma and Bakr Village on Oct. 5.

During the elections, Iraqi police and Iraqi Army personnel will provide security at the polling sites while American forces provide area security.

"None of our forces will be in any of the villages during the elections," said Maj. Paul Takata of the 100th-442nd. Both Abu Hishma and Bakr Village are within the 100th's area of operations.

"We'll be playing a support role and will only respond to situations if we're asked to by Iraqi officials," Takata said.

Iraqi police provided security for the engineers as they laid out and strung up hundreds of yards of concertina wire around the schools that will be used as polling sites. The Iraqi police were accompanied by soldiers from Company E, 100th-442nd who used their gas masks, communication devices with remote-mounted weapons to help provide security for the engineers as they worked.

"It feels good to be a part of a historic event," said Sgt. Glen Frenkel, a squad leader with the support platoon of the 227th. "We're playing a role in helping the Iraq people determine their

own future."

During the journey to Abu Hishma, the Hawaii-based soldiers heard the danger they endure each time they leave the wire. The general passed an improvised explosive device that didn't detonate.

Sgt. Jeff Dink, a former prisoner in one of the 100th vehicles, spotted the IED. "It was on the left side of the road," Dink said. "I saw the typical way they (Iraqis) hide them (roadside bombs) as we passed."

That, a tank manager for the 100th of Coon, is from Iraqis.

After completing their work in Abu Hishma, the soldiers moved on to Bakr Village. After they reached the Bakr Village entrance road, an IED detonated about 75 feet from the third vehicle in the patrol.

"I definitely felt the concussion of the explosion," said Maj. Neal Mitsunishi, the 227th BCT Staff Engineer. He was a passenger in the third Humvee.

"To me it doesn't matter if the Iraqis vote or not on the referendum," Mitsunishi said. "Just the fact that Iraqis vote out to voice their wishes is the historic step in the right direction for the future of Iraq."

The only woman on the mission, Spc. Bobbi Brown, was excited about her role as an engineer. Brown, 25, a nursing student from Wisconsin, was "overjoyed" to be the 227th out of the inactive Ready Reserve.

"They put me into the combat engineers because my name is 'Bobbi' and they assumed I was a girl," she said. "So when I got here, I got stuck in an office for two weeks while they decided what to do with me."

"I remember was one time outside the wire and I was excited and nervous. I work a while for the guys to get used to having a female around, but now they see me do stuff."



Light: Glen Frenkel of 100th secures concertina wire around an Abu Hishma polling site in Iraq ahead of today's voting.

KEVIN WONGMUNA/STAFF

ABOUT THE SERIES

Capt. Kyle Wongmuna's account is part of a series of occasional reports The Advertiser publishes from the soldier soldiers of the 227th Brigade Combat Team in Iraq. Wongmuna is a public affairs officer based at Logistical Support Area Anaconda south of Baghdad. In addition, he is a Honolulu police officer.

In preparation for the Iraqi constitutional referendum, soldiers from the 29th Brigade, Hawai'i-based 227th Combat Engineer Company and 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regiment have been had at work assisting residents of villages near Logistical Support Area Anaconda improve security by installing concertina barbed wire around polling sites in the villages of Abu Hishma and Bakr Village. During the elections, American troops will provide area security while Iraqi police and Iraqi Army personnel will provide security at polling sites. The State Adjutant General, Major General Robert Lee said, "We are proud of the exceptional job our Hawai`i soldiers are doing to help bring stability to Iraq. I know they really appreciate all of the packages and messages of goodwill that have been sent by local residents. We all look forward to their safe return in early 2006." Read the Honolulu Advertiser's [Hawai`i troops helping to secure polling sites](#) by clicking the link above.

In the News

Job growth in Hawaii outpaces much of U.S.

The state had the seventh-fastest rate of job creation in the states, according to an FISC report

By Allison Schaefer
aschaefer@starbulletin.com

Hawaii had the seventh-fastest job growth among the states in the second quarter, up slightly from its ranking of eighth a year earlier, according to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.

The state's job count grew 2.9 percent during the quarter and its unemployment rate dropped to 2.8 percent in August — the lowest in almost 15 years. Key industries that have driven job growth, such as tourism and construction, maintained high worker levels or continued to grow.

"The Lingle-Niemi administration has created a vibrant economy that has created more than 26,000 new jobs," said state Labor Director Nelson Bittell. "We have witnessed extraordinary job growth for the last 33 months, with more of Hawaii's residents working than ever before."

Some 500 jobs were created in the construction industry and 3,000 jobs in the tourism industry during the second quarter, said James Haraway, Bittell's assistant.

Hawaii's strong housing market also has contributed to economic growth, according to FISC State Profiles, a quarterly publication.

Please see Economy, C2

[Job growth in Hawaii outpaces much of U.S.](#)

Honolulu Star-Bulletin, October 15, 2005

Task force working to make Hawaii first state to insure all

The governor's panel is tasked with creating coverage for the 1 in 10 uninsured residents

By Karin Danon

HONOLULU — A health care task force is working on a number of plans to provide health care for the 1 million of Hawaii residents who are not covered by insurance.

