



# Governor's E-Newsletter December 13-19, 2003



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

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

*Aloha and Happy Holidays from the Governor's Office in Hawai`i!*

## Major Headlines

**Governor's Priority to Reform Education System Supported by Report**

**Major General Lee Visits Hawai`i Troops in Afghanistan**

**Governor Lingle Leads Dedication for Kaka`ako Improvements**



CARE advisory committee and Lt. Governor Aiona stand behind Governor Lingle as she accepts their report.

**Governor's Priority to Reform Education System Supported by Report**

Governor Lingle accepted a final report comprised of the specific findings and recommendations of the Citizens Achieving Reform in Education (CARE) committee. The 25-member advisory group compiled the report, which included public comments from ten statewide community meetings. The report points out that Hawai`i is the only state in the nation with one statewide school board. The report calls for directing more money to classrooms, creating local school boards, granting greater decision-making power and accountability to principals, providing open and fair funding on a per-pupil basis and allowing parents and students to select the schools of their choice. To bring this about, the report recommends placing the question of local school boards on the November 2004 ballot so the voters can decide. An average of 66% of people polled by the Hawai`i Business Roundtable indicated their support for locally elected school boards. On the neighbor islands, up to 74% of respondents were in favor of local school boards. [For more details, read the final report.](#)

**"Setting up local school boards requires a state constitutional amendment that must be ratified by the voting public. Legislators should give the public a chance to vote on Lingle's plan. Keeping it off next fall's ballot will simply mean the lawmakers think voters are incapable of thinking for themselves."** - Voters should decide reform, The Maui News, December 18, 2003. [Read the entire editorial.](#)

**"Lingle's highest priority is improving public schools. By speaking with residents throughout the islands and hearing their priorities and recommendations, CARE is helping the governor put together an education reform proposal that will dramatically improve our schools."** - Patricia Schafer, Lingle's commitment to education is firm, Honolulu Star-Bulletin, December 15, 2003.

\*If you're interested in supporting the Governor's education reform initiatives, write to her at [governor.lingle@hawaii.gov](mailto:governor.lingle@hawaii.gov).



Hawai`i troops in Afghanistan wish their families and friends "Merry Christmas" (red sign). Major General Lee is also pictured (kneeling in the front row on the left). Photo courtesy of James Ballie.

### **Major General Lee Visits Hawai`i Troops in Afghanistan**

Major General Robert Lee, the state adjutant general, flew to Afghanistan to visit with the troops for Christmas, to boost morale and spread holiday cheer. MG Lee visited 62 soldiers from B Company, 193rd Aviation, Hawai`i Army National Guard who were placed on active duty in July. They deployed to Afghanistan in August to maintain helicopters for the 10th Mountain Division. While in Afghanistan, MG Lee phoned local radio stations for live on-air interviews. He afforded a number of the Hawai`i troops an opportunity to go on-air to say "Aloha" to family and friends back home. MG Lee also spent some time through Central Command AOR with Lt. Gen. Steven Blum, Chief of the National Guard Bureau. [Read more in the Honolulu Advertiser.](#)



Hawai`i troops just repaired this helicopter. Major General Lee is pictured in the helicopter.

### **Governor Lingle Leads Dedication for Kaka`ako Improvements**

Governor Lingle joined state officials and business leaders in a blessing and dedication ceremony for the Ilalo Street improvements and Forrest Avenue realignment projects in the Kaka`ako Waterfront area near downtown Honolulu. The \$17 million Ilalo Street project involved widening the roadway and upgrading utility systems. The \$4.8 million Forrest Avenue project included surface roadway improvements and reconfiguration of surrounding land into three parcels for commercial development. All this work makes the area safer, more attractive and better able to meet needs for future development. [Read more in the Honolulu Star-Bulletin.](#)



Governor Lingle spoke at the dedication (top) and helps to untie the maile (below) after a blessing by Kumu John Lake (standing in back) with Bill Wilson, president of Hawaiian Dredging Construction Co., Lori Ann Lum, Hawai`i Community Development Authority chair, and Ted Liu, director of the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism.



**Quote of the Week:** The report is "the most significant Christmas gift to the people of the state of Hawai`i," Governor Lingle said about the CARE Final Report. "I'm in agreement with [CARE] that these changes taken collectively will bring about the kind of excellence that has been talked about previously."

"Education is the most important gift that you can give to the next generation," said Laura Thielen, CARE advisory committee member and member of the state Board of Education.

## Key Upcoming Events

**December 21** Lighting of the Chanukah Menorah, Waikiki Gateway Park next to Waikiki Terrace Hotel, 6:30 - 6:55 p.m.

**December 25** Merry Christmas! Read Governor Lingle's holiday message in [.pdf format](#).