

# CBEX Update

The Community, Business, Education Exchange (CBEX) group initiated by Senator Norman Sakamoto has been working on formalizing partnerships between businesses/community groups and schools since August 2003. As part of this effort, during School Year (SY) 2007-2008, the Department of Education initiated the Volunteers and Partners Program on the DOE website ([doe.k12.hi.us](http://doe.k12.hi.us)) with four pilot schools: Radford High School, Moanalua Middle School, Salt Lake Elementary School and Waikiki Elementary School. A third party evaluator, University of Hawaii Curriculum, Research and Development Group, was contracted to give feedback on the pilot project.

Based on the positive feedback, the Volunteers and Partners pilot has been expanded to 41 elementary, middle and high schools statewide. School staff has been trained to use the web-based tool. Currently, over 1,370 volunteers are registered on the web tool with over 2,800 volunteer hours reported. There has been an average increase of 26% of registered volunteers and 42% of volunteers captured on the web tool since the early October 2008 training for school staff. The website may also be accessed directly at [helphawaiischools.com](http://helphawaiischools.com).

Bruce Coppa, Chairperson of the Chamber of Commerce Education Committee, and his members are working on a mentoring project for students including a handbook to help business mentors and schools in successfully hosting mentoring programs. One focus of their effort is senior projects.

CBEX member Gary Murakami from BAE Systems and his company have been actively involved in sponsoring Hawaii Robotics competitions for students. A Regional Robotics Competition will be held March 27-28, 2009 with 32 schools participating including 20 Hawaii schools, 11 from the U.S. mainland and one from Mexico. BAE is contributing \$35,000 for the competition including assistance to 18 schools for kits. This year, the first place team included Moanalua High, Maui High, and McKinley High.



CBEX is continuing its efforts to promote business/community/education partnerships through a variety of venues and looks forward to increased support for public schools through these partnerships.