



Vol. 17, No. 1 State of Hawaii Office of Veterans Services May 2013

Launching the Network of Care Website for OVS

By Jayme Sato
Information Specialist

The Office of Veterans Services launched a new one-stop shop website designed to help veterans' better store and retrieve vital personal information. The website is called Network of Care <http://www.Hawaii.NetworkOfCare.org>. It is an online information portal that will also provide critical information, communication and advocacy tools for veterans, service members and their families.

Our veterans and returning service members often have no idea what is really available to them and even when they try to find a service, it can be quite confusing. However with modern internet technology, not only can all services be collected in one place and easily searched, but all important information for an individual or family can be made easily accessible in a single, local, "virtual community."

The State of Hawaii, Depts. of Defense and Health have collaborated on the initiative. The Hawai'i launch was



From left to right: Adj. Gen. Darryll Wong, Bruce Bronzan Pres. of Trilogy Integrated Resources, Sharlene Chun-Lum, Chief Project Dir., & Gov. Neil Abercrombie

last year at the 100th Battalion Clubhouse and Education Center.

"This is a significant step forward in transforming government in the way it serves our returning veterans and their families," said Gov. Neil Abercrombie. "The people of Hawai'i deeply appreciate the commitment and sacrifices of those who have chosen to serve their country, and that gratitude continues long after they have come home."

"We have partnered with the Network of Care to establish a state-of-the-art system to reach out to these valiant members of our community, making it easier for them to find services, information and support. What used to be fragmented and sometimes confusing, has now been replaced by an easy-to-use central resource that provides access to a variety of support tools, including a remarkable jobs board, directly to our active-duty and retired veterans."

The Network of Care for veterans provides a comprehensive Service Directory of the service providers state-

wide. The Network of Care also provides easy-to-search libraries and vital information about specific disorders, assistive devices, job board, pending legislation and advocacy, as well as daily news articles from around the world concerning veteran benefits, health information and substance abuse.

Another major feature of the site is its link to a personal folder for individuals, to store medical information or articles of interest. To increase accessibility and accommodate the Network of Care's users, the site's innovative technology provides near-universal access, regardless of literacy or income level, to Web-based services through a text-only version of the site and other adaptive technologies. The site is fully ADA-compliant and Bobby-approved. The Network of Care also is available in multiple languages.

Trilogy Integrated Resources is the leading information provider in the field of social services, now serving 21 states via the Network of Care. For more information, please contact Trilogy at 415-458-5900 or at info@trilogyir.com. If you would like a brief of the website please email Jayme Sato at jsato@ovs.hawaii.gov



Maj. Gen. Wong greets veterans Edward Ikumad and Robert Sato. Both Ikumad and Sato are from the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans Club.



Director's Message

COL-R Ronald P. Han, Jr.

Director State Office of Veterans Services

Thank you all in advance for your patience as the latest edition of the Hawaii Veteran Newsletter is distributed! It has been an incredibly busy period for the Office of Veterans Services (OVS).

With the launch of the Hawaii Network of Care Website (see Jayme Sato's front page article), working legislative issues in this current session (see Jennifer Aina's article). Supporting Capital Improvement Projects for our 8 Veterans State Cemeteries, and providing continuous outreach to our Military Members, Veterans, and families throughout the State with a growing Veterans population. Thank you to all of the Veterans Organizations who have invited our OVS Team to brief on the latest issues affecting benefits and entitlements at the State and Federal levels.

In partnership with our Veterans Affairs (VA) counterparts, we've hosted VA Secretary Eric Shinseki and his staff for three days on the islands of Oahu, Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii. OVS has participated in several Veterans Job Fairs on Kauai, Maui, Kona, Hilo, and on Oahu; and engaged with our VA National Cemetery Administration staff members here on Oahu and Maui to discuss each of our pre-application award packages. This has resulted in some of our biggest undertakings ever for DAGS, HIENG, and OVS as funding for Maui (\$6.2M), Kauai (\$1.2M), and Oahu (\$1.1M) were approved to move forward. Much appreciation to Gov. Abercrombie, our Congressional Delegation, our State Legislators, and to you our Veterans for voicing your support for these vital initiatives!

