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(Photos of students can be downloaded from this link:  
<http://bit.ly/2G8bXOG> Photo credit: Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor)

## **Students From Moloka'i's Maunaloa and Kilohana Elementary Schools Participate In Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor's "Discover Pearl Harbor"**

HONOLULU, HI – For many students from the remote island of Moloka'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. The action packed itinerary included hands-on aviation-related STEM activities and visits to historic World War II sites including Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor, USS *Bowfin*, USS *Missouri*, and USS *Arizona* Memorial.

Pacific Aviation Museum recently hosted 22 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders from Maunaloa and Kilohana elementary schools, as well as five accompanying teachers and chaperones. The majority of funding was provided by Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor, in partnership with the USS Missouri Memorial Association.

"The Discover Pearl Harbor program is designed to bring history to life and to help students gain a better understanding of the science of flight," said Shauna Tonkin, Director of Education, Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor. "The Museum launched the program in 2016, and since then, we've hosted more than 250 students, many from remote areas and Title 1 schools throughout Hawaii. The highly interactive curriculum combines the elements of science, technology,

engineering and math 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."

"Coming from a very rural town and island, this program is valuable in many different ways," said 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Wendy Espaniola from Maunaloa Elementary School. "It not only provides an opportunity to learn the wonders of history and science hands-on, but it also removes them from their comfort zone. While we stress academics, this is also a great opportunity for them to work on their social skills outside of a familiar setting. There is more attentiveness, engagement, and participation across the board."

"We are learning about what happened and why America got involved in the war, but we're actually here, not just looking at pictures," said Maunaloa Elementary School 6<sup>th</sup> grade student, Rusty Morris. "We also learned about what makes planes fly, like the science, how the headwind makes a difference and how one change in the flaps and wings of a plane can change how well it flies."

Added fellow Maunaloa Elementary School 5<sup>th</sup> grader Pikake Lee, "They told us about history and how everyone came together after the (Pearl Harbor) attack. Like how women got involved and helped build the planes and deliver them. I learned how a plane was built, in the factories. They also taught us group things like trusting your leader, and communicating so everyone understands instructions."

Some of the aviation-related STEM activities students participated in at Pacific Aviation Museum 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;
- Conducting a crash investigation of the famous B-17 Swamp Ghost and climbing into the cockpit of the iconic C-47 Gooney Bird; and

- Climbing the historic aerological tower to see how Ford Island and Pearl Harbor have changed throughout history.

The program concluded with a “Discover Pearl Harbor Closing 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; shot a rivet; flew the P-40; broke a top secret code; landed on an aircraft carrier; completed an Amazing Race; and maybe, just maybe, began to imagine yourself in the command of an aircraft someday.”

Students were encouraged to share their goals with teachers and museum staff members who can help them find the resources needed to support their dream.

Pacific Aviation Museum’s education programs reached nearly 40,000 students in 2016. In addition to Discover Pearl Harbor, 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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