

**ADVISORY BOARD ON VETERANS' SERVICES
MINUTES**

Audio Video Conference Meeting at
Oahu – Tripler Hospital, VBA E-Wing, VTC Room, 1st Floor
Big Island (Hilo) – 1304 Kekuoanaea Street
Kauai – 13-460 Kaunualii Highway
Maui – Puunene Armory, 2701 Mokulele Road
Friday, November 2, 2018
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members: Ms. Bridget Komine, Acting Chair
Mr. Michael Lilly
Mr. Harold Bugado by Audio / Video
Mr. Jim Traxler by Audio / Video
Ms. Chelsea Fernandez by Audio
Mr. Wilbert Pereira by Audio
Mr. Clay Park by Audio

OVS Staff: Mr. Ron Han, Director, OVS
Ms. Heather Ho, Recorder

Ex-Officios: Ms. Karen Gooden, Director, VBA
Ms. Jennifer Gutowski, Director VAPIHCS

Guests: Mr. Gene Maestas, National Cemetery of the Pacific
Mr. Wade T. Ishii, State of Hawaii DOD – Engineering by Audio
Mr. Carlos Santana – Senator Mazie Hirono’s Office

Absent: Ms. Ann Greenlee, Chair
Mr. Juan Babiak, Liaison Yukio Okutsu Veterans Home in Hilo
Mr. Jim Horton, VA – Director, National Cemetery of the Pacific
1Lt. Shao Lee, State of Hawaii DOD - Engineering
Ms. Aiko Shibuya
Ms. Amy Rohlfs, PAO/VHA
Department of Health
Department of Human Services
Oahu Veterans Center

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & CALL TO ORDER – A Moment of Silence

Acting Chair Komine led the Pledge of Allegiance and after a moment of silence, called the meeting to order at 0902 hours.

II. MINUTES

The Board reviewed the September 7, 2018 and October 5, 2018 minutes. Both were unanimously accepted by the Board Members.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

None

IV. BOARD MEMBER'S REPORTS

1. Hilo – Mr. Harold Bugado - No change to submitted report.
2. Kona – Mr. Jim Traxler - No change to submitted report.
3. Kauai – Mr. Wilbert Pereira - No change to submitted report.
4. Maui – Ms. Chelsea Fernandez - No change to submitted report.
5. Oahu – Mr. Michael Lilly - No change to submitted report.
6. Oahu – Mr. Clay Park - No submitted report. Mr. Park submitted comments that he's concerned about and will discuss later in the reports.
7. Oahu – Ms. Bridget Komine, Acting Chair - No submitted report.
8. Oahu – Ms. Ann Greenlee, Chair - No submitted report. Chair Ann Greenlee sends her regrets for being unable to attend.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Legislative Committee
No report.

B. By Laws and Procedures
No report.

C. Recognition and Awards
No report.

D. Women's Committee
Acting Chair Komine reported that on November 18, 2018 at Oahu Veterans Center, later corrected by Mr. Santana to Keehi Lagoon from 7:30 to 2:30 pm there will be an event for Women Veterans and Women Service Members called "A Day for Me" presented by the VA.

E. Project and Events Committee

- a. Rededication of the WWII Memorial in 2018 – Komine Liaison
No update but still on the radar. Deferred to 2019.
- b. Maui Veterans Cemetery Blessing/Dedication Event in 2018 – Fernandez Liaison. No update. Carlos Santana talked to Ms. Fernandez already about her question on the One Stop Shop guidelines. Acting Chair Komine asked if Mr. Santana understood the question and he answered in the affirmative.
- c. Dedication of the East Hawaii Korean War Memorial – Bugado Liaison. No report.
- d. WWI Centennial Commemoration 2018 – Han Liaison
Invitations have gone out. Parking will be limited. Some parking along the corridor and the rest will be around the Waikiki Shell. There will be shuttle buses running between the venues. There will be something out next week regarding the parking. It's a joint partnership with the City and County of Honolulu and there is no Punchbowl Ceremony nor State Veterans Ceremony that day. The core event is about 11:00 am to 12:30 or 1:00 pm. It is open to the public. Please carpool or catch the bus.
- e. State Veterans Summit – Han Liaison
Acting Chair Komine asked about the State Veterans Summit. Director Han relayed that they are looking at June 21st and 22nd, Friday and Saturday. They still need to put the team together, looking at Dr. David Brown, Secretary Wilke if Director Gutowski and Senatorial forces concurs. Mr. Santana has been fielding a lot of questions.

VI. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mr. Han asked if the committee could have internal Department Reports defer to the external Director Gooden and Director Gutowski reports since they have other pressing issues and meetings. Acting Chair Komine and the Board concurred.

Director Karen Gooden, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs – Benefits - No change to submitted report. – See attached report.

Director Gooden announced that they have a VRC coming on board and they have re-advertised for additional VRC's. Trying to post out for a Guam VRC so they can help

with the overseas case load. They managed to obtain an additional supervisor for VRC in VR&E to help Deborah Boehm of HR to help with the additional employees and get it classified. We will also have another PSA in that division. Director Gooden will be leaving the Hawaii office. December 9, she will be reporting as the SES Director of the Louisville Office. She will wait until the Secretary does his announcement. She has truly enjoyed working with everyone and everyone feels like family. One of the most awesome working experiences she's had with the collaborations, working together and supporting the regional office to help drive the mission for the veterans. She will let the person who follows know that they will have a team of awesome advocates and support partners to work with. Acting Chair Komine expressed that on behalf of the Governor's Advisory Board on Veterans Services, whoever comes in will have big shoes to fill and the VA appreciates your collaboration and teamwork in helping our veterans. Mr. Park expressed that he would still like to call Director Gooden and ask her questions! Best wishes from everyone.

Director Jennifer Gutowski, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs – Medical – No Submitted Report. On the healthcare side, press release sent out about our end of year hospital star ratings that evaluates benchmark quality care delivery at VAMC's across the nation. We were one of the facilities that made positive strides in the benchmark. Maintaining a 2 out of 5-star rating. What she focuses on with staff is if they are improving as an organization and not so much on the star rating. When you compare data from a year ago they have seen improvement in our overall quality.

A couple of areas that we have seen some improvement in HETUS metrics or our outpatient quality metric. VA Pacific outperforms the VA nationally in diabetic retinal screening, testing diabetics for kidney disease, depression screening, treatment for acute depression, breast cancer screening, cervical cancer screening, pneumococcal immunization, screening and referral for alcohol mis-use, offers medication referral and counseling for tobacco use, and suicide risk and evaluation for veterans who screen positive for PTSD. Lots of good things happening from that perspective.

Also, to note, is that we achieved a significant improvement in our delivery of mental health care. VA Pacific Islands is one of 11 sites across the country that introduced the Open Access for Care Model. Open access allows for same day care. We have the highest use for these clinics. It is being used as a national model across the nation. Hired Dr. Shawn Knapik, the first pulmonologist and we are also looking to hire a cardiologist.