Speaking of initiatives, we are working aggressively with Hawaii Health Systems Corporation and the VA to

build another much needed State Veterans Home. A contract study is forthcoming for this project that will help define location, functions of the home, size, and potential cost. This is a multi-year project that starts with the needs assessment and is resourced by both the state and federal funding channels. The Veterans Treatment Court presided by Judge Ed Kubo, our State Judiciary, and our VA team have taken their first accessions. Many "thanks" to our Veteran Mentors who are also a vital link to the success of those participating in this process.

The Veterans to Farmers Pilot Program has gained tremendous momentum with Dir. Russell Kokubun (Dept. of Agriculture) and Dir. Dwight Takamine (Dept. of Labor and Industrial Relations) engaging with Veterans in Waimea, Hawaii in partnership with the Univ. of Hawaii at Hilo and with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. These Veterans have completed their first phase of accreditation and continue to move forward on their way developing their entrepreneurial skill sets while providing food security to the community.

Our appreciation goes out to the Hawaii Women's Military and Veterans Task Force who quickly formed in 8 months, provided a detailed report on Veteran Women issues for our State Legislature, and continues to endeavor in many future projects. They have hosted several "Stand-Down" events for women throughout the State; created a website (hiwomenvets.org); and are looking to continue on as a sub-committee under the State Advisory Board on Veterans Services.

We are also creating a State task force or committee to prepare for the development of a war memorial to commemorate and to honor the services and sacrifices of those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We have also placed our 2nd State

Veterans Benefits Counselor (VBC) on Maui (welcome on board Gizelle Kauilani); and thanks to VA's Ed DeGuzman, we have a State VBC permanently assigned at Kapolei. What's over the horizon?

We are engaged with the State Legislature in requesting additional VBC's to keep up with the growing Veterans population due to the draw down of Iraq, the impending draw down of Afghanistan in 2014, and the effects of potential military personnel cut-backs due to sequestration. With this, we are experiencing just last year alone, we had over 16,000 more contacts for the State OVS than the previous year.

We have also planned, in the month of May, the following events: Two new Name Additions etched on the Korean and Vietnam War Memorials on the State Capitol grounds, will be recognized and dedicated on Wed., 15 May at 1000 hrs, Vietnam War Veteran Albert Kalahana Kuewa and, on Fri., 24 May at 1000 hrs, Korean War Veteran Frank Carpa Rocha.

On Sat., 25 May from 0900-1200 hrs at the Kyser Auditorium at the Tripler Army Medical Center, Korean War Veterans will be honored by the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee with the handing out of special commemorative certificates for living Veterans and for those deceased (family members may accept). The 60th Commemorative Committee is planning on visiting Maui on the afternoon of Fri., 24 May (more details to follow). Please contact your Veterans Organization or OVS to find out more details.

Finally, OVS received a very special plaque from former U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye's Legacy Fund which we proudly and prominently display in our Tripler office reception area. Thank you to Mrs. Irene Inouye, Jennifer Sabas, and Walter Kaneakua for bestowing this coveted Memento. The late Sen. Daniel Inouye and retired Sen. Daniel Akaka left a lasting mark of self-less service in supporting our State and Nation. They truly inspired one and all to as-

Update your info for the Hawaii Veteran

Cut out and mail responses in a stamped envelope to:

Office of Veterans Services
ATTN: HI VETERAN NEWSLETTER
459 Patterson Road
E-Wing, Room 1-A103
Honolulu, HI 96819-1522

Or email us at:
jsato@ovs.hawaii.gov

Yes, I would enjoy a FREE copy of the Hawaii Veteran Newsletter. Please add me to your mailing list. *You do not need to send this portion in if you are currently receiving the newsletter.*

