

HAWAII VETERAN

Vol. 22, No. 1 State of Hawaii Office of Veterans' Services Dec. 2019

Motor Vehicle Exemption for Veterans with a Service-Connected Disability rating of 100%

By **Jayme Nagamine**
Information Specialist

Governor David Y. Ige signed a new measure on July 2, 2019 allowing a 100% disabled veteran to get a discount on their car registration. One of the requirements was taken out allowing more veterans to obtain this exemption.

Motor Vehicle Exemption (Entitles you to a \$45.00 State Registration Fee Exemption only). You must still pay the balance due. For example, if your registration

fee is \$245. DMV will minus \$45 and then you will have to pay the remaining balance of \$200 for your car registration.

The Veteran must meet all 3 eligibility requirements:

1. Service Connected 100% Disability VA Rating
2. Hawaii Resident
3. Other than "Dishonorable Discharge"

You need to bring to the Office of Veterans' Services (OVS):

1. Hawaii Drivers License

2. Car Registration
3. Current verification decision letter from the VA showing 100% Disability

The receptionist or counselor will create a letter for you. The veteran will then have to give the letter to the Dept. of Motor Vehicles (DMV) when it is time to pay for your registration fees.

Hawaii Revised Statutes
Act 188 HB601

Veterans Day at Punchbowl



Governor David Ige and First Lady Dawn Amano-Ige posed with Gulf War Veteran Jackie Spencer Nguyen, Homeless Program Employment Coordinator for the Veterans Affairs Pacific Island Health Care System at the Veterans Day Ceremony at Punchbowl. Jackie was recognized by Gov. Ige in his speech that day for her bravery, determination and resiliency in giving back to those Veterans in need in our community.

Upcoming Veteran Events

- Wed, 4 Dec 19 at 1100 hrs

Wreaths Across America Ceremony at the Korean and Vietnam War Memorial at the State Capitol

- Sat, 7 Dec 19 at 0700 hrs

National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony, at the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center

- Mon, 23 Dec 19 at 2300 hrs

Candlelight Remembrance Ceremony at the Korean and Vietnam War Memorial, State Capitol

- Sun, 29 Mar 2020

Vietnam War Veterans Day Ceremony at Punchbowl-host VVA,

- Mon, 25 May 2020

Memorial Day 2020 Events:

Governor's Ceremony at the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery
Punchbowl

Neighbor island ceremonies



Director's Message

Col.-R Ronald P. Han, Jr.

Director State Office of Veterans' Services

Aloha! We're happy to publish this new digital version of our Hawaii Veteran Newsletter! We have been utilizing the State Dept. of Defense's Pukupahi Newsletter to share our Veteran stories throughout the State. So, with today's version of the Hawaii Veteran Newsletter we are planning on publishing an e-version more often, to still contribute to the Pukupahi and to offer hardcopies of the Hawaii Veteran Newsletter to those who would like them (see instructions in this newsletter to request).

Over the last several years, we have worked with many State, County and Federal partners, our State Advisory Board and planning committees to produce two State Military and Women Veterans Conferences, a weeklong of events for the 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the Vietnam War along with events on the neighbor islands, celebrated the WWI Centennial with over 40 special events and held our first 2-day State Veterans Summit at the Hawaii Convention Center. In the latter, the State Summit Planning Committee is looking for an island to host the 2021 State Veterans Summit. Through your testimonial efforts, we have been working

with the State Legislature and the Governor's Office to support Veterans through legislation. Recently, a broader exemption of the State car registration fee (\$45) for 100% disabled Veterans and WWII Filipino Veterans Burial Assistance appropriation were signed into law.

We have also been very busy working capitol improvement projects in our State Veterans Cemeteries across the State with improvements completed or ongoing in East Hawaii, West Hawaii, Lanai, Maui, Kauai and here on Oahu totaling over \$10M dollars. One of biggest projects we have undertaken with our respective engineering and project management experts from the DOD and the Dept. of Accounting and General Services is the 2nd State Veterans Home slated for Kapolei, Oahu. The State provided a \$27.3M match and was recently awarded \$44.7M match from the Dept. Veterans Affairs to construct this 120-bed facility. We will be asking the State Legislature for supplemental State funding for this second home due to cost increases with a larger site (Leahi 2.5 acres, to Aiea 3.5 acres, to Kapolei 7 acres), program requirements, the cost of inflation and escalating construction costs of doing business in Hawaii. We're also hopeful the great work the Veterans Affairs Pacific Island Health Care System

is doing to construct Multi-Service Centers (VA Clinic, Vet Center, OVS) on Kauai and Maui and the

ALOHA Center on Oahu will all come to fruition shortly.