With support from the Oahu Veterans Center, more job fairs have proven to be very successful based on new leadership in the HR staff. Extended 29 same day applicants' jobs as LPN nurses, social workers, administrative, medical support assistants, etc. Happy employees means a happy patient. Still struggle as we are at the bottom 20% who consider it the best place to work. Good news is that we went up. Last year we were at 51% to 55% this year. Our goal is to continue to move forward on that and to improve the employee engagement. We have some improvements on our intranet site. We will be launching a "Talk to the Director" program/icon so people can e-mail her directly.

Mr. Park has issues that he needs to address with Director Gutowski. He hasn't heard anything about the questions he has been asking regarding the Minority Veterans Program planning for the next year. Director Gutowski apologized. She said that she had thought the women's coordinator was going to be at the last meeting and that the Minority Veterans Program coordinator would be here at this meeting and that she will make sure the information is at the next meeting.

Next issue from Mr. Park was that veterans are not receiving their prosthesis in a timely manner. Have a new prosthetics chief, Ray Madrid from Miami. He is working with the team and Fresno to address the consult backlog. She could ask Mr. Madrid to present to this group as well and provide an update. Added 2 additional prosthetics agents. There are other concerns for space for inventory. Mr. Park would appreciate more information. Director Gutowski did speak to Stephanie Birdwell regarding the minority veterans issues who Mr. Park put her in touch with and had a very good conversation with her and she will fill Mr. Park in on the conversation separately, offline.

Mr. Ron Han, Director, OVS - No change to submitted report. – See Attached
Very sad to see Director Gooden leave, she has built a very strong program. Director Gutowski has been working hard and it is great that she talked about seeing the improvements every day and knowing that they are on an upward trend. The benefits RO's are great. Talking to John Kelly they are 4th out of 57th RO's as related to timeliness and processing claims. Memorial services are doing great in exhuming the Korean War Veterans and opening more plots for new burials.

For Mr. Pereira on Kauai, VA National cemetery authority will be coming out on November 14th and Engineering will also be there for the Expansion Project at Kauai Cemetery. Would like Mr. Pereira to join also if he has time. Will let him know the details separately.

Wade will brief more on Maui grave restoration project and we were #1 in the nation on West Hawaii Columbarium Addition in terms of money acquired.

We briefed Director Gutowski on the Veterans home. Looking at a 4th site. Aiea site had other plans for the area in their master planning. Will brief the Board once the 4th site goes further along. The promissory 44.4 million dollars letter is conditional from the VA. Appreciate the help of Senator Hirono's office and Director Gutowski.

On Maui, Ms. Fernandez, there will be a special recognition ceremony for veteran Mitchell Lani. In 1952 he untangled the aerial gunnery tow target system in the open ocean from a Coast Guard Cutter. Coast Guard will award a special medal at 10:00 am, Monday, November 12th. Representative Lynn DeCoit and Representative Tulsi Gabbard will be there and the recognition will be in front of his family and the community on Maui. The ceremony will be held at the USCG Small Boat Harbor in Maalea.

Mr. Lilly asked about the lawsuit on the Maui Veterans Cemetery. The MOA paperwork has been completed and heard from Amanda, the Deputy State Attorney General that they have wrapped it up. They want it taken care of before elections. Expecting news to come out shortly. Asked if they resolved the signatory issue and Director Han believed that it was resolved.

Mr. Park wanted to know who the new Cemetery Director is at Kaneohe. Mr. Han reported that Director Jim Horton and 1Lt Shao Yu Lee were on the board and they have nominated an individual, but they are doing the background checks right now.

Mr. Carlos Santana - Senator Mazie Hirono's Office – No Report.

First Lieutenant Shaoyu Lee, Department of Defense, Engineering Office, Interim Chief Engineering Officer - Not present - Submitted report – See Attached.

Mr. Wade T. Ishii attended via phone and spoke for 1st Lt. Shao Yu Lee.

No updates on Veterans Services Funding Spreadsheet.

Update to Grant in Aid Project. Civil Air Patrol project is closed, Ken Nakagawa is waiting for the return of unspent funds in the amount of \$56,100.

Veteran Services Projects:

On Oahu - There is the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery Tree Trimming and Removal – Phase 2. The project completion is set for March 2019 however there is difficulty with the contractor, his chipper is leaking oil, not cleaning up and he is slow in progress.

Working to correct it and the time may take longer than expected.

Hawaii State Veterans Home, the VA conditionally approved the application for a construction grant for a 128-bed facility. The next milestone will be April 2, 2019. This is when the design must be completed, project needs to bid out and bids received by August 2019. We are vetting and considering a 4th site right now.

Island of Hawaii - Cemetery #2 and upgrades in Hilo, construction is in progress and the anticipated completion date is February 22, 2019.

West Hawaii Veterans Center anticipating Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC) publication on December 8, 2018.

West Hawaii Veterans Cemetery Additional columbarium units project awarded November 24, 2018 to Kaikor Construction. Need to issue a Notice to Proceed to the contractor by February 22, 2019. However, we are encountering problems with issuance of a building permit due to the Cemetery being in a conservation district. Needs Conservation District Use Permit to obtain the building permit. Columbarium exceeds the amount allowed in the original Master Plan. Hopefully the issues are resolved before the NTP date of February 22, 2019. Options are to delay and understand the Contractor may increase costs or start with permit to come later.

County of Kauai - On November 14, 2018 we are meeting with the VA and Hawaii Veterans Cemetery to discuss the project and other projects throughout the state.

County of Maui - The Maui Multi-Service Centers comments on the MOA provided by OVS and the VA were sent to the DOE and then they were forwarded to Principle Yap and CAS (Complex Area Superintendent) Dimino for discussion.

On Molokai the Contractor was issued a 74-day extension and the new date is November 2, 2018 which is today. A new contract extension will probably be issued since they are not finished.

Maui Veterans Cemetery Gravesite Restoration NTP has been issued but the contractor will start onsite work on November 13, 2018 Phases 1, 2 & 3. Hopefully the gravesite lawsuit is resolved before Phase 3 is completed.

Director Han noted that realignment requires that we go down to 1 vase per grave. There are 1,500 graves with multiple types of vases. Ms. Fernandez will probably have feedback on that. Contractor concerned that complaints on removal of vases should not go to them.

Mr. Juan Babiak, Liaison Yukio Okutsu Veterans Home in Hilo - Not present.
No submitted report.

Department of Health – Not present. No submitted report.

Department of Human Service - Not present. No submitted report.

Department of Labor and Industrial Relations - Not present. No submitted report.

U.S. Department of Labor, VETS – Semi-present. No submitted report.

Mr. Gene Maestas, National Cemetery of the Pacific – Public Affairs Specialist
Tomorrow we will be attending the Annual Military Retiree Resource Fair at Hickam Air Force Base Officers Club from 8:00 am until 12. There is a lot of good information disseminated at the fair.

Continuing with the disinterment project with DPAA. Disinterring 652 from Korean War and an additional 8 over the weekend. As these remains are identified and if they are sent to another cemetery closer to their loved ones, then there will be a reutilization of the site for new burials. Even though we are a closed cemetery for inground burials, it would be in the best interests for your constituents to call and ask if we have an inground burial site available. They do become available every now and again.