Update information, change my old address to my new address

No thanks, Please remove me from your mailing list.
Old Address _____ New Address _____

Email: _____

Director's Message continued from previous page

sist Veterans and their families. We are deeply indebted to their dedication and will continue their legacy of goodwill! Please look out for our next newsletter in June that will be our special pictorial edition. My heartfelt appreciation for your support and kokua!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Vietnam War Memorial - Veteran Albert Kalahana Kuewa, State Capitol Grounds, 15 May at 1000 hrs

Korean War Memorial - Veteran Frank Carpa Rocha, State Capitol Grounds, 24 May at 1000 hrs

60th Anniversary of the Korean War - Tripler Army Medical Center Kyser Auditorium, 25 May at 0900-1200 hrs

Waialua Lions Club Memorial Day Event: Sunday, 26 May, 0900 hrs

Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Day Eve Candlelight Ceremony: Punchbowl, 26 May, 1700 hrs

Mayor's Memorial Day Event: Punchbowl, 27 May, 0830 hrs

Governor's Memorial Day Event: Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery at Kaneohe, 27 May, 1300 hrs

Gen. Shinseki visited the Neighbor Islands



Hilo Veterans Services Counselor Joseph Flores presenting an umeki bowl to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki.



Secretary Shinseki received a briefing in Kona from Thomas Driskill, VA Rural Health Coordinator

Photos by Joseph Flores

Veteran Legislative Bills

By Jennifer Aina
Director's Secretary

BILLS INTRODUCED FOR THIS LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SENATE BILLS\TITLE\SUMMARY

SB 539, SD1, SD2, HD1 companion HB 170 \ RELATING TO VETERANS. Exempt certain totally and permanently disabled veterans from paying motor vehicle registration expenses.

SB 540 companion HB 161 \ RELATING TO VETERANS. Makes permanent provisions relating to residency requirements for the burial in veterans cemeteries of armed service members and their dependents.

SB 541 \ RELATING TO VETERANS DISABILITY BENEFITS. Exempts federal veterans disability benefits from seizure to enforce a court judgment, except for certain child and spousal support cases.

SB 545 companion HB 166 \ RELATING TO PROCUREMENT. Hawaii public procurement code; veteran-owned and service disabled veteran-owned

Continued on the next page

Legislative Bills that OVS is following continued

small businesses set aside; requires that at least 3% of the 20% set-aside for small businesses shall be awarded to veteran-owned and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses.

SB 547 companion HB 525 \ RELATING TO FAMILY COURTS. Spousal support and maintenance; veterans disability benefits. Prohibits courts from considering a person's federal veterans disability benefits in determining whether to award support and maintenance allowances or the amount of such allowance to the person's spouse or former spouse.

SB 551, SD1, SD2 \ RELATING TO A MEMORIAL. Directs the OVS with the assistance of DAGS and DOD, to develop a plan to establish a memorial honoring the veterans of the Persian Gulf War, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation New Dawn.

HOUSE BILLS\TITLE\SUMMARY

HB 160 \ RELATING TO VETERANS. Makes permanent provisions relating to residency requirements for the burial in veterans cemeteries of armed service members and their dependents.

HB 163, HD1 companion SB 551 \ RELATING TO MEMORIAL. Directs the OVS with the assistance of the DAGS and DOD to develop a plan to establish a memorial honoring the veterans of the Persian Gulf War, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation New Dawn.

HB 166, HD1, HD2 Companion SB 545 \ RELATING TO PROCUREMENT. Requires that at least 3% of the 20% set-aside for small business shall be awarded to veteran-owned and service-disabled veteran-owned small business.

HB 170, HD1, HD2 companion SB 549 \ RELATING TO VETERANS. Exempts certain totally and permanently disabled veterans from paying motor vehicle registration expenses.

HB 196, HD1 \ RELATING TO VETERANS COURT. Appropriates funds for positions to support a veterans treatment court in the first circuit.

