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MOCK PRESS CONFERENCE



Kim Compoc

This “Mock Press Conference” was written by [Kim Compoc](#) in collaboration with the Cancel RIMPAC Street Theater Crew, a special project of [Women’s Voices, Women Speak](#). We wrote this to lampoon the egregious and criminal insult of [RIMPAC](#) (“Rim of the Pacific”), the largest maritime military exercise in the world. The skit debuted on July 31, 2022 at [La Ho’iho’i Ea](#), the annual holiday celebrating Hawaiian sovereignty. For an excerpt of the performance, check out [@genuine_security](#).

Mock Press Conference

Kim Compoc and Cancel RIMPAC Street Theater Crew

[Stage is set with RIMPAC logo as backdrop. Kenny Loggins’ “Highway to the Danger Zone” plays as emcee introduces the panel and the three take their seats. Both Sec. Whitewash and Sen. Limpiar go to lengths to make sure Ms. Jacqueline Lockheed is comfortable and brings her a mai tai in a hula girl glass. As characters mispronounce Hawaiian words, people in the audience correct them].

Emcee: E komo mai. We appreciate everyone coming out today for this press conference. I’d like to introduce our esteemed panel. Secretary Will Whitewash from the U. S. Navy [*applause/boos*], Senator Michael Limpiar from our great state of Hawai’i [*applause/boos*], and Ms. Jacqueline Lockheed [*applause/boos*], representing all our good friends in the defense Industry who are here for [RIMPAC](#). We’ll begin with some opening remarks and then go to questions.

Secretary Whitewash: Good morning, ladies and gentleman, and to all my fellow Americans, Alo-ha! Thank you for attending this press conference today. This summer marks our twenty-eighth bi-annual RIMPAC – Rim of the Pacific exercises being held in Hanah-lulu, our largest ever, with twenty-six nations represented, and over 25,000 military personnel. We appreciate everyone coming out.

Senator Limpiar: Aloha Kakahiaka. I just want to say how grateful we are to the Navy for staging these exercises here in the islands every other year. RIMPAC is absolutely critical for maintaining US strategic

security and *economic* [nodding to Lockheed] interests in the [Indo-Pacific](#) and for building cooperation with our partners in the region.

Sec. Whitewash: I think this has been the most successful RIMPAC ever! We've got exercises occurring on all the islands, air raids, land raids, amphibious assaults on several shores, drone warfare, plus we are [sinking multiple warships](#) off the coast of Kaua'i, which is my personal favorite. Each time it's like the fourth of July. [To Lockheed] God I love the smell of Sinkex in the morning!

Senator Limpiar: It's important to remember that RIMPAC provides a needed boost for our local economy, which is robust, but still recovering from Co- [won't say Covid], er, the recession. Additionally, RIMPAC teaches us how [international cooperation](#) . . .

Sec. Whitewash: [interrupting] That is so true! RIMPAC is the most international gathering you can get! Lord, we've got [Mexican food, Filipino food, Korean food](#). I've never heard more languages being spoken! But even though they may not be speaking English, or eating American food, they all know learn how to say, "America is #1"! Numero uno! and how the natives say, [looking at cue card] "no ka - oink?" Am I right?

Senator Limpiar: What I was going to say is, RIMPAC reminds us about the importance of *international cooperation*, which truly aligns with local culture and the spirit of aloha that's so needed in our world today.

Sec. Whitewash: Our boys really look forward to this event. To tell you the truth, I wish it could happen every year!

Ms. Lockheed: It has been so enjoyable for us as well. It was really tough not having a proper [RIMPAC in 2020](#), but we're making up for lost time. Some of these smaller countries don't quite know how they can afford the war ships, fighter jets, and the latest technology for surveillance, so we help with the financing so they can pay in installments. Those weapons sales really help with the economic recovery issue the senator was talking about. [Defense stocks](#) are sky high right now. Our partners Boeing, Raytheon, and my family's company Lockheed Martin, well we couldn't be happier. We have really had a wonderful time on these islands, so as the locals say, [looking at cue card] "Mahall-oh."

Senator Limpiar: [correcting his pronunciation]. Yes *Mahalo nui loa*, especially to the host culture of the Kānaka Maoli , native Hawaiians, whose sacred culture we deeply respect.

Emcee: We have about 10 minutes for questions.