November 19 at 1:00 pm we will be hosting, together with the American Battle Monuments Commission, the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Terawa and the Secretary

for ABMC and the Under Secretary for Mortuary Affairs for the National Cemetery Commission will be at Punchbowl for a gathering of family members who will be recognized and presented with honors.

Veterans' Centers – Not present. No written report submitted.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

None

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

X. WORKING SESSION – OVS / Advisory Board Issues / Ideas

Mr. Park asked Director Gutowski if she will call to update him on her call to the central office. Director Gutowski said she could not call today but will call next week.

Director Han noted that there is not too much positive news, but the paper has shown a reduction of the homeless veterans' population in the State as compared to some larger areas and the populace that we have. The last two years have been a good decrease and they attribute it to the VA, private non-profit care providers and inter agency councils. In addition, the veteran's unemployment rate is also going down, under 3%. The greatest drops in unemployment happened on the neighbor islands. A lot of that had to do with Director Gutowski physically having representatives on the neighbor islands that have improved the situation.

Mr. Lilly brought up that last month a board member had an issue with hearing aids and Island Audiology. Mr. Lilly confirmed with Kyle of Tri-West, as of a month ago, that if you were already a VA customer with Island Audiology then the VA will continue to service you through Island Audiology which is a big deal for those who have hearing aids through Island Audiology. Jim Traxler commented that he went there three days ago, and it was clear to him that they would not touch him unless he had new hearing aids. He sent his off and got them back, but they would not test it, so he had to send it off again. Mr. Lilly asked if he contacted Island Audiology directly or through Tri-West. Mr. Traxler said he went directly and they said it may be that one needs to go through Tri-West and not directly. Director Gutowski would like to be in the loop on all communications regarding this because it does need to be sorted out. Mr. Lilly explained to Mr. Santana and the group that when you go to Island Audiology, they do the sophisticated digital checks and adjustments right there on the spot. Mr. Traxler is forced to send his to the mainland for adjustments and they of course can't get it right since one can't give them immediate feedback. There is something between the VA and Island

Audiology on agreement of the contract but Director Gutowski commented that it's between Island Audiology and Tri-West. Mr. Lilly will follow up. Director Gutowski commented that this is why the VA is investing to have their own team in terms of bringing on more Audiology. Just brought a second audiologist on board and recruiting a third. The VA knows that the demand for audiology is greater than what the island can offer. It's an important topic for quality of life and living so she will let her Chief Audiologist know about it to raise awareness. Director Gutowski thanked the members for bringing it to her attention.

Director Han and Acting Vice Chair Komine thanked Heather for her help. Guests were excused except for Board Members. Director Han also thanked Harold Bugado for working to set us up with Emile for the location of the monument. The engineering team is working with him to find a suitable place for the monument. Jim Traxler wanted to comment that the clarity and picture is the best it's been since he's been on the board. He doesn't even need his hearing aid. Mr. Pereira, Mr. Park and Ms. Fernandez can hear well also.

Mr. Park wanted to bring up the last Stand Down and his concern is that "Are we enabling the homeless veterans or homeless people to be the way they are? Are we doing the right thing for them?" Director Han commented that he saw Jackie Wen put out information on how many were seen, how many were offered referral services, how many were on benefits. They had to bus some of the veterans into the Keehi Lagoon location and some came from the micro community, but this was interesting because it also included the general community as well as veterans. They did a lesson learned hotwash meeting already. Haven't seen any of the notes from the hotwash but we will share them with everyone. Mr. Park mentioned that if they bused out Veterans from the USA Vets, then his understanding is that those veterans already have services. Director Han commented that his understanding was that they had four pick up locations in downtown Honolulu (Kakaako, Aala Park & one or two other locations) and they worked with Mark Alexander of the City & County of Honolulu. He's the homeless Director who replaced Jun Yang. Acting Vice Chair Komine commented that they did bus in US Vets from the Kalaeloa facility. She was unable to attend the hotwash but is looking forward to the results of the hotwash coming out. Pure hearsay that Mark Alexander was not winning any popularity contest at the end of the stand down because they did bus homeless folks in for the stand down but declined to bus them back out. His perspective is that we brought you here to make connections with services and we will take you to a homeless shelter or someplace to be housed. We are not in the business to return you back to homelessness. That set a tone for what the intent the City & County had because it was a good intent, but she is interested in what the outcome of the hotwash was since she echoes Mr. Park's sentiments that we may be enabling these people by giving them the clothes and everything available at the stand down. Interested to see how many people actually connected with services and got off the street. Until we have that come back, it's hard to say if the event was successful. Mr. Park asked how we can obtain the

information and Acting Chair Komine said that we will get the information and Chair Greenlee sits on the homeless task force with the folks who participated in the event and Acting Chair Komine will ask her to provide the information to the board.

XI. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Jim Traxler and seconded by Mr. Wilbert Pereira. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 1008 hours.

Heather Ho - Recorder
Attachments

State Advisory Board on Veterans' Services
Monthly Report for East Hawai'i
November, 2018

- A. I will be attending Friday's meeting on November 2, 2018.
- B. The monthly East Hawaii Veterans organization's meeting is scheduled for November 7, 2018, 12 PM, at the Hilo Elk's Lodge. I will be attending this meeting and the Disabled American Veterans Hilo Chapter #6 meeting on November 10, 2018, at the Kamana Senior Center, and the VFW Post 3875 meeting at the Elk's Lodge, at 9 AM on November 17, 2018.
- C. The Hawaii Island Veterans Day Parade is scheduled for Saturday, 10 AM, November 10, 2018, in Hilo.
- D. The Veterans Day Service is scheduled for November 11, 2018 (Sunday), at 11 AM. The WWI Centennial Celebration will be a part of the ceremony at Hilo Cemetery #1.
- E. Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin invited veterans to participate in their 23rd Annual Veterans' Appreciation Service on November 4, 2018, at 9 AM.
- F. No report on the Korean War Memorial status.

Harold Bugado

Ron Han

State Advisory Board for Veterans' Services
Monthly Report for West Hawaii
November, 2018

1. I will participate in the November 2nd, 2018 Advisory Board meeting via VTC in Hilo.
2. The West Hawaii Veterans' Council (WHVC) meeting and the West Hawaii Veterans Cemetery Development and Expansion Association (WHVCDEA) meetings are scheduled at the West Hawaii Veteran's Cemetery on November 6th.
3. I will be attending the Veterans Day Ceremony at the West Hawaii Veterans Cemetery on November 11th. The American Legion is the lead Organization for coordinating and executing the program.
4. I will be attending the American Legion Post 20 Meeting in Kona on November 14th.

Jim Traxler

From: Wilbert Pereira [<mailto:wpereira1@hawaii.rr.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 30, 2018 10:35 AM
To: Han, Ronald P Jr. VBAHON <Ronald.Han@va.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OVS board meeting.

Aloha Ron,
I will be participating in Fridays meeting.

Report:

The Kauai Veterans Council is currently planning to have its annual Veterans Day parade this year on November 3rd. So far there are over 40 organizations participating. Last year it was held in Lihue town. This year it will be held in Kapaa town.