HB 308 \ RELATING TO A TREATMENT COURT FOR VETERANS & ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEMBERS. Establishes the Temporary HI Veterans & Active Duty Military Treatment Court within the First Judicial Circuit Court.

HB 525 companion SB 547 \ RELATING TO FAMILY COURTS. Prohibits courts from considering a person's federal veterans disability benefits in determining whether to award support and maintenance allowances or the amount of such allowance to the person's spouse or former spouse.

HB 564, HD1 \ RELATING TO VEHICULAR TAX. Provides that a state vehicle weight tax for one vehicle registered for certain permanently totally disabled veterans for a vehicle that has a net weight of ten thousand pounds or less, at \$50 or \$100 for a vehicle that has a net weight of more than ten thousand pounds.

What do you need for a Legal Name Change?

By Jennifer Aina
Director's Secretary

The State Office of Veterans Services (OVS) provides legal name change assistance if you are in the military, a veteran or a veteran's dependent. Since the new Federal law was established, the State of Hawaii has changes concerning renewal of your driver's license. It requires the person on the driver's license to have the same name as the person on the birth certificate, effective March 5, 2012. With this new law, we have been experiencing a flow of numerous veterans, spouses of veterans and military service members requesting assistance with a Legal Name Change.

The Dept. of Health (DOH) Vital Re-

ords Division refers these individuals to OVS on an ongoing basis. The procedures for a name change begins with the individual first completing a simple OVS form, provide a certified birth certificate that was given to them by DOH within 90 days, provide a copy of the marriage certificate (if married) from DOH, and a copy of military discharge documents or a copy of military ID.

Once these documents are received to include the completed forms, we will develop a legal document for the individual to have it signed in front of a notary of their choosing. The OVS process is free however the different agencies involved have fees that need to be paid for by the individual.

The following agencies charge:

\$50 – Lt. Governor's Office (approval of name change);
\$183.25 – Honolulu Star Advertiser (legal publication);
\$30 – Bureau of Conveyance (document recordation); and
\$13 – Dept. of Health (a new birth certificate).

OVS walks these documents to each of these agencies and accepts only money orders for the payment of the legal name change for each agency. The length of time for a legal name change is between two to three months. If you have any questions, you may contact Jennifer Aina at (808) 433-0423.

Veterans Day at Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery

By Lawrence Leung
OVS Volunteer

On Nov. 11, 2012, over 500 people converged, under the peaceful mountainside of Kaneohe at the Hawaii State Veteran's Cemetery, to partake in our Veteran's Day Ceremony. As family and friends of the fallen paid their respects, members of the government, military, and veterans' organizations came together to pay their respects and to honor those service members who gave of their last measure of service and to those who continue to protect our great country today.

The day started off extremely early with the setup of the tents thanks to the Hawaii Youth ChalleNGe Academy. At noon, people started filling the seats while the 111th Army Band played the musical prelude opening up with a stirring rendition of "I Am Hawaii." Following the prelude, a traditional Conch Shell "Oli" and chant was performed by Navy Veteran Kahu Manu Mook. After the blessing, the Parade of Flags followed with numerous veteran's organizations and dignitaries presenting their flags and beautiful leis.

The Dir. of the State Office Veterans Services, Ron Han emceed the event and followed up with a presentation of the national and state colors by the Joint Service Color Guard and the Hawaii Royal Guard along with the national and state anthems sung by the featured women's choral group, the Na Leo Lani Chorus. Maj. Gen. Darryll Wong, the State Adj. Gen., provided welcoming remarks and Kahu Curtis Kekuna, Senior Pastor of Kawaihau Church, provided spiritual sustenance with his invocation, posing the question, "would you fight for the people [sitting] next to you?" Without hesitation, the audience paused and agreed that they would. Specialist Craig Middleton, U.S. Army and a Silver Star and Purple Heart Award recipient, was also honored for his bravery and determination from injuries that occurred in combat

while deployed to Afghanistan.