Journalist #1 – Good morning, Cancel RIMPAC News. The military has been embroiled in controversy lately, particularly with regard

to the massive fuel leak at Kapūkaki or Red Hill that **poisoned the island's largest aquifer**. Doesn't RIMPAC just exacerbate the problem of military contamination of water? What does the Navy have to say about the environmental destruction caused by these so-called "war games" especially considering the US is the **world's largest polluter**?

Sec. Whitewash: We are dealing with the **Red Hill situation**, that's all under control. [*fidgiting*] We've got top men on that, top men, and we've got the best technology to deal with that. The **environment is our #1 priority**, hell, that's what RIMPAC is all about. RIMPAC is here for the ay-na. [*Audience yells: It's 'ĀINA!*]. Next question!

Senator Limpiar: [*embarrassed*] We stand with military families who have been affected by this spill and we have acted decisively to get Red Hill shut down. Thanks to legislation proposed by my office and signed by the president, over \$2 billion has been allocated to decommission the tanks at Red Hill. I just want to thank everyone in the congressional delegation who worked so hard to secure that funding. The Navy is cooperating 100% with the Department of Health to make sure the defueling occurs in a timely manner that aligns with US security goals.

Sec. Whitewash: [*To Sen. Limpiar*] Ooh you're so good! That's right. The military is 100% onboard with the **greenwashing program**. [*Senator Limpiar hands Sec. Whitewash a cue card*] [*mechanically*] "**Climate change** is real, and **RIMPAC** is part of the solution."

Journalist #2: Good morning, Demilitarize Hawai'i News. There's a growing movement of Hawaiians and their allies demanding sovereignty or some form of political autonomy here in the islands. What do you say to charges that the U. S. military's occupation is the opposite of democracy and actually violates self-determination for Indigenous people?

Sec. Whitewash: [*coughs*] It might interest you to know that we actually have a Hawaiian "kahuna" bless our weapons before we begin each day. That's right. We can't even begin our exercises until they do their spiritual mumbo jumbo.

Ms. Lockheed: Also, when we were choosing the name for our favorite attack helicopter, we made sure to name them "**Apaches**." It's no longer an AH-64, it's an *Apache* helicopter. Also! It's no longer a UH-60 helicopter, it's a *Black Hawk* helicopter. It used to be *Cowboys versus Indians*, but we're all on the same team now! As the Hawaiians say, [*looking at a cue card*] It's all about "Aloha Ayna."

From the crowd: [*angrily*] Aloha 'āina!

Senator Limpiar: What the secretary and Ms. Lockheed mean to say is today's military is *multicultural*. Many [Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders](#) serve in the military because they know they are *free* to express their culture in the finest military in the world. In fact, the military is our largest employer in Hawai'i, providing competitive salaries, opportunities for education, and world travel. Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders and Filipino servicemembers have served the U. S. military with distinction for well over a century of America's wars now.

Journalist #3: Good morning, *Imploding Empire News*. U. S. military is in a recruitment crisis, having reached only 40% of its goal for 2022. In response, the military is offering \$50,000 signing bonuses, and has lowered its educational standards, so it's no longer required to have a high school degree . . .

Sec. Whitewash: Thank you so much for bringing that up. Our recruiters got it rough—you have no idea how rough. Used to be you could go to these little islands and dangle those greenbacks at them and everybody signs up, no problem. Used to be our [recruiters just loved coming to the Pacific](#). “Come here little island boy, we'll make a man out of you. You may be washing cars today, but tomorrow? You'll be washing an F-35 fighter jet.” Those were the good old days. [*Brightens*] So that's another good thing about RIMPAC! We've been inviting all the local schools onto the war ships. We get them thinking about war, dreaming about war, the younger the better. We're gonna get those numbers up, don't you worry. We're gonna recruit us some top-notch soldiers too, ones who can read and write, everything.

Sen. Limpiar [*embarrassed*]: I just want to remind the young people in the audience that the military is more green than it has ever been, with multiple projects dedicated to environmental protection at several sites in Hawai'i. We are creating green jobs and protecting our native habitat.

Journalist #4 – Good morning, *Women and Māhū Against Imperialism Daily*. One of the main concerns about RIMPAC is [military sexual violence](#) against women and gender minorities. Can you comment on the culture of toxic masculinity that RIMPAC promotes?

Sec. Whitewash: Listen here, little lady. You have no idea how worn out you get bombing Pohack-u-loa all day, plus all that [depleted uranium](#) everywhere, plus we gotta put out this damn fire that got so out of control. It will wear you out! So yeah, when the sun goes down, they are looking for pretty little hula girls to come sit on their laps. We out here serving our country, and we deserve a little R&R. Plus we can't have all these militaries from around the world here and not show them a good time! As far as that being about “toxic masculinity” [*shrugs*], well that's just a bunch of “cancel culture” nonsense created by the radical left.