The council is also starting to plan the Veterans Day ceremony which will be held at the Kauai Veterans Cemetery.

Mahalo,
Wilbert Pereira

From: Maestas, Gene
Sent: Thursday, November 01, 2018 11:34 AM
To: Ho, Heather N.O, VBAHON <Heather.Ho@va.gov>
Subject: RE: State Advisory Board on Veterans Services Meeting Minutes for Friday, October 5, 2018

Aloha Heather,

We are: Attending the 2018 Annual military retiree resource fair a Hickam AFB officers club
Saturday from 0800-1200.

Disinterred 8 unknowns from the Korean War. 546 more will be disinterred

November 19th we are hosting the Tarawa War 75 anniversary ceremony at 1300-1400

Those are the hot topic items.

v/r

Gene

Board Members Report
Maui County
November 2018

MCVC Meeting

There are still concerns about the ID situation. Questions came up about our Molokai and Lanai veterans and how they were able to get their id cards updated and where they needed to go. One veteran stated he was told by CBOC you had to go to Tripler 4-6 times a month to get the card. Needing solutions..

Questions about One Stop Facility, is there a timeline yet on completion?

Another topic talked about was having a prothesis section, current office is very backed up, 3 months to get blood pressure monitor. Waiting time for all Veterans is 3 months and that is too long.

Care Package Drive

The Maui Boy Scout Council is having a care package drive the next two weeks and will be packing Nov 10 to honor veteran's day. We will be sending these packages out for them to our guard units from Hawaii that are currently deployed.

UHMC VRC

No committed funds from UH/state yet. The advisor is working on a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Dialogues on the Experience of War to help cover the cost.

Veterans Day Ceremony and Picnic

We will be having our annual veterans day ceremony on Nov 11 at Makawao Veterans Cemetery and our picnic to follow at Kalama park.

Pearl Harbor Exhibit

We are having a Pearl Harbor Exhibit in Lahaina. Bryant Neal is the curator and has a lot of great memorabilia and very knowledgeable on the subject. I have attached the press release of the exhibit for review.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact:

Bryant Neal

808-283-3576

Bryantneal808@gmail.com

Story of Hawaii Museum Opens WWII Exhibit in Lahaina: “The Road to Pearl Harbor”

Lahaina, Oct. 29—Historian and event curator of Story of Maui Museum, Bryant Neal, announces a new WWII exhibit marking the 77th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor and America’s entry into the war. The free, public exhibit runs from Nov. 1 to Dec. 10, noon until 6 p.m. daily in unit F-2 at the Outlets of Maui in Lahaina.

Dec. 7 began battles in the Pacific Theater of WWII — Tarawa, Bataan, Peleliu, Iwo Jima— some of the most costly, hard fought, and destructive military engagements of the 20th century. This exhibit of vintage maps, prints and military documents shows events leading to the war, battle strategies and outcomes that shaped history.

The exhibit also tells the story of the 18,000-member 4th Marine Division, which trained and recuperated on Maui between combat deployments to the Central Pacific. Visitors will see photos of jungle training in Haiku, amphibious assault training at Makena and Mā‘alaea, military airfields at Pu‘unēnē, and famous “Giggle Hill,” where young Marines courted Maui girls.

The exhibit also includes photos of the holdings at The Camp Maui Museum, located on the the actual site of Camp Maui in Haiku, where the Hoyte family has assembled a display of WWII transport trucks, jeeps, and a working P51 Mustang replica aircraft. Camp Maui Museum also has a collection of WWII US Marine Corps equipment, uniforms and memorabilia.

Original maps and artifacts on display at the Story of Maui Museum Exhibit are from the private collection of Bryant Neal, whose research of Japanese war records has resulted in a powerful display of maps, photos, artifacts and other materials about Pearl Harbor and WWII from the Japanese Imperial Army’s perspective. Select originals and reproduction maps will be available for purchase.

This self-guided exhibit at the Outlets of Maui is curated by the Story of Hawaii Museum with support from Richard Mickelsen, The Navy League, Maui County Veterans Council, The County of Maui, and North Shore Zipline Camp Maui Tours.

For further information and to arrange times for school tours and special showings for large groups, please call: 808-283-3576.

From: Michael Lilly [<mailto:Michael@NLJLAW.COM>]

Sent: Monday, October 29, 2018 5:21 AM

To: Han, Ronald P Jr. VBAHON <Ronald.Han@va.gov>

Cc: Ann M. Greenlee (Greenlee.Ann@dol.gov) <Greenlee.Ann@dol.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Matsunaga VA center worst

Ron, my submittal for November's meeting. Sad article.

<http://www.hawaiifreepress.com/ArticlesMain/tabid/56/ID/22529/Honolulu-VA-Medical-Center-Among-Worst-30--again.aspx>

Honolulu VA Medical Center Among Worst 30% -- again ...

www.hawaiifreepress.com

For the third year in a row, Honolulu's Spark M. Matsunaga VA medical center is among the lowest-graded 30% of VA medical centers system-wide, and their overall statistics are in the bottom 10th percentile of the rating scale for ambulatory care-sensitive conditions, employee satisfaction, primary ...

With warmest personal regards, Michael A. Lilly

Ning, Lilly & Jones

707 Richards St., Suite 700

Honolulu, HI 96813-4623

Work: 808-528-1100

Fax: 808-531-2415

Web: nljlaw.com

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Thursday, November 01, 2018

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Sunday, October 28, 2018

Honolulu VA Medical Center Among Worst 30% -- again

By Selected News Articles @ 2:56 PM :: 943 Views :: [Health Care](#), [Military](#)

Honolulu VA Medical Center Among Worst 30% -- again

by Steve Lipscomb

For the third year in a row, Honolulu's Spark M. Matsunaga VA medical center is among the lowest-graded 30% of VA medical centers system-wide, and their overall statistics are in the bottom 10th percentile of the rating scale for ambulatory care-sensitive conditions, employee satisfaction, primary care new patient wait time, and mental health continuity of care, according to newly released data from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

According to the [VA's Quality of Care website](#), "hospitalizations due to ambulatory care-sensitive conditions (ACSCs) such as hypertension and pneumonia are preventable if ambulatory care is provided in a timely and effective manner. Studies show that effective primary care is associated with fewer ACSC-related hospitalizations."

The Spark M. Matsunaga VA medical center is the only center in the VA Pacific Islands Health Care System (VAPIHCS), and together with the [Geriatrics, Rehabilitation, and Extended Care Center](#), seven community based outpatient clinics, and other medical facilities in the Hawaiian Islands, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa serves tens of thousands of veterans across the Pacific.

In an [October 26, 2018 news release](#), VAPIHCS provided the following comments:

"Compared with data from the same period a year ago, the October 2018 release of VA's Strategic Analytics for Improvement and Learning (SAIL) report showed VAPIHCS improved in overall quality in the third quarter. VAPIHCS showed improvement in several areas, including Mental Health experience of care, access to Primary Care and Specialty Care services, and employee satisfaction. VAPIHCS demonstrated a slight decline in the metric related to hospitalizations due to ambulatory care-sensitive conditions, and a multi-disciplinary workgroup is currently working to improve outcomes in this area."