Among the options under discussion is a network of community health centers and a health authority to coordinate all state care plans.

"It's a very complex area and we don't want to simply set up a plan that would have negative impacts," said state Insurance Commissioner L.P. Scheidt, a member of the task force. "Our main challenge has been to be one-driven to manageable issues that hopefully we can have a greater impact on."

About 11.5 million Hawaii residents are not covered by health

insurance through 40,000 single or eligible for a government-sponsored program but are not being.

The 11-member Hawaii Health Care Task Force is made up of lawmakers, health care professionals and health insurance executives appointed by the governor, and is affiliated with the Hawaii Insurance Pool. It was created by the legislature earlier this year with a mandate to develop a plan for providing health care for all Hawaii residents. The group has been meeting in August and will continue through June.

The idea is to create a health authority to coordinate health care across each of the islands, said Gov. Neil Abernethy, said Gov. (J. Kenneth Bligh). There are already 13 health centers, which provide preventive and primary care services and change as they according to demand.

Gov. said he is optimistic the plan will get the approval of state lawmakers at next year's legislative session, and health care could start within a year.

Medical care will be offered on a sliding scale, starting out at \$50, he said.

Insurance rates will be offered for less than \$100 a month, Gov. said, which will cover steps at state hospitals, and some have preventive care programs.

"It won't be fancy but it will be quality," he said. "We already have a system in place. It's going to require a \$500 million, but the state has the cash in hand. The main goal is to get primary care to those without insurance."

Gov. said federal and state funds would help pay for the program. State lawmakers receive \$200,000 to follow health, and the state has \$5 million to help cover uninsured patients.

Gov. said he is optimistic the plan will get the approval of state lawmakers at next year's legislative session, and health care could start within a year.

For example, he said, a community health initiative can be

created with assistance, but increased to one level to a level that they can cover. Health care is a very complex area and we don't want to simply set up a plan that would have negative impacts," said state Insurance Commissioner L.P. Scheidt, a member of the task force. "Our main challenge has been to be one-driven to manageable issues that hopefully we can have a greater impact on."

For those who cannot afford such treatment, the state would provide financial aid. In 2004, the state provided \$1.5 billion in aid to the state's health care system. From 1998 to 2002, such costs cost more than \$500 million.

Hawaii's state-owned general health care system would create a health authority to bring all health care coverage under one umbrella. In addition to following coverage for everyone, the authority would coordinate insurance programs.

The task force is considering having a committee to evaluate the costs of covering the first 100,000 single-payer patients. If the task force is approved in putting alternative insurance and quality health care to state residents, Gov. would be first state to make that state.

[Task force working to make Hawaii first state to insure all](#)

Honolulu Star-Bulletin, October 17, 2005

UH officer is employee of year

A Big Island airports manager also earns state recognition

TheHerald staff

The state's employee of the year is University of Hawaii fiscal officer John Awakani, who was "one of the true heroes" following the Maunaloa flash flood last October that caused millions in damage to Hamilton Library, said Gov. Linda Lingle in a news release.

Chauncy Wong Tsun, Big Island airports district manager, was named manager of the year, and the 21 staffers in the Attorney General's Office who created the state's first sex offender Web site were selected as the team of the year.

The Governor's 2005 Selection Committee chose the trophy winners, who exemplify the "highest caliber of public service and dedication," from 49 groups and individual nominees.

Awakani, chief financial and fiscal officer for the UH's Library Services Program, accurately and efficiently administered an annual budget of more than \$13 million, Lingle said.

In the wake of the Oct. 30, 2004, flood, Awakani successfully managed the fiscal and reporting demands and deadlines with determination and grace, she said. He guided and advised the library staff during the strenuous process of having to inventory and document losses for insurance reporting.

"John's outstanding competence, tireless dedication and sheer perseverance displayed

during the difficult months following the flood make him one of the true heroes on campus," Lingle said.

Wong Tsun, in his two short years as manager of the four state airports on the Big Island, has created a cohesive and motivated workforce, instituted equipment and passenger safety programs, initiated plans to create a regional fire training facility, and worked with the taxi industry.

"Chauncy's networking abilities have brought best practices for aircraft/aircraft control from governmental agencies and local organizations together, creating a strong sense of shared purpose among these

groups," Lingle said.

The Hawaii Criminal Justice Center's Web site team reviewed, researched and classified more than 2,000 sex offender records, dedicating more than 1,500 hours to this project, Lingle said.

The names, public information and photos of more than 1,800 registered convicted sex offenders living in the community were made available to the public just moments after Lingle signed into law the Sex Offender Registration and Notification bill.

The volunteer members of the Governor's 2005 Selection Committee was comprised of representatives from businesses or non-state government organizations.

[UH officer is employee of the year](#)

Honolulu Star-Bulletin, October 16, 2005

[Maui 'world's best island'](#)

Pacific Business News, October 18, 2005

[Hanalei Watershed Hui now official monitor of Hanalei Bay waters](#)

The Garden Island, October 15, 2005