With the belief that we would fight for, and with each other, in defense of our country, SSG Samuel Hesch accompanied by the 111th Army Band, sang an inspirational anthem entitled "I Believe". The Honorable Gov. Neil Abercrombie presented the keynote speech that reminded the audience to remember everyone who gave their lives, whether they lay in rest here or abroad. He also reminisced about Max Cleland, who served in Vietnam and was a victim of an accidental explosion. He described his experience and his resolve, even after losing his legs to which he is now a senator and has played a key role as a member of the Battlefield Commission. Gov. Abercrombie wanted to honor people like Cleland, who remain dedicated to serving, despite harsh circumstances, following the theme of "Veterans... willing to sacrifice all".

The Na Leo Lani Chorus was summoned for their third number and sang "God Bless America." The state wreath was then presented by Gov.



Gov. Neil Abercrombie, Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. Maj. Allan Kellogg and Adj. Gen. Darryl Wong present the state wreath at Memorial Plaza.

Photo by Jayme Sato

Abercrombie, Gen. Wong, and by Medal of Honor recipient Sgt Maj (Ret) Allan Kellogg, along with wreath bearer UT3 Thompson Cleveland (US Navy). A second military wreath was presented by Lt Gen Thomas Conant (U.S. Pacific Command), and the senior commanders representing the U.S. Pacific Fleet, the U.S. Pacific Air Forces, U.S. Army Pacific, U.S. Marine Forces Pacific, and the U.S. Coast Guard, along with Wreath Bearer HN Jerrell Davis (U.S. Navy).

To conclude the ceremony, the Hawaii Air National Guard Honor Guard performed a rifle salute, accompanied by the 111th Army Band bugler playing Taps. A synchronized flyover, with a U.S. Coast Guard H-65 Dolphin Helicopter stationed at Barber's Point, arrived on site on time and right on target. The 111th Army Band concluded its rendition, at the same time the flyover disappeared over the Koolaus with Kahu Curtis Kekuna providing the benediction signifying the closing of the ceremony.

The state and national flags were flawlessly presented again by the Joint Service Color Guard and with the Hawaii Royal Guard and Dir. Han provided closing remarks. When the ceremony was over, the 111th Army Band provided postlude music as everyone enjoyed refreshments provided by the Fleet Reserve Assoc., Branch and Unit #46.



Parade of Flags and Presentation of Leis



Photos by Lawrence Leung

Gov. Neil Abercrombie
Commander in Chief

Maj. Gen. Darryll D.M. Wong
The Adjutant General

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Frequently Asked Questions

By M. John Condello

Oahu Veterans Services Counselor

Agent Orange and service in Thailand during the Vietnam War.

Many veterans who served in Thailand during the Vietnam War have become ill with conditions that relate to Agent Orange exposure. These conditions include Diabetes Type II, Prostate Cancer, Lung Cancer, Ischemic Heart Disease and Parkinson's Disease.

Recently, the Dept. of Veterans Affairs (VA) has recognized the fact that Agent Orange exposure occurred in many places in Thailand during the Vietnam War. The following list has been published by the VA concerning Air Force and Army veterans. The list makes clear the need to have served at or near base perimeters.

U.S. Air Force:

For the U.S.A.F. veterans who served on Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF) bases at U-Tapao, Ubon, Nakhon Phanom,

Udon, Takhli, Korat, and Don Muang, near the air base perimeter anytime between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975.

U.S. Army:

For the U.S. Army veterans who provided perimeter security on RTAF bases in Thailand anytime between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975. Also, those who were stationed on some small Army installations in Thailand anytime between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975. However, the U.S. Army veteran must have been a member of the military police (MP) unit or was assigned an MP military occupational specialty whose duty placed him/her at or near a base perimeter.

Veterans whose service matches with the above details, and who have a condition presently listed as presumptive for Agent Orange exposure, should file a claim with the VA. Contact your Office of Veterans' Services counselor to discuss this issue further.

For more information visit

<http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/thailand.asp>

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