Referring to "positive strides" noted in the VAPIHCS news release, Jennifer Gutowski, medical center director says: "This is a step in the right direction to improving quality of services for our Veterans."

Every year the VA provides two grades on 146 medical centers systemwide. A star rating compares each center to others across the nation. Then, each also receives a grade on its own internal improvement year-over-year.

The 2018 report showed Honolulu maintained its low two-star rating from 2016 and 2017, and similarly matched its 2017 individual rating of having achieved "small improvements" -- down from attaining "large improvements" in 2016.

Both ratings are based on dozens of key performance areas such as death rates, readmissions, complications, and even employee and patient satisfaction. All the data is updated quarterly, with annual grades provided after September 30 of each year.

Because the star rating is generally based on a bell curve, three star ratings account for about 40% of the total centers, two and four stars are each about 20% of the total, and one and five star ratings are each about 10%. This means that even if all 146 centers improved one year, there would still be 1-star ratings. However, across-the-board improvement isn't the case. In 2016, 82% of the centers attained internal improvement, that number fell to 64% in 2017 and stands at 66% for 2018.

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Director, State Office of Veterans Services, Nov 2018 Update

Personnel: Authorized: 28 Assigned: 25

Veterans Benefits Counselor vacancies: Oahu (1) and Maui (1)...Cemetery Manager job interviews completed 18 Sep 18...nomination forwarded

OVS-Tactical

Hawaii Network of Care Website for military members, Veterans, and their families. Launched on Thursday, 16 Aug 2012. Reworking OVS as the prime agent...may incur some service disruption....please go to: (www.hawaiinetworkofcare.org)

OVS-Strategic

State Veterans Summit: Bring Veterans together from across the State for a two-day format (guest speakers, breakout groups, State's Dinner, panels on special subjects, exhibitors, and employers). May rotate to other islands...HB 2697 approved by legislature and Governor signed into law on 22 Jun 18...organizing State Summit Team and targeting: Fri-Sat, 21-22 Jun 2019

Reviewing feasibility for a "Veterans Hawaii" biennial magazine highlighting the exceptional accomplishments of our Veterans in the community.

Activities by Island:

Kauai:

State DOD Engineering, KOVS, OVS, and DAGS proposal for Kauai Veterans Cemetery Phase expansion continues to move forward. Federal Funding for Kauai Veterans Cemetery approved for \$1.3M for FY 13. New Maintenance facility/entry gate completed...committal shelter repair completed...polycom meeting held with VA/NCA, DAGS and DOD on 25 Sep 2018 on expansion project and columbarium add...possible VA funding in FY 2019

Kauai Veterans Multi-Service Center has also received federal funding (\$10M)...MSC will co-locate Kauai CBOC, Vets Center, and OVS...solicitation offer received by VA and is progressing forward with design phase

Maui/Molokai/Lanai:

State land acquisition for 10-acre cemetery expansion project successfully completed in August 2014. Grave restoration started on 27 May 2014 and Phase I is completed...VA/NCA approved Phase II Fed Funding for \$1.3M...Makawao Cemetery Association (MCA) lawsuit led to mediation by all parties...grading permit and building permit approved...work restarted the week of 22 Feb 16 in the expansion area...layout designs

were developed for Lot 1...NPHA 106 consultation session completed on 13 Dec 16 on Maui...published agreements and schematics under review...recent vandalism in expansion area reported to MPD in May 2017...feedback received on 25 Sep 18 on the draft MOA...VA and State have completed review...County of Maui accomplishing final review... Pre-con meeting for 17 Oct 18 on Maui held...Phase II Grave Restoration and Realignment to start 13 Nov 18

Rep Lynn DeCoite and DHHL working on Vets-Community Center in partnership with Molokai Vets and the community at large...first public hearing completed in Sep 2017

Lanai Veterans Cemetery CIP project VA funded (\$582K) ...work in progress

DOE and Hawaii DOD HIENG have agreed to land acquisition initiative adjacent to Maui High School. Future Maui Veterans Center, CBOC, and OVS facility...Lloyd Sodetani is our OVS on-island representative for this project... results of ESA completed...DOE submitted completed formal response for SOT in Nov 2015...joint meeting held in Sep 16 with legislators, DOE, DOD, CODELs and VA...VA accepted the Maui DOE land offer...VA/DOE/DOD meeting held on 9 Apr 18 and on 25 May 18 at Maui High School with the Principal and Staff...as of 1 Oct 18, MOA draft review completed by HI-DOE...sent back to HI-DOE for 2nd review/coordination

Veterans Counselor outreach visits to Molokai: 1 Lanai: 1

Hawaii:

West Hawaii Veterans Cemetery...HIENG/DAGS/OVS submitted VA/NCA pre-application grant for non-potable well...federal priority approved moved up to #41 from #49 with state matching A/E funding but no federal allocation at this time...pre-application award grant for additional niches to keep pace with demand approved by VA for design, planning and construction...8 Dec 17 pre-site meeting completed...19 Jan 18, HIENG/OVS met with West HI Cemetery Assoc. members on island...briefing held in Feb 18 with Hawaii Island Legislators at the State Capitol...final project design approved by VA and pre-bid meeting completed on 1 Aug 18 at West HI Veterans Cemetery...notice to proceed issued for project

Design and assessment contract has been awarded for a Kona Veterans Center after receiving \$300K from the State Legislature this past session. Project passed from HIENG to DAGS for establishment and award of contract...meeting took place with Rep Evans, Bob Strickland, HIENG, and OVS in May 2015 at the State Capitol...potential siting has been chosen by West Hawaii Veterans...state funding for additional plans and design earmarked in State Budget of \$850K for FY 18...site visit with HIENG/OVS and West HI Veterans held on Fri, 19 Jan 18 on Hawaii island.

Hilo Senior Care Facility and adjoining Vets Center siting initiative discussed with Veterans Bob Williams, Mayor Harry Kim, VA, HIENG, OVS, and other East HI Veterans...property leasing coordination in progress with County and HI Vets Mem Inc.

