

HAWAII VETERAN

Lawelawe i nā koa kahiko me ka ha'aheo: "Serving veterans with pride"

Vol. 1 No. 1

State of Hawaii Office of Veterans Services

Summer 1992

vet news

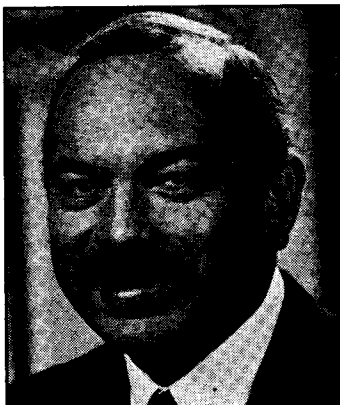
Korean-Vietnam Veterans Memorial Update

On July 7, 1992, House Bill 3658 became law without the Governor's signature. The new law revises the design criteria for the Korean-Vietnam Veterans memorial and requires selection of a new design within 90 days of enactment. On July 29, five members of the memorial commission resigned, delaying the selection process. Before the commission can continue its work, new members must be appointed. The commission will then have to work quickly to finalize their selection by October 4, 1992.

Hawaii's first VA hospital planned

A \$4.2 million contract has been awarded for construction of the state's first Department of Veterans Affairs hospital. The hospital, to be known as the Spark M. Matsunaga Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, will be located in Wing E of the Tripler Army Medical Center, Oahu. When completed in 1997, the center will include a 97-bed acute care facility, a 60-bed nursing home, an outpatient clinic and a regional benefits office.

Message from the Governor



Gov. John Waihee

Dear Hawaii Veteran,

In 1988, we shared a vision with leaders of veterans organizations and the State Legislature to raise the level of services available to you. Since that auspicious beginning, the establishment of the State Office of Veterans Services with counselors on four islands, the State Veterans Cemetery which was dedicated July 2, 1992, and our ongoing efforts to improve health services and other programs on the neighbor islands have been some of our more significant accomplishments.

Our work, however, is far from being completed. The need to keep you informed and to promote understanding among your various organizations remain top priorities as we continue to strive to build a memorial for the veterans of the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. Our ultimate goal is to have a memorial that is not only a fitting tribute to those who gave their lives for freedom, but is one in which we can all be proud. We are also continuing to work on the construction of veterans cemeteries for Lanai and West Hawaii, upgrading existing neighbor island cemeteries, and assisting neighbor island veterans organizations in building meeting halls.

The publication of this, our first edition of the Hawaii Veteran, represents our commitment to achieve these objectives. We hope to keep you and your families informed about State and Federal initiatives, entitlements and programs. We also want our quarterly newsletter to serve as a forum to improve communication within our veterans community.

We can never fully repay you for the sacrifices you and your fallen comrades have made to our country and state. As benefactors of your contributions, however, we ask for this opportunity to serve you and express our deep appreciation and thanks.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

JOHN WAIHEE