What's over the horizon? To name a few: the 70th Anniversary of the Korean War in June 2020, the 75th Commemoration of End of WWII with key events in September 2020, the State Cultural and the Arts dedication of the WWII Filipino Veterans Memorial at the Waipahu Public Library, the re-dedication of the WWII Memorial at Punchbowl and King St. and further State and Federal legislation to improve benefits for our Veterans. How you can help? Support transitioning military members, assist our homeless Veterans (5% decrease from last years Point in Time Count) accept supportive services and reach out and refer Veterans in need (suicide rate)...your direct involvement in serving others always makes a difference! On behalf of OVS, Mahalo nui for your continued support and kokua!



(L-R, Front Row) Joe Castro, Director Stanley Iakopo (N. Marianas Islands), Ray Tergeyo received certificates and coins from Director Ron Han and Director Jim Horton for completing hands-on cemetery training from the State and from Punchbowl.

Photo by Kimberly Magday
Hawaii Veteran Vol. 22, No. 1 Dec. 2019

2019 Hawaii Veterans Summit



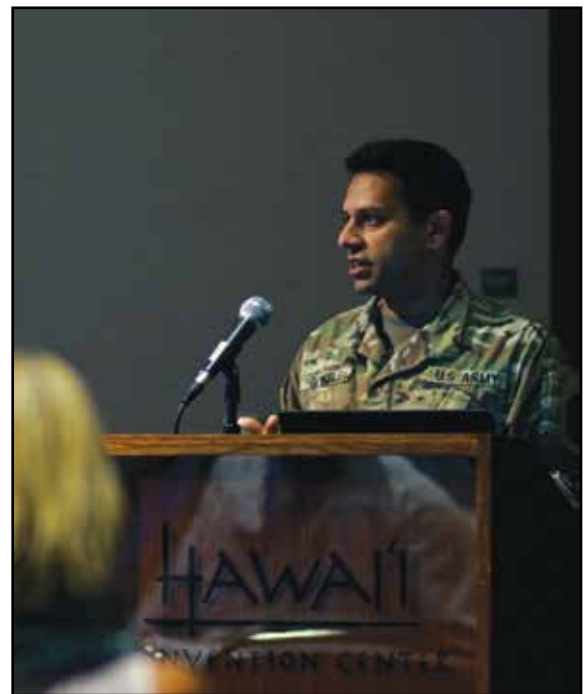
Lt. Gov. Josh Green addresses veterans at 2019 Hawaii Veterans Summit, professing support for those that have served their country.



Hawaii National Guard Youth Challenge Academy conducts presenting of colors, offers support, for the 2019 Hawaii Veterans Summit.



(From left to right) David Brown, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, Hawaii Lt. Gov. Josh Green, Amy Rohlf, U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs Public Affairs Officer, and Ronald P. Han Jr., Director celebrate opening of 2019 Hawaii Veterans Summit. The 2019 Hawaii Veterans Summit kicked off at the Hawaii Convention Center, celebrating "A Salute To Service." Veterans were offered a variety of services, supported by the Hawaii State Department of Defense (DOD).



Maj. Rajesh Daniels, Chief of the Sleep Medicine Service at Tripler Army Medical Center, conducts one of many seminars at the 2019 Hawaii Veterans Summit, supported by OVS.

Photos by Krystal Kawabata

New OVS Employees



Yolanda Ehere

Yolanda Ehere is the Secretary for the OVS office. Previously, she worked as an Administrative Assistant at 2 federally funded grants for the Dept. of Health. Yolanda's maternal uncle is Retired US Army and her nephew is a former US Marine. Yolanda's hobbies are: reading and listening to books, traveling and spending time with her husband.



Darren Eugenio

Darren Eugenio is the new Veterans Services Counselor in Maui. He enlisted in the Air Force when he was 19 years old as did his brothers who also enlisted during the Vietnam war period. Darren's last job was at Maui Youth and Family Services where he worked as a director of programs for teenage drug addiction and outreach prevention programs. Prior to that, Darren worked as an investigator for Child Protective Services for several years. Although he has several hobbies, he enjoys reading the most.



Karen Mahoe

Karen Mahoe moved to Maui with her husband – a Vietnam Combat Veteran. He suggested that she apply for a job at the VA. Karen worked at the VA Maui CBOC as an Advanced Medical Support Assistant in Mental Health for about five years before switching to the Maui OVS as an Office Assistant in August 2019. Hawaiian culture is a very important part of her life. Karen loves to learn hula, mele and crafting from her Kumu in halau – various forms of lei making being her favorite pastime.



Kelle Raitz

Kelle Raitz is the new Veterans Services Counselor on Kauai. She is a Graduate of UH West Oahu. Kelle's previous employment includes High School Substance Abuse Counselor, Intake Specialist at Supportive Services for Veteran Families, and State of Hawaii, Human Services and Pastoral Assistant at Capo Beach Calvary. She has been a volunteer for 16 years working with female inmates in federal, state and county jails/prisons. Kelle's father is a WWII veteran.

Stephanie Alfonso is the Office Assistant at the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery.

Yam Yi Lee has been working for the Department of Defense for the past 14 years. She comes from the Army Guard division, and has experience in administration, fiscal ministrations and personnel management. She is a graduate of the University of Hawaii at Manoa and looks forward to working with OVS.

Glen Marumoto is the new Veterans Services Counselor on Oahu, Tripler Army Medical Center.



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration
Pacific Islands Health Care System

MEDIA RELEASE

Oct. 1, 2019

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Veterans Affairs Pacific Islands Health Care System Awards Lease for New Windward Oahu Community Based Outpatient Clinic

HONOLULU—The Veterans Affairs Pacific Islands Health Care System (VAPIHCS) is very pleased to announce that the Department of Veterans Affairs, in partnership with Castle Health care System, has awarded a lease to establish a new Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) in Kaneohe, Oahu.

The clinic will be located within the Castle Professional Medical Building, in Kaneohe, on the corner of Kahuhipa and Kamehameha Highway. A convenient location for Veterans to access VA health care, and in many cases avoiding the need for them to travel to current VA facilities located at Tripler Army Medical Center.

The CBOC will have primary care, women’s health, mental health and specialty care, as well as have telemedicine capability.

“We are thrilled this project is finally underway,” said Jennifer Gutowski, director VA Pacific Islands Health Care System, “The new clinic on the Windward side will provide timely, high-quality VA care to our Veteran patients who have earned that service through their commitment and sacrifice,” said Gutowski. “We are eager to open the doors of the new clinic and anticipate a very smooth transition for our Veterans.”

According to the current schedule, renovations will first take place, followed by equipment, furnishings and activation, projected during the Summer 2020.

VA TO GO SMOKE FREE OCTOBER 1st

The VA Pacific Islands Health Care System is changing our smoking policy along with all other VA medical centers across the country to further our commitment to provide a safe and healthy environment for Patients, Visitors, Vendors, Volunteers, Contractors and Employees. The policy covers all smoking material including but not limited to:

- Cigarettes
- Cigars
- Pipes
- any other combustion of tobacco
- non-Federal Drug Administration (FDA) approved electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS), including but not limited to electronic or e-cigarettes, vape pens, or e-cigars.

Beginning Oct. 1, 2019, Smoking will no longer be permitted on the VA campus for patients, visitors, contractors, volunteers, vendors and employees. On the Tripler Army Medical Center Campus (TAMC), VAPIHCS follows the TAMC Smoke Free rules.

Patients, visitors, contractors, volunteers, vendors, and employees are strongly encouraged to leave all smoking materials at home. To reduce the risk of ignition near oxygen or other flammable gases used in our facility, some areas may require materials to be stored during their visit.

The VA offers smoking cessation treatment services for Veterans. If you would like more information about smoking cessation, please contact your Primary Care or Mental Health Team.

For more information:

- Call 1-800-214-1306 or 1-855-QUITVET
- Use MyHealthVet to Secure Message group "Quit Tobacco"
- Text VET to 47848

Wreaths Across America to Host Hawaii Ceremony and Ceremonial Wreath Placements in Honor of the 75th Anniversary of the WWII Pacific Landings

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The public is invited and encouraged to attend all these upcoming events

HONOLULU, Hawaii and COLUMBIA FALLS, Maine – Oct. 31, 2019 – Wreaths Across America (WAA) and the Governor of Hawaii are pleased to announce the expansion of the WAA mission to Hawaii in honor of those that served and sacrificed in the Pacific. WAA will present three Ceremonial Wreath placements in honor of the 75th anniversary of the WWII Pacific Landings.

WAA's mission of REMEMBER-HONOR-TEACH extends to our veterans, military and their families for all conflicts. As such, the Korean-Vietnam Memorial at the State Capitol in Honolulu was chosen as the site for WAA's Ceremony to be held on **Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2019, at 11am HST**. Following the Capitol Ceremony, the WAA-Texas volunteer team will place another ceremonial wreath at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific ("Punchbowl" Crater) at **2pm HST**. Just as WAA was selected to present a Ceremonial Wreath as part of the 75th anniversary at the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, VA (6Jun19), we were invited to present one for the Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration Ceremony on **Saturday, Dec. 7, beginning at 7:45am HST**.

This year (2019) is the 75th anniversary of key World War II battles. Last December, WAA placed live balsam fir veterans' wreaths on all of the 9,387 headstones at Normandy American Cemetery in France in memory of D-Day (6Jun1944). This November 30th, WAA will place wreaths on all of the 5,073 veteran graves at American Cemetery in Luxembourg, in honor the 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge (16Dec1944). On December 1st, at the Netherlands America Cemetery and Memorial, 8,291 of the veterans resting there will be remembered with wreath placements.

The timing of this announcement recognizes the 75th anniversary of the landings of U.S. forces at Leyte, Philippines (20Oct1944). Leyte is where General Douglas MacArthur waded ashore, say-

ing "I have returned." The Battle of Leyte Gulf, which followed (23-26Oct1944), was the largest naval battle in history, involving over 200,000 combatants, resulting in the defeat of the Imperial Japanese Navy.

The WAA Ceremonial Wreaths that will be presented in Hawaii are made of live balsam fir and will be shipped from Maine. They are the same design as the Ceremonial Wreaths that will be placed at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery on National Wreaths Across America Day, which will be held this year on **Saturday, Dec. 14**, at more than 1,700 participating locations nationwide. Locally, a Wreaths Across America Day event will be held at the Punchbowl starting at 8 am HST, with wreath placements to follow. Please visit wreathscrossamerica.org/HINMCP for more information and/or sponsor a \$15 wreath to be placed during the event.

Volunteers from the WAA-Texas State House Ceremony are very appreciative of the support from the Hawaii Governor's office, the Veterans Administration-National Cemetery Administration and the National Park Service, with a special MAHALO to their fellow WAA volunteers in Hawaii.

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About Wreaths Across America

Wreaths Across America is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded to continue and expand the annual wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery begun by Maine businessman Morrill Worcester in 1992. The organization's mission – Remember, Honor, Teach – is carried out in part each year by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies in December at Arlington, as well as at nearly 1,700 participating locations in all 50 states and beyond.

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OVS is overhauling the Hawaii Veteran Newsletter. We need your help!

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By Jayme Nagamine Information Specialist

The Office of Veterans' Services (OVS) is starting a brand new Veteran Newsletter database. If you would like to receive the Hawaii Veteran Newsletter please email or mail the bottom portion of this page to let us know how you would like to receive your newsletter.

Mailing expenses constitute approximately half the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter. In an effort to continue providing you with the Hawaii Veterans Newsletter we are asking for your cooperation in accepting the newsletter electronically (by email) if at all possible.

We understand that some of you do not have direct access to a computer or email. If this is the case, our branch offices will carry hard copies of the newsletter that you can pick up for free. If you would like to continue receiving a hard copy of the newsletter, mail the bottom portion of this page to let us know how you would like to receive the newsletter. You can also email us at ovs@hawaii.gov

Your assistance in this new endeavor will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you very much for your continued participation.

Cut out and mail responses in a stamped envelope to:

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459 Patterson Road
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