VA/NCA Compliance Inspection scheduled for 10-13 May 2016 completed...draft reports reviewed...final compliance reports for East Hawaii Vets Cemetery I & II and West HI Vets Cemetery published...Maui response package completed...Feb 18: contacted and will work with County Dir Robbie Sanches in updating compliance report

East Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery II CIP funded by VA/NCA: \$870K...OVS/HIENG site visit with East HI Veterans held on Thursday, 18 Jan 18 on Hawaii island...final design completed awaiting permitting and fire hydrant installation...site visit and bid award completed in Sep 18

Tracking Korean War Memorial installation...proposed siting approved in Hilo

Oahu:

Additional State Veteran Home: Pre-application award grant completed and accepted by the VA to meet the 1 Aug 2018 deadline. Consultant has been selected and State Historical Preservation Office and Environmental Assessment on the 3rd site has been completed...35% design has also been completed to meet Aug 2018 VA suspense...State is currently assessing a 4th site

Hawaii Hires Heroes (H3)...Vets-Flashes occur daily on H3 job announcements

University of Hawaii Task Force on Services for Veteran Students formed by President David Lassner. This task force has met monthly to assess current and future initiatives being provided to Veteran Students at all UH campuses (10 sites) Over 2,400 Veterans are enrolled comprising 4% of the UH student body. UH Board of Regents approved Veterans in-state tuition rate...OVS participated via polycom in meeting held on 9 Mar 18 at UH...polycom on 25 May 18...building UH President/Regents brief for Sep 18

OIF/OEF/ONE/OND Gulf War Memorial Committee now called Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) Memorial Committee submitted a report to the Legislature to design, plan, and to construct a memorial. Published 104 pages report...Rep Kong, Allen Hoe, Dave Brostrom, HIENG, DAGS, State Cultural & Arts, and OVS met in Oct & Dec 16 to restart legislation...OVS testified on HB 2036 in Feb 18...re-rolled to 2019 Legislature

WWII Filipino Vets recognition initiative...Congressional Gold Medal presentation ceremony held for 25 Oct 17 in Washington D.C....6 May 18 at Hilton Hawaiian event held...2nd recognition event slated for Sat, 26 Jan 19 at the FilCom Center...completed Deputy AG review on burial State administrative rules and State funding match; HB 1420 signed by Governor 10 Jul 17...Public Hearings completed on Oahu, Kauai, Maui and Hawaii islands from 27-30 Nov 17...State Deputy AG has signed off on administrative rules changes and was sent forward for Governor's approval...HB 942, HD1 signed by Gov Ige on 19 Jun 17 commissioning State Cultural and Arts to plan, design and build a memorial commemorating the contributions and sacrifices made by

our WWII Filipino Veterans...completed seven meetings proposed artist selected and site locations narrowed...meeting held with State team and artist Kelly Hestir on 10 Sep 18

The State's Women's Military and Veterans Sub-Committee: first and second Women's Veterans Summits were very successful...2017 conferences dedicated to neighbor islands programs (Kauai-Mar 2017)...monthly meetings being held at the Oahu Veteran Center...Women's Veterans Coffee Talk held on 21 Apr 17 at OVC...Committee preparing for State Veterans Summit plans...upcoming Women's event on 18 Nov 18

WWI Centennial State Task Force formed...to educate/honor/memorialize the sacrifices of our WWI Veterans...website on-line...COL Art Tulak-Chair...multiple events planned...goal: Veterans Day 2018 Centennial Event...State GIA approved for \$413K...meeting held with co-partners from the State, City and County of Honolulu and Centennial TF on upcoming plans utilizing the exterior grounds of the Waikiki Natatorium War Memorial...invites have been sent out...parking info forthcoming

No Wrong Door (NWD) Initiative undertaken by VHA/ OVS to support and provide enhanced outreach services... completed 25 Sep 18 program review

Oahu ALOHA Project (CBOC, Vets Center, OVS)...Congressional breakthrough on solicitation of the lease...bid award projected summer 2018/Opening 2020...consultant design review on 5 Jul 18...user group meetings completed in Sep' 18 with design team

Triennial Review of Veteran Memorials and Monuments State-wide...finalizing report

WWII Memorial at Punchbowl and King St...State Advisory Board solicited Oahu Veterans Council to resource plaque for rededication in 2018...status: unsupportable

Marine Corps Museum Heritage Foundation...HI Governor's Liaison Rep: Ron Wright

Legislative Proposals: For Veteran Bills...go to: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/> and type in the word **Veterans** under key words...State Legislature period: Jan-May 2019

Upcoming Veterans Events:

- Veterans Day and WWI Centennial Ceremony on Sun, 11 Nov 18...11:00 AM at the Natatorium, pre-events in the morning, mid-day concert (Raiatea Helm), evening concert with Harry James Orchestra
- Special Recognition Ceremony for USCG Veteran Mitchell Lani, Mon, 12 Nov 18 at 1000 hrs at the USCG Station Maui, Ma'alaea, Maui
- Joint Ceremony Honoring HING Citizen Soldier w/HFD at King St. Cemetery...proposed event: Fri, 16 Nov 18
- "A Day For Me" for Women Service Members and Veterans, Keehi Lagoon DAV Hall, Sun, 18 Nov 18, 0730-1330 hrs

Department of Defense
Engineering Office (HIENG)
3949 Diamond Head Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816-4495

ENGINEERING REPORT
Advisory Board on Veterans Services
November 2, 2018

I. Veteran Services Projects Funding

Table 1: State Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Funding

No.	Project Title	FAI No. ²	State Funding Amount ³	State Appropriation (Lapse Date)	VA Grant Amount/Est. VA Share ^{2,4}	VA Status ^{1, 2}	FY18 VA Priority ²
1	Kauai Veterans Cemetery, Maintenance Facility & Access Rd., Phase 2A & 2B [14-14-7397 (Design)]	HI-09-16	\$181,658	Act 287/96 [F-2] (06-30-2012)	\$104,000 \$1,243,593	A	Funded
			\$183,537	Act 162/09 [F-4] (06-30-2016)			
			\$48,472	Act 180/10 [F-4] (06-30-2016)			
2	Kauai Veterans Cemetery, Ph. 2A, New Maintenance Facility [14-14-7460 (Construction)] *Project Completed and Closed.	HI-09-16	\$2,905	Act 287/96 [F-2] (06-30-2012)	\$104,000 \$1,243,593	A	Funded [Final Grant Amount]
			\$60,300	Act 180/10 [F-4] (06-30-2016)			
			\$0	Act 164/11 [F-1] (06-30-2018)			
3	Kauai Veterans Cemetery, Ph. 2B, New Access Road, Expansion and Improvements [14-14-7641] *Project to be closed (see 14-14-7657 below).	HI-10-24	\$3,544,000 ⁵	Act 106/12 [F-1] (06-30-2018)	\$6,302,000	P	#41, Grp. 4
	Kauai Veterans Cemetery, New Access Road, Expansion & Improvements [14-14-7657]	HI-10-21	\$630,200	Act 106/12 [F-1] (06-30-2018)	\$1,477,000	P	#41, Grp. 4
4	Maui Veterans Cemetery Expansion & Improvements [15-14-7509]	HI-12-31	\$1,004,000	ACT 164/11 [F-1] (6-30-2018)	\$5,710,280	A	Funded
	Maui Veterans Cemetery, Planning for Site Expansion [15-14-7463] *Project Completed.		\$400,000				
	Maui Veterans Cemetery, Land Acquisition for Expansion [15-14-7542] *Project Completed.		\$850,000				
5	Hawaii Veterans Cemetery (Hilo 2), Improvements [21-14-7653]	HI-10-18	\$6,000	Act 164/11 [F-1] (06-30-2018)	\$820,278	A	#39, Grp. 4
6	Lanai Veterans Cemetery, Improvements [25-14-7654]	HI-10-20	\$6,000		\$581,500	A	#40, Grp. 4
7	Molokai Veterans Cemetery, Improvements [25-14-7655]	HI-10-22	\$111,134		\$438,000	P	#42, Grp. 4
8	West Hawaii Veterans Cemetery, Non-Potable Well [11-14-7626]	HI-12-30	\$210,000	Act 122/14 [F-3.01] (6-30-2020)	\$795,000	P	#45, Grp. 4
9	Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery, Upgrades and Improvements [12-14-7628]	HI-13-32	\$0	Act 106/12 [F-1] (06-30-2018)	\$10,400,000	P	#32, Grp. 4 #84, Grp. 3
			\$500,000	Act 122/14 [F-3.02] (6-30-2020)			
10	Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery, Committal Shelter Roof & Ceiling Repairs [CA-1516] *Project Completed.	N/A	\$65,500 (D) \$343,000 (C)	Act 122/14 [I-7.03] (6-30-2016)	N/A	N/A	N/A
11	Molokai Veterans Center ⁷	N/A	\$4,000,000	Act 124/16 [F-3.01] (06-30-2018)	N/A	N/A	N/A
12	West Hawaii Veterans Center [11-14-7585] [Note: Grant-in-Aid funds must be appropriated in the future for this project.]	N/A	\$300,000	Act 134/13 [F-3] (06-30-16)	N/A	N/A	N/A
			\$850,000	Act 49/17 [F-4] (06-30-20)			

