



**US Army Corps  
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## **Honolulu Mayor: Important Ties Link Asian-Pacific Heritage, Military**

By Dino W. Buchanan, Honolulu District Public Affairs

**(FT. SHAFTER, HI - NR-17-06)** Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann cited the importance of Asian-Pacific American contributions to Hawaii and the military as guest speaker for the Honolulu District's Asian-Pacific Heritage Month's Multi-Cultural Day celebration Tuesday.

“We’re all proud of our ethnic backgrounds and it (our ethnicity) allows us - the city of Honolulu to reflect the diversity and celebrate that diversity which is really our strength,” Mayor Hannemann said.

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## **2-2-2 CORPS HANNEMANN**

Mayor Hannemann, whose ethnicity is a mix of Samoan, English and German and whose wife is Japanese-American, told more than 130 Honolulu District employees that he was honored to speak at the Corps' event which "truly symbolizes the true spirit government employees during Asian-Pacific Heritage month."

"As an Asian-Pacific American, I am proud of our accomplishments. We've come a long way," Hannemann said. "We have made tremendous progress in racial pride in allowing all of us to exhibit and demonstrate our ethnicity."

The district's annual event features employee-performed multi-cultural entertainment and employee-prepared Asian-Pacific food samples. This year's theme was "Celebrating Decades of Pride, Partnerships and Progress."

Tuesday's event began with an invocation in Hawaiian and English language, followed by a Christian-style hula dance and a solo performance of a Korean song.

"Those amazing performances show the greatness of the Asian-Pacific people in Hawaii and why I am so pleased to be apart of your event here today," said Mayor Hannemann prior to making his remarks.

With May being Military Appreciation Month, Hannemann expressed his sincere appreciation for the efforts of the military and federal employees.

"I shudder to think what our economy would be like were it not for the strong support of the military. I look very fondly upon people who have military experience or who work on behalf of our defense industry."

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### **3-3-3 CORPS HANNEMANN**

Hannemann spoke briefly about several recently appointed city officials who were previously employed by the military, of Asian-Pacific heritage and now making important decisions for the city's future. Wayne Hashiro, a former Corps of Engineers employee, was recently nominated by Hannemann to become the new City Managing Director.

"Each of these employees is successfully working for the city because of their experience acquired while working as a civilian for the federal government," Hannemann said. "I believe these are the types of traits which are very important to have for all city employees. Wayne (Hashiro) has brought a tremendous sense of fiscal accountability into the city government."

During his remarks Mayor Hannemann emphasized that Asian-Pacific civilian employees have been an integral part of the military's history in Hawaii and was also a big part of his childhood growing up in Kalihi.

"I grew up a stone's throw from here on Kam IV Road and I learned so much from the military growing up – it was at Ft. Shafter where I first learned how to swim and Richardson Theater where I would come to watch movies," Hannemann said. "And an Air Force major took it upon himself to teach me how to play baseball."

Hannemann also said the military's recent assistance has been impeccable.

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#### **4-4-4 CORPS HANNEMANN**

“As we celebrate Asian-Pacific Heritage month, may we always remember the sacrifices of those who came before us, and may we never forget that it is incumbent upon each of us to make our communities better. May we always have that Polynesian fire burning within all of us - burning so that our children and our children’s children can have a better future. And no matter what your ethnic background is, no matter what your education level, this country allows us the ability to dream – dream for our children’s future.”

While introducing Mayor Hannemann, Honolulu District Deputy Commander Maj. Robert Kroning praised the mayor for his efforts at “working with the Corps to improve the quality of life for the great people of Honolulu.”

“We are honored to have you celebrate the Asian-Pacific Heritage month with us,” said Kroning.

Honolulu District’s Special Emphasis Program Committee (SEPC) sponsors the annual event which brings together the District’s employees’ rich blend of Pacific Rim ethnicity. Throughout the year the SEPC promotes community relations, fund raisers and special command events for the district. Committee members Vecy Pascual and Wendy Hammer coordinated the 2006 multi-cultural event and Pascual said Mayor Hannemann was a logical choice for the committee.

“Mayor Hannemann’s takes pride in his Asian-Pacific heritage and brings the Aloha Spirit to everything he does, “said Vecy Pascual. “He’s a good speaker, plus he sings pretty good, too.”

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### **5-5-5 CORPS HANNEMANN**

Following the mayor's remarks and the performance of a Japanese ballad by Corps employees, Hannemann made good on Pascual's comments by singing a song in tribute to his American Samoan heritage and parents plus his locally famous "Honolulu City Lights."

Pascual later enticed Mayor Hannemann to join her and fellow Filipino co-workers in singing a popular Ilocano language song.

"We're happy the mayor could share his experiences with us - and he really does have a good singing voice!" said Pascual.

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