



DLNSEO DISPATCH... THIS MONTH IN LANGUAGE & CULTURE

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AKAKA AWARDED AT SUMMIT LAUNCHING HAWAII EFFORT TO BUILD MULTILINGUAL WORKFORCE

(Honolulu Civil Beat)

English just doesn't cut it anymore — especially in a place like Hawaii.

That notion is the driving force behind an ongoing [state initiative](#), co-sponsored by the University of Hawaii, to develop language education policies that would equip students with foreign language proficiency, ultimately creating a workforce prepared to compete in the global economy.

Business, government and education leaders gathered at an all-day summit to kick off the initiative. The walls were lined with sheets of paper plastered with sticky notes and hand-written lists outlining the language skills needed in Hawaii and proposing policies or programs that would ensure the state's students are armed with those skills.

The Hawaii Language Roadmap, as it's called, is expected to be implemented at Hawaii schools by this September. The local



Senator Daniel Akaka



effort is co-sponsored by the [Language Flagship](#) — a federally funded initiative that promotes competency in critical world languages such as Arabic, Chinese, Russian and Swahili. The group's mission is to change the way Americans learn languages, largely by shaping education policy. [Five states](#) have already launched language roadmaps.

The summit wrapped up with a salute to former U.S. Senator Daniel Akaka, who attended the event to receive the National 2013 Language Flagship Leadership Award. The award each year honors a single recipient for advancing language education in the country.

During his time as senator, Akaka played key roles in efforts to support language education, including the National Foreign Language Coordination Act. His appreciation for language stems from his

childhood, he recalled, when his parents prohibited him and his siblings from speaking Hawaiian.

"In a way, for human beings, when you're deprived of something, that drives you," he said. "So being deprived of the language of Hawaii in a sense drove us to do all we can to promote that in our lifetimes ... Foreign language proficiency is important to the future as well as cultural understanding. And a combination of that is so important to the lives of our people, our states as well as our counties — to the point where it affects our national security."

Also in attendance was Governor Neil Abercrombie, who said he'll support the initiative every step of the way.

"Words define us as human beings," he said. "Words give us our perception of the world ... they can as easily divide us as define us."

UNG RECEIVES NEARLY \$2 MILLION IN GRANTS TO EXPAND FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

(AccessNorthGa.com)...Bryan Pirkle

The Department of Defense has awarded grants totaling almost \$2 million to the University of North Georgia (UNG) to support and expand its foreign language programs. Four grants were awarded, with three coming from the Institute for International Education via the Defense Language and National Security Education Office (DLNSEO) and the fourth from the U.S. Army Cadet Command. According to UNG News and Communications Manager Edie Rogers, the grants provide support for three university programs that focus primarily on educating cadets and military officers in strategic languages and cultures. The Institute for International Education allotted \$219,773 for the university's Chinese Language Flagship program, \$304,976 for Project Global Officers, and \$258,015 for the school's Language Training Center, while the Cadet Command awarded \$1.2 million to be spread among all three programs. University President Bonita C. Jacobs believed the grants would prove extremely valuable to students, saying: "This is very exciting news for the University of North Georgia, and it will reap great rewards for our students as we continue providing

opportunities for them to become globally prepared leaders."

She added: "Thanks to the hard work of our administrators, faculty and staff both here and in building partnerships around the world, our

language and culture programs continue to grow and produce successful students."

The Flagship program, which began in 2011 with the designation of UNG, Georgia Tech and Arizona State University as pilot universities, includes a partnership that will allow the university to send cadets to Peking University in China for more intensive study.

Project Global Officer, a DLNSEO funded initiative, provides scholarships for future military officers to study strategic languages and cultures at home and abroad. Since its introduction at UNG in 2008, the program has funded cadet participation in the Summer Language Institute, a six-week



University of North Georgia

program of intensive study that allows cadets to earn nine hours of academic credit in a foreign language.

The Language Training Center was founded at the university's Dahlonega campus in 2011 with the purpose of increasing the foreign language proficiency of current Army officers. Beginning with 12 officers in its inaugural year, the Center now has over two dozens officers enrolled, including 21 active duty officers stationed at Fort Benning.

TRADOC GENERAL TELLS STUDENTS LANGUAGE IS 'LIFE SKILL'

(dvids)...Natela Cutter

The deputy commanding general of the U.S. Training and Doctrine Command, Lieutenant General David Halverson, told service members studying Chinese at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center that the language and culture training they are receiving will be a "life skill" that will contribute to national security.

"It will be a life skill...and you will find that it will change who you are and how you see things... (you will)

break down barriers...because today we are very globally connected and we have to make sure that we adapt ... and that we apply it (cultural and language knowledge) properly," said Halverson, addressing students who will be graduating this August after 64 weeks of intensive studies.

One of the major components of the Regionally Aligned Forces concept includes foreign language and culture familiarization training for service members that will be



Lt. Gen David Halverson at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center

tailored for specific combatant commands such as those in Europe, the Pacific, and Africa.