13	Hawaii State Veterans Home, Oahu	15-002	\$101,542	Act 122/14 General Fund for Planning (06-30-2015)	N/A	N/A	N/A
			\$2,000,000 ⁵	Act 122/14 [E-7.02] (06-30-2020)	\$0	TDB P	FY17 (#53, Grp. 1) #108, Grp. 2- 8, Ranking 8-9
			\$25,384,000 ⁵	Act 119/15 [F-2] Second year of Biennium (FY17)	\$40,358,357		
14	West Hawaii Veterans Cemetery, Additional Columbarium Niches, Hawaii [11-14-7656]	HI-17-34	\$155,841	Act 106/12 [F-1] (06-30-2018)	\$845,000	P	#3, Grp. 1

Table 2: OVS Projects Funding (Operating Funds)

No.	Project Title	FAI No. ²	State Funding Amount (Contract Amount) ³	State Appropriation (Lapse Date)	VA Grant Amount/Est. VA Share ^{2,4}	VA Status ^{1,2}	FY18 VA Priority ²
1	Kauai/Hanapepe, Appearance & Improvement (O&M)	HI-10-23	\$770,260	Act 164/11 General Operating Fund (06-30-2012)	\$26,000	P	#43, Grp. 4
2	Hawaii/Kaneohe, Appearance & Improvement (O&M)	HI-10-24			\$3,093,000	P	#85, Grp. 4
3	Maui Veterans Cemetery Gravesite Restoration (Phase 1)	HI-10-27			\$1,092,739	A	Funded [Final Grant Amt.]
4	East Hawaii 1/Hilo 1, Appearance & Improvement, (O&M)	HI-10-28			\$563,000	P	#44, Grp. 4
5	East Hawaii 2/Hilo 2, Appearance & Improvement, (O&M)	HI-10-29			\$2,830,000	P	#86, Grp. 4
6	Maui Veterans Cemetery Gravesite Restoration, Phase 2	HI-14-33	\$270,000 \$211,000	Act 124/16 General Operating Fund (06-30-2017)	\$1,347,323	A	#46, Grp. 4
7	Maui Multi-Service Complex [Note: Grant-in-Aid funds may be appropriated in the future for this project.]	N/A	\$80,000	Act 122/14 General Operating Fund (06-30-2015)	\$10,000,000 (for CB0C)	A	N/A
8	Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery, Tree Trimming & Removal	N/A	\$800,000 \$578,621.85	Act 124/16 General Operating Fund (06-30-2017)	N/A	N/A	N/A
9	Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery, Paint Columbarium Walls and Railings	N/A	\$168,000 \$62,000 (C)	Act 124/16 General Operating Funds (06-30-2017)	N/A	N/A	N/A
10	Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery, Water Tank Repair	N/A	\$200,000	6/30/2019	N/A	N/A	N/A

Table 3: Grant-In-Aid Projects Funding

No.	Project Title	FAI No. ²	State Funding Amount ³	State Appropriation (Lapse Date)	VA Grant Amount/Est. VA Share ^{2,4}	VA Status ^{1,2}	FY18 VA Priority ²
1	Oahu Veterans Council, Oahu	N/A	\$2,000,000	Act 134/13 [F-2] (06-30-2016)	N/A	N/A	N/A
		N/A	\$265,000	Act 122/14 [F-2] (06-30-2016)	N/A	N/A	N/A
		N/A	\$75,000	Act 119/15 [F-3] (06-30-2018)	N/A	N/A	N/A
		N/A	\$70,000	Act 49/17 [F-1] (06-30-2020)	N/A	N/A	N/A
2	Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor, Oahu	N/A	\$550,000	Act 122/14 [F-3.04] (06-30-2016)	N/A	N/A	N/A
		N/A	\$250,000	Act 124/16 [F-3.02] (06-30-2018)	N/A	N/A	N/A
		N/A	\$400,000	Act 49/17 [F-2] (06-30-2020)	N/A	N/A	N/A
3	Hawaii Island Veterans Memorial, Hawaii	N/A	\$425,000	Act 122/14 [E-4.07] (06-30-2016)	N/A	N/A	N/A

4	Civil Air Patrol, Oahu	N/A	\$200,000	Act 119/15 [I-7.04] (06-30-2018)	N/A	N/A	N/A
5	The 442 nd Veterans Club, Oahu	N/A	\$150,000	Act 124/16 [B-5.12] (06-30-2018)	N/A	N/A	N/A
6	Molokai Veterans Center, Hawaii *This is not a Grant-in-Aid project.	N/A	\$4,000,000	Act 124/16 [F-3.02] (06-30-2018)	N/A	N/A	N/A
6	Pearl Harbor – Honolulu Branch 46, Fleet Reserve Association, Oahu	N/A	\$300,000	Act 49/17 [F-3] (06-30-2020)	N/A	N/A	N/A
7	USS Bowfin Submarine Museum and Park (New)	N/A	\$215,000	Act 53/18 [5-F4.01] (06-30-2021)	N/A	N/A	N/A

Table 4: Other Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Funding

No.	Project Title	FAI No. ²	State Funding Amount ³	State Appropriation (Lapse Date)	VA Grant Amount/Est. VA Share ^{2,4}	VA Status ^{1, 2}	FY18 VA Priority ²
1	Kauai Veterans Cemetery Pavilion Renovation	N/A	\$400,000 ⁵	ACT 119/15 (6-30-2018) Appropriated under the Office of the Governor	N/A	N/A	N/A
		N/A	\$700,000 ⁵	ACT 124/16 (6-30-2018) Appropriated under the Office of the Governor	N/A	N/A	N/A

Notes:

1. A – Approved/funded by VA; P – Grant pre-application submitted; pre-approved by VA; project placed on VA Priority List
2. N/A – Not applicable; TBD – To be determined.
3. Amount of State Funds that have been ~~appropriated, allotted and~~ programmed for the project.
4. Actual grant amount where VA Status is "A"; Amount of Federal Funds noted on the VA Priority List where VA Status is "P".
5. Pending Governor's release of funds or submittal of an allotment request by the expending agency.
6. "General Fund" = State Operating Funds.
7. Error in funding appropriation. State funding amount should be \$400,000 and appropriated in a GIA. Project will be changed from CIP to GIA at the next Legislative session.