Journalist #4: But isn't it true that sex trafficking does increase during RIMPAC...isn't it true that the environmental costs are just too great . . . it's toxic masculinity in both senses . . .

Secretary Whitewash: [*Imitating Jack Nicholson from A Few Good Men*] You can't handle the truth!!!

Senator Limpiar: [*holding him back*] What the secretary means to say is we are facing serious security risks in the Pacific theater, and we cannot forget the enemy has no respect for the human rights of women. Women—and, I might add—**LGBTQ servicemembers** serve proudly (*shows an American flag with the rainbow for stripes*) in the U. S. military and RIMPAC gives them the training they need and deserve to keep our country safe and prepare for climate change.

Secretary Whitewash: We're practicing for the big fight ahead, and we're doing our best. You're gonna have to take my word for it. Sure, maybe we crack the water table now and again, whatever! But you know what? It's all worth it. We're teaching **China** and North Korea they better learn who they're dealing with. We're keeping those sea lanes open and keeping those ports—open and friendly [*winks*].

Ms. Lockheed: [*side to Sec. Whitewash*] Gotta find those “capable and adaptive partners” [*They laugh together*].

Sec. Whitewash: [*Side whisper to Lockheed*] After this—strip club!

Journalist #5: Good morning, Rappler. For many years RIMPAC has included the Philippines, Israel, and Indonesia. All these countries stand guilty of horrific human rights violations. What do you say to critics who charge RIMPAC is where fascist states learn how to commit mass killings and genocide?

Secretary Whitewash: Now hold on there, little lady. As far as us being the *teacher* in this scenario, I have to give credit to Israel. It's a real partnership, a brotherhood. The US might be hosting RIMPAC, but *we* are learning from *them* [*nods from Limpiar and Lockheed, Sen. Limpiar stands and applauds*]. Those Israeli boys really know what they're doing. Mozol-tov! [*raises his glass. Filipinos and Indonesians too. What do they say? Ma-bu-hay!*]

Ms. Lockheed: [*Mumbling to herself. Shaking her head*]. Those damn Israelis are smoking us on **weapon sales** to the Philippines and Indonesia.

Sen. Limpiar: [*Side whisper, sidehugging Lockheed to cheer her*] Don't worry. We'll get it back. Foreign aid bill's coming up. Stocks are sky high since Ukraine. We'll be back on top next quarter.

Journalist #5: So you have nothing to say about Israeli apartheid? About 30,000 dead in the Philippines? About the genocide of West Papuans?

Sen. Limpiar: Remove that reporter. We will not tolerate anti-Semitism!

Emcee: Security! *[Security arrives to remove reporter in handcuffs].*

Journalist #6: Good morning, *The US is an Empire in Decline Dispatch*. After twenty years of asymmetrical war fare, the US lost the war in Afghanistan. Even after spending \$8 trillion dollars, and **killing over a million people, the Taliban remains in power. Can you comment on the fact that experts argue that the US could not defeat China militarily, or economically?**

Secretary Whitewash: First of all, any discussion of future US wars must exclude any possibility of losing. That's just plain un-American, and a disrespect to our boys in uniform. *[To the emcee]* What the hell is going on? I thought these reporters were vetted.

Journalist #6: Why threaten the Chinese with military aggression? Shouldn't the US focus on cooperating with the Chinese government to address the global crises of Covid-19, climate change, and poverty?

Senator Limpiar: We're going to have to wrap it up. Everyone, this RIMPAC, please remember we need to reduce our dependence on single-use plastics. That's so important to show respect to the host culture of the Hawaiian people. Each and every one of us must do our part to protect our delicate island ecosystem for future generations.

Emcee: To help in the effort, our good friends at the [Hawai'i Chamber of Commerce](#) have designed these nifty water bottles for everyone to take home today! Just want to thank our generous friends at Lockheed Martin who underwrote the cost so everyone can have one—for free!

[Whitewash and Limpiar give standing ovation to Lockheed. Lockheed smiles widely, holding the water bottle over her head like a trophy.]

Ms. Lockheed: That's right! And they all say "RIMPAC = Alo-ha AYNA."

From the audience: Aloha 'āina! Aloha 'āina! Aloha 'āina!