



# 4-H IMPACT!



HAWAII  
4-H YOUTH  
DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRAM

## Hawai'i 4-H–Military Partnership

### The Situation

Working with our military partners, the University of Hawai'i (UH) Cooperative Extension Service (CES) 4-H Youth Development Program brings the resources of the land-grant university youth-development professionals, research-based curricula and high-quality training and technical assistance to support positive youth-development education for youth whose parents are serving in the military.

Hawai'i has the unique distinction of being the home of the oldest and largest unified combatant command in the world, the U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM) based at Camp H.M. Smith on O'ahu. Hawai'i is also home to the Pacific headquarters for the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, with combat-ready forces based at Schofield Barracks, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (Air Force and Navy) and Marine Corps Base Hawai'i.

### The Need

The military is the second-largest industry in Hawai'i behind tourism, with a military community totaling nearly 146,000 military members, dependents, and Department of Defense civilians. As military families move frequently and experience the difficulties surrounding lengthy and frequent deployments.

In addition to Guard and Reserve families, almost half of all Active Duty families in Hawai'i do not reside on a garrison or installation. These families live in other non-military communities and do not have easy access to military-supported programs on a regular basis.



### Our Response

The Hawai'i 4-H program provides an opportunity for the youth of our service men and women to find a safe and inclusive educational environment regardless of the family's location. The 4-H experience is available at every US military installation in the world, where it provides predictable programming and a safe and nurturing environment for military youth.

4-H club work and learning experiences helps military youth by enhancing leadership skills, developing a stronger sense of belonging, and establishing positive relationships with caring adults. Through 4-H club work, military staff members are able to apply the essential elements of positive youth development as well as utilize the experiential learning model in their long-term educational programming.



**4-H is delivered by Cooperative Extension**—a community of more than 100 public universities across the nation that provides experiences where young people learn by doing. Kids complete hands-on projects in areas like health, science, agriculture and citizenship, in a positive environment where they receive guidance from adult mentors and are encouraged to take on proactive leadership roles. Kids experience 4-H in every county and parish in the country—through in-school and after-school programs, school and community clubs and 4-H camps.

## Program Outcomes

- 41 military-chartered 4-H clubs with 457 youth members enrolled
- Professional development and training – Hosted 4-H 101 and 201 trainings for 77 military site staff
- Conducted in-service training on use of the 2015 National Youth Science Day kits
- Assessed 4-H club program and lesson plans
- Conducted site visits
- 177 military 4-H members gave a 4-H demonstration or presentation
- 153 military 4-H members completed 4-H record books
- 436 military 4-H members learned and are able to recite the 4-H pledge
- 14 posters from military 4-H clubs and/or individuals were entered in the Hawai'i 4-H Post to Boast contest
- Environmental day and service-learning day camps were offered for guard and reserve youth
- Training and resource materials were provided for after school staff that support 4-H

## Geographically Dispersed Military Youth

Through the military 4-H club program, the Hawai'i 4-H Youth Development program supported 1,678 youth across the Pacific in 98 chartered 4-H Clubs. Military 4-H Clubs in Hawai'i focus on the major program areas of Healthy Living, Citizenship, Science, and Creative Arts.

On a 5-point scale, 4-H members reported the following levels of positive responses (Agree/Strongly Agree) on the following questions after their 4-H experience.

## Measured Program Impact

### Creative Arts

- ✓ 88% indicated that they are able to use their creative art skills
- ✓ 87% indicated they learned new creative art skills because of their 4-H experience
- ✓ 91% indicated that they were comfortable in expressing themselves through their creative arts project
- ✓ 90% indicated that their creative arts skills will be important in their future

### Healthy Living

- ✓ 95% reported that they learned how to make healthy food choices
- ✓ 96% learned why it is important to eat a healthy diet
- ✓ 92% reported that they get 60 minutes of exercise each day

### Citizenship

- ✓ 90% state that they are able to work with others to solve problems
- ✓ 86% make sure that everyone has an opportunity to say what they think
- ✓ 92% indicated they treat everyone fairly and equally
- ✓ 92% indicated they are able to lead a group in making a decision

### Science

- ✓ 97% liked experimenting and testing new ideas
- ✓ 83% can design a scientific procedure to answer a question
- ✓ 96% stated that science will be important in their future

## Professional Development

Based on a 5-point scale, (with 1 = no information gained and 5 = great amount of information gained from the training), the following average scores were reported by military installation youth center staff members who received 4-H program training on these topics provided by Hawaii 4-H staff.

Communication	4.46
Organization	4.44
Management	4.65
Educational Design & Delivery	4.62
Positive Youth Development	4.54
Interpersonal Characteristics	4.56

## Take-Home Message

The ultimate goal of the 4-H program is **Positive Youth Development** as evidenced by the evaluation data from the Hawai'i 4-H Military Club Program.

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