A. Federal Veterans Affairs (VA) Grants Activities/Correspondence

1. Grant Pre-Applications

- a. None pending.

B. State Capital Improvement Program

1. Proviso

- a. Due to changes in the VA policy regarding the reimbursement of funds to the States, funds that were appropriated in prior years may not be eligible for 100% federal reimbursement. The Office of Veteran Services (OVS) will include language in future appropriation requests to allow up to 10% of the appropriation to not be required for 100% federal reimbursement.

C. Grant-in-Aid (GIA) Projects [updated]

1. Civil Air Patrol (CAP) (GIA) [updated]

- a. Final Report submitted. Awaiting return of unspent funds to DOD in the amount of \$56,100. Project closed.

II. Veteran Services Projects

A. Island of Oahu [updated]

1. HSVC Tree Trimming and Removal (PH II) [updated]

- a. Construction in progress. Contract completion date is March 2019.
- b. Difficulty with contractor (Love's Landscaping); chipper leaking diesel, rubbish not cleaned up, damaged grass, slow progress, etc. Working to correct situation. Contract completion date could be delayed.

2. Hawaii State Veterans Home, Oahu [updated]

- a. October 4, 2018 – VA conditionally approved application for construction grant for 120-bed facility. Next milestone is April 2, 2019; bid tab due. (Design complete, project bid out, and bids received by April 2, 2019.)
- b. October 2018 – Considering / vetting 4th site.

B. Island of Hawaii [updated]

1. Cemetery Upgrade and Improvements, Statewide (EHVC No. 2) [updated]

- a. Construction in progress. Anticipated completion date is February 22, 2019.

2. West Hawaii Veterans Center [updated]

- a. Anticipate 12/8/18 for OEQC publication date.

3. West Hawaii Veterans Cemetery, Additional Columbaria Units [updated]

- a. Kaikor Construction awarded project on October 24, 2018.
- b. Notice to Proceed by February 22, 2018. DAGS is encountering difficulty with obtaining the building permit for this project due to the

cemetery being located in Conservation District. Need to get Conservation District Use Permit to get building permit. Number of columbaria ~couple hundred exceeds number allowed in original master plan.

C. County of Kauai [updated]

1. Kauai Veterans Cemetery, Phase 2B (FAI No. HI-10-21), New Access Road, Expansion and Improvements [updated]

a. November 14, 2018: Meeting with VA at KVC to discuss project.

D. County of Maui (Maui/Molokai/Lanai) [updated]

2. Maui Multi Services Center (MMSC) [updated]

a. Comments on MOA provided by OVS/VA to DOE on October 25, 2018. Comments forwarded to Principal Yap and CAS Dimino for discussion.

3. Cemetery Upgrade and Improvements, Statewide (Molokai & Lanai) [updated]

b. Contractor issued 74 calendar day extension. Revised project completion date is November 2, 2018. (Lanai)

4. Maui Veterans Cemetery Gravesite Restoration (O&M) Phase II Project [updated]

a. Contractor on-site start for phases 1, 2, and 3 will be November 13, 2018.

III. Miscellaneous

A. The DOD Engineering Office (HIENG) is at 60% staffing. This will have a significant impact on the department's ability to provide full service engineering support on all its projects. Priority will be given to projects that involve health and safety, and projects with funds that are in jeopardy of lapsing at the end of the federal and/or State fiscal years.

SHAoyu L. Lee
First Lieutenant
Hawaii Army National Guard
Interim Chief Engineering Officer



VA HONOLULU REGIONAL OFFICE

AS OF OCTOBER 30, 2018

VETERANS SERVICE CENTER

Honolulu Rating Inventory: 2,123 claims

Hawaii State FY19 Average Days to Complete 95 days

National FY19 Average Days to Complete 99 days

Honolulu FY 19 Completed Claims: 773 claims

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION & EMPLOYMENT

Honolulu Pending Caseload 2,151 cases

Honolulu FY 19 Average Days to Entitlement 69 days

National FY 19 Average Days to Entitlement 43 days

Honolulu FY 19 Average Days in Evaluation and Planning 124 days

National FY 19 Average Days in Evaluation and Planning 81 days

VETERAN BENEFITS OUTREACH EVENTS

Big Island-Hawaii

Hilo: A VA Benefits Counselor is permanently stationed on the Big Island. The Counselor is located at the Hilo Federal Building, 154 Waiuanue St., Suite 327, Hilo, HI 96720, Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 4:00pm.

Kona: The Benefits Counselor staffs the Kona Vet Center, Hale Kui Plaza, Suite 207, 73-4976 Kamanu Street, Kailua-Kona, HI 96740, the first and third Wednesday of each month, from 10am to 2pm.

VTEL

The Honolulu RO has implemented video teleconferencing (Vtel) appointments with Veterans residing on Kauai, Maui, Molokai, and Kona. During the Vtel appointments, Veterans speak with a Veterans Benefit Counselor who answers questions and provides benefit information. For additional information regarding the Vtel appointments and outreach events, contact Eric Gaskin, Public Contact Coach at pctc.vbahon@va.gov

Disabilities determined by VA to be related to your military service can lead to monthly non-taxable compensation, enrollment in the VA health care system, a 10-point hiring preference for federal employment and other important benefits. Ask your VA representative or Veterans Service Organization representative about Disability Compensation, Pension, Health Care, Caregiver Program, Career Services, Educational Assistance, Home Loan Guaranty, Insurance and/or Dependents and Survivors' Benefits.



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



Outreach Location	Type of Event/Visit	Date
Benefits Workshop/Claims Clinic Honolulu, Hawaii	Workshop	3 November 2018
Kauai Vet Center Lihue, Kauai	Itinerant	7 November 2018
Maui Vet Center Wailuku, Maui	Itinerant	9 November 2018

311VET

The 311VET App was designed for Veterans to ask general VA Benefits questions and receive answers 24/7/365 from any mobile device, allowing answers at any time and from anywhere. 311VET allows Veterans to gather information on Health Care Benefits, Pensions, Life Insurance, Dependents and Survivors Benefits, and much more.

E-BENEFITS

The eBenefits portal is a one-stop shop for benefits-related online tools and information. The portal is designed for Wounded Warriors, Veterans, Service members, their families, and those who care for them. eBenefits provides two main services. It's a catalog of links to information on other websites about military and Veteran benefits. It also provides a personalized workspace called My eBenefits which gives quick access to all the online tools now integrated into eBenefits - tools that let you do things like apply for benefits, download your DD 214, and see your benefits status online. You may also generate Civil Service Preference Letters and Verification of Service Letters. To access go to: <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits-portal/>

