



Update from Congressman NEIL ABERCROMBIE

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Congressman Abercrombie and Alan Mockler of Flour Federal Services, LLC discuss finding jobs for returning troops.

Abercrombie takes initiative in “Helmets to Hardhats” program Matching Hawaii veterans with job opportunities

Dear Friend:

Approximately 3,000 Hawaii National Guard personnel and Reservists have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, some serving tours of a year or longer. All Hawaii is proud of the performance of these splendid men and women. We extend a warm welcome home with thanks for their valor, patriotism and professionalism.

Now, however, many of these same service men and women face unemployment or underemployment after demobilization. It is unacceptable that they should find themselves struggling to make ends meet at a time when workers are being brought in from the Mainland to build military facilities right here in their own backyards.

I responded to this troubling prospect by taking the initiative to establish a special Hawaii office for Helmets to Hardhats, a program that provides training in the construction trades to military veterans, National Guard and Reserve personnel transitioning to civilian life.

Helmets to Hardhats is perfectly suited to the needs of returning Hawaii veterans, because it matches their needs with Hawaii jobs in a context that provides training, opportunity and support. Services to veterans are provided free of charge. The program works closely with trade unions and qualified employers. Helmets to Hardhats is a federally financed program funded through the U.S. Army since 2003.

A private contractor engaged in a public-private partnership to build military family housing on Oahu has committed to funding the first five months of Helmets to Hardhats operations in Hawaii. It will also train an administrator who will run the program locally. The same contractor will house the Helmets to Hardhats office at its field headquarters here on Oahu.

The opportunities offered to Hawaii veterans by Helmets to Hardhats couldn't come at a better time. The Hawaii Congressional Delegation has secured record funding for military construction in recent years. Projects like the 50-year, \$10 billion public-private family housing agreements have created an unprecedented demand for construction workers, a situation ideally suited for this innovative program.

For more information on Helmets to Hardhats, visit www.helmetstohardhats.org.

Sincerely,



Neil Abercrombie
Member of Congress

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Congressman Neil Abercrombie

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