INTO AFRICA

(Language Magazine)...Leah Mason
Recent initiatives, sponsored by the Defense Language and National Security Education Office's National Security Education Program (NSEP) and administered by the Institute for International Education (IIE), have increased the opportunities available to U.S. students to study African languages both domestically and abroad. The NSEP David L. Boren Scholarships and Fellowships provide funding for U.S. students studying critical languages in non-traditional study abroad destinations. A new African Languages Initiative (AFLI) for Boren applicants was established by Congress to further opportunities for study of the highest-priority African languages in recognition of the strategic and geopolitical importance of the countries where these languages are spoken. The AFLI Boren Awards offer students from all U.S. institutions the opportunity to develop their knowledge of, and proficiency in, Akan/Twi, Hausa, Portuguese, Swahili, Wolof, Yoruba, and Zulu. Since announcing the AFLI, the Boren Awards logged a substantial increase in the number of applicants interested in learning African languages and studying in Sub-Saharan Africa. In fact, Swahili rose to become one of the top languages among applicants and recipients in 2012, with double the

number of applications compared to 10 years earlier. The AFLI is unique in its approach of combining long-term study abroad and development of advanced language proficiency tied to career goals. Students who receive AFLI Boren Awards participate in intensive language study at the University of Florida, Gainesville during the summer before heading overseas for a semester or year-long program of language study in Africa. The American Councils for International Education administers an official overseas program for AFLI recipients going to Tanzania, Nigeria, South Africa, and Mozambique. The most recently recorded oral proficiency interview results from AFLI Boren Award recipients demonstrate the success of the initiative — 15 out of 16 Swahili students, whose initial proficiencies were almost all at the Novice level, achieved the Advanced level. Students with an eye to federal careers such as health, development, public diplomacy, and national security are attracted to the AFLI



Boren Award. Just like other Boren Awards recipients, AFLI participants commit to working in the federal government for at least one year after graduation. This funding has been a key resource for the growing U.S. interest in Africa.

Another NSEP initiative, The Language Flagship, established a Swahili flagship program for undergraduate students at Indiana University in 2010 with an even higher language goal than the AFLI Boren Awards. Students in the program aim to reach a Superior level of proficiency in Swahili during their undergraduate studies while majoring in another subject area. In order to achieve this goal, students spend a capstone year abroad in Tanzania immersed in Swahili studies and engaged in an internship.

BOREN FELLOWSHIP HIGHLIGHT

The [Boren Fellowship](#), administered by the Defense Language and National Security Education Office, provides support to U.S. graduate students studying languages critical to our national security. Boren Fellows incur a service obligation to work for the federal government for at least one year following their overseas study.

Amy Bedford received a Boren Fellowship during her Master's program at Indiana University, Bloomington. Specifically, Bedford

researched religious pluralism and studied Russian in Kyrgyzstan. When asked about her experience as a Boren Fellow, she said that the Boren Fellowship "is a good way to distinguish yourself from lots of other bright young people, have the chance to pursue what interests you, and an opportunity to serve your country."

Bedford stood out among her peers as a cultural specialist. While conducting research in Kyrgyzstan, she was recruited to work as a

Social Scientist with the U.S. Army. During her recent deployment to Afghanistan, Bedford provided Command and Staff at Division, Brigade and Battalion levels with socio-cultural analysis of the battle-space. Bedford successfully utilized the skills she gained while a Boren Fellow to talk to the local community, build relationships, and provide her officers and enlisted soldiers with the cultural knowledge and perspective necessary to a job well done.

PATRIOT SOLDIERS LEARN CRITICAL LANGUAGE SKILLS

(divids)...Staff Sgt. Kulani Lakanaria
For the past few months the old 4th Brigade, 10th Mountain Division's headquarters building has been the home to the Defense Language Institute's Pashto and Dari Afghanistan and Pakistan Language Training Center, or simply the LTC for short.

The LTC has sharpened the language and cultural skills of many Patriot Soldiers over the last few months; arming those soldiers with invaluable skills to share with their units and help aid Patriot soldiers in navigating the cultural environment.

"Back in 2009 the commander of ISAF [International Security Assistance Forces Afghanistan] at the time sent out an army executive order requiring one leader per platoon

throughout the army to be trained in Dari," said Fred S. Holt, a language training detachment liaison with the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center at Presidio of Monterey, Calif. "It later blossomed to include Pashto as well. We established the first course at Fort Campbell in early 2010. It's a five days a week, 16 week course. It's roughly about 640 hours of language training. The goal of the commander of ISAF was to have a language enabled soldier per platoon."

Not only do the soldiers learn the language aspect, they also receive cultural training.

"The purpose of cultural training is in line with the commander of ISAF's goals to help with the transition from combat operations to the

rebuilding of the country," Holt said. "Having that interaction be-



LTC students take a break after an intense study session at Ft. Polk, La.

tween soldiers in the unit and the local populace builds the relationship; these soldiers will have those skills. There have been students that said the language training has saved their lives. We've started to understand the cultures in the countries we operate in, and it helps prevent unwanted incidents."

LOCAL AIR FORCE LANGUAGE PROGRAM RECOGNIZED BY DOD

(The Signal)...Nick Spinelli

For the second year in a row, the 480th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group has been recognized for its achievements. Last February, the group received the Air Force Command Language Program of the Year for 2011. Not only have they repeated that success for 2012, one of their units – the 3rd Intelligence Squadron – has been named the Department of Defense Command Language Program of the Year.

"We won because we have phenomenal command support," said Dan Tilsner, 480th ISR Group Command Language Program manager. "Everyone from the group commander on down, they realize the importance of language, and they allow a great deal of flexibility in the training time to allow their Airmen to receive the best they can from the training." The 480th ISR Group monitors and trains about 500 active duty Air-

men testing in more than 29 different languages. Language analysts assigned to the 480th IRS Group are required to read, write and speak with proficiency. Basically, we want to make sure our linguists have the language skills necessary to complete their mission," Tilsner said.

According to Tilsner, it is crucial that linguists continue to maintain and update their skills as speaking a foreign language is not like riding a bike. "It's a use or lose skill."

WE ARE ON THE WEB!

http://prhome.defense.gov/RFM/READINESS/DLNSEO/media_updates.aspx

CALENDAR

Defense Language Action Panel	Apr 9
Defense Language Steering Committee	Apr 11
CDR Don Wilkinson's Promotion Ceremony	May 1



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