



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Museum Education Program helps Hawaii youth prepare for employment in aviation fields  
\$200,000 in Scholarships Available to Support Aspiring Pilots**

Ewa Makai Middle School, Saint Louis School, Kealakehe High School among first schools to participate in Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum's *Aviation Pathways* Program

HONOLULU, HI (June 30, 2023) - Following years of research and exploration, educators at Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum introduce a new youth education program to assist Hawaii youth in achieving their aviation dreams. Called ***Aviation Pathways***, the program builds upon current Museum educational offerings that use the thrill of aviation to advance interest and competency in STEM concepts that are critical to the future of our youth.

***Aviation Pathways***, a multi-level program, features educational programs for individuals or groups utilizing nationally acclaimed curriculum that meets local and national educational standards. These programs advance awareness, provide mentorship and training, and offer individual scholarships to help Hawaii's youth attain their dreams of flight. Schools interested in learning more about these programs, available at no cost, are encouraged to contact Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum for more information. Students interested in pursuing their private pilot's license and an aviation career are asked to visit the ***Aviation Pathways Scholarship*** online application set to open on July 1.

The core elements of the Aviation Pathways Program include:

1. **Discovering Flight**, designed by the National Aviation Hall of Fame and delivered in partnership with Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum, serves to pique the interest of elementary and middle school students, delivering age appropriate content in aviation history that will spark curiosity in young minds. Participation is limited and provided at no cost to either the schools or the students.

2. **High School Aviation STEM Curriculum**, developed by AOPA (Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association) and a team of national educators, delivered in partnership with Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum, delivers a 4-year, standards-aligned course that provides the tools and information needed to get a student from "interested" to "prepared" to pursue a career within the aviation and aerospace field. By grade level, the following classes will be available to participating schools. Enrolled students will be prepared to pass the FAA knowledge test required for a private pilot's license or UAS operator's license.

- Grade 9 – introduction to aviation, aerospace history and engineering design
- Grade 10 – forces of flight, aircraft systems and aircraft performance
- Grade 11 – weather, airspace, and an option for flight planning or drone operation
- Grade 12 – future of aerospace and an option for advanced aircraft and instrument flight or advanced mission and advanced drone tech

(Though not yet available, programming to prepare youth for employment as an aircraft mechanic is under development).

3. **Aviation Club and Scholarships**, developed by Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum and executed in partnership with other aviation focused organizations, introduces Hawaii youth to aviation careers,



training, and employment opportunities in preparation for their future. With support from the Ray Foundation, a \$200,000 **Aviation Pathways Scholarship** fund has been established by the Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum to grant 20 of Hawaii's youth, aged 16-21, up to \$10,000 each to secure the training necessary to attain their private pilot's license. **The application process opens on July 1, 2023 and closes on August 1, 2023. [Click here to apply.](#)**

A growing shortage of pilots and aviation mechanics currently impacts the local and national aviation industry. High paying, exciting careers await those who have interest in these fields. Although training and employment in these fields exist right here in Hawaii, young people remain unaware of these opportunities. The hope is that the *Aviation Pathways* program encourage and prepare some of Hawaii's youth into pursuing any number of the aviation career paths available here in Hawaii and beyond.

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#### **About Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum**

Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum is located on Historic Ford Island, where bombs fell during the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941. Walk the Pearl Harbor battlefield where the attack began, enter the bullet-scarred hangars, and see the control tower and aircraft of the battle, including a Japanese Zero and the B-17 Swamp Ghost. Hear the stories of World War II heroes and their response to the attack that changed our nation and world. Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum's mission is to steward American's first aviation battlefield of World War II. It is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that depends on membership, volunteers, and donations for support. To join, volunteer or support, visit [www.PearlHarborAviationMuseum.org](http://www.PearlHarborAviationMuseum.org).

#### **Contact**

Shayreen Peltier, Director of Sales & Marketing  
808-441-1011; [Shayreen.Peltier@PearlHarborAviationMuseum.org](mailto:Shayreen.Peltier@PearlHarborAviationMuseum.org)