



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **NAFIS Names Cherise Imai as Executive Director**

**Washington, D.C. – August 12, 2025** – The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) is pleased to announce the appointment of Cherise Imai as its Executive Director. She will officially begin her role on September 1, 2025.

Imai brings nearly 30 years of experience in the government and nonprofit sectors, distinguished by a strong record of public service and advocacy. Since 2016, she has served as Executive Director of the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3), where she led implementation of the Compact and worked with states, military leaders, and educators to ensure equitable educational opportunities for military-connected students. Under her leadership, MIC3 strengthened compliance among participating states and expanded support for military families navigating school transitions.

Prior to that, Imai spent 11 years as the Military Liaison for the Hawai'i State Department of Education, where she built partnerships between Hawai'i public schools and the Indo-Pacific military component and installation commands to support military-impacted schools, students, and their families. During her tenure, she also served on the boards of the Military Impacted Schools Association (MISA) and NAFIS.

"The NAFIS Board is excited to welcome Cherise Imai as our next Executive Director," said Quincy Natay, NAFIS Board President. "Cherise brings deep experience, a clear understanding of the needs of federally impacted school districts, and a strong history of collaborative leadership. We are confident she will lead NAFIS forward with integrity and vision, building on our solid foundation while advocating passionately for the students and communities we serve."

"I'm honored to return to NAFIS as Executive Director," said Imai. "I've dedicated my career to advancing education policy, advocacy, and leadership in support of highly mobile students and federally impacted communities. From leading multi-state initiatives at MIC3 to collaborating across agencies and sectors, I've seen how thoughtful leadership and strong partnerships can drive real change. Growing up in Hawai'i taught me the importance of community and responsibility—values I carry into this role as I work alongside the NAFIS Family to ensure every student and school receives the support they deserve."

NAFIS looks forward to Cherise Imai's leadership as the organization continues to advocate for Impact Aid and federally impacted school districts across the country.

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The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) represents approximately 1,000 federally impacted public school districts that together educate nearly eight million students across the nation. Federally impacted school districts are those located on or near nontaxable Federal property—including military installations; Indian trust and restricted lands; Federal low-income housing facilities; and national parks, national laboratories and other Federal buildings and property. These school districts receive Impact Aid, a Federal education program that reimburses school districts for the lost local revenue and additional costs associated with the presence of Federal property. To learn more, visit [www.nafisdc.org](http://www.nafisdc.org).