



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Students From Moloka'i's Maunaloa Elementary School and Lana'i High and Elementary School Are First To Participate In New Education Program At Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor**

*More than two dozen 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders from Maunaloa Elementary School and Lana'i High and Elementary School traveled to Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor for the inaugural outreach education program that included hands-on aviation-related STEM activities, as well as guided tours to, and a sleep over at, historic Pearl Harbor WWII sites.*

HONOLULU, HI – For many students from the remote islands of Moloka'i and Lana'i, traveling to Oahu for a three day "field trip" was something new and exciting. But imagine spending two nights at a "sleep over" on a battleship or climbing into a cockpit of a fighter jet, coupled with an action packed itinerary that included hands-on aviation-related STEM activities and visits to historic World War II sites including the Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor, USS *Bowfin*, USS *Missouri*, and USS *Arizona* Memorial.

Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor recently hosted 27 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders from Lana'i High and Elementary School (20 students) and Maunaloa Elementary School (7 students), plus three accompanying teachers. All travel, housing, food/beverage and curriculum expenses were paid for through a donation by Mrs. Barbara Cargill, which was secured by the Museum.

Adding to the excitement was that these students were the first to participate in a new program at Pacific Aviation Museum called, Wings To Rockets.

“Wings To Rockets is a new program that combines the ‘best of the best,’” said Shauna Tonkin, Director of Education, Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor. “We’ve taken some of the most popular aviation and STEM-related activities from our education programs and combined them to create a highly interactive curriculum where all elements of science, technology, engineering and math are presented in a format that keeps students engaged. Also, by incorporating guided tours to our neighboring Pearl Harbor historic sites, they not only learn about the history of World War II, but they can see first hand the role that science and technology played during one of America’s most prolific periods of war. Being able to host students from Moloka’i and Lana’i is an added bonus, thanks to the generosity and support we received from a private donor.”

“Coming from a small, isolated island, our students rarely get an opportunity such as the one offered by Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor,” said 7<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Mark Sacco, with Lana’i High and Elementary School. “The activities offered throughout our stay were engaging, hands-on, informative and focused on real-life aeronautic issues and situations. There was not a moment wasted. The historical component that was covered through visits to Pacific Aviation Museum and neighboring sites was brought to life and provided the students with a rare opportunity to learn about and explore the history of Pearl Harbor.”

“This was a whole new learning experience,” said 7<sup>th</sup> grader Mary Claire from Lana’i High and Elementary School. “We learned how to fly (with the use of a simulator) and I liked how we got to see what planes had to do with World War II and how they worked.”

“Like students from Lana’i, we come from a small, rural area,” added 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Wendy Espaniola from Maunaloa Elementary School. “This was really a once in a lifetime opportunity and presented a wonderful way to take learning out of the classroom. For all of us, including myself, this was our first time on Ford Island and all of the students thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

In the schools, there is a big push for incorporating STEM programs into our curriculum, and everything we did had this component.”

Added 6<sup>th</sup> grade student Divine Brown-Davis from Maunaloa Elementary School, “My favorite activities were flying an airplane (through the use of a simulator) at Pacific Aviation Museum and programming robots to go into a square on the USS *Missouri*. I was really surprised at how many new things I learned and I didn’t know all of these sites were here.”

Some of the aviation-related STEM activities that students participated in at Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor included:

- Table-top experiments where students were introduced to the two most important concepts in the science of aviation – Newton’s Third Law of Motion and Bernoulli’s Principle;
- Seeing the effects that airflow have on a wing, and how different velocities of airstream can change a wing’s reaction to their controller inputs. A portable wind tunnel was used to allow students to manipulate an airfoil inside a working wind tunnel via remote control. Students also discovered how scientists and engineers use wind tunnels to design and test objects people use daily, from aircraft and cars, to homes; and
- The use of a P-40 flight simulator that served as the culmination of their STEM learning experience, where after learning the basic concepts through table-top experiments and the wind tunnel, students operated a flying machine. The flight simulator allowed students to operate the control surfaces (rudder, elevators and ailerons) that they learned about in the initial presentation, and then decided what stick or pedal inputs they would need to obtain their desired movements. Student aviators flew the P-40 through several scenarios, including takeoff, landing, basic control familiarization, as well as pursuit and dogfight maneuvers.

The program concluded with a “Wings To Rockets Winging Ceremony” where Tonkin highlighted some of the many activities students enjoyed during their three-day stay. “You’ve explored the

historic significance of Pearl Harbor; built robots and launched rockets; controlled helicopters on the Missouri Battleship Memorial; shot a rivet; flew the P-40; narrowly escaped destruction by using the F-15 ejection seat; completed a FOD walk on our runway; landed on a carrier; flew a remote control trainer; and maybe, just maybe, began to imagine yourself in the command of an aircraft someday.”

Tonkin went on to tell students, “If you have a dream of flying or travelling into space, you can make that happen. Just because you live on Moloka’i or Lana’i, doesn’t mean you can’t do it. Tell your teacher and we (Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor) can help find you the resources.”

Tonkin told the students they were the first to come from Moloka’i and Lana’i, and based on the success of this program, the Museum plans to welcome another group of students from Moloka’i next month.

Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor’s education programs reached nearly 25,000 students in 2015. In addition to Wings to Rockets, the Museum also offers Barnstorming Tours; Flight School; Scouting Programs; hosted field trips to its historic hangars; and an Explorers Club, a multi-day program that teaches aeronautics, engineering, robotics, rocketry, and more, using the Museum’s historic hangars as a backdrop for real-life learning. For more information on these programs, go to [www.pacificaviationmuseum.org/education](http://www.pacificaviationmuseum.org/education) or call 808-445-9137.

Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization. Its mission is to develop and maintain an internationally recognized aviation museum on Historic Ford Island that educates young and old alike, honors aviators and their support personnel who defended freedom in The Pacific Region, and to preserve Pacific aviation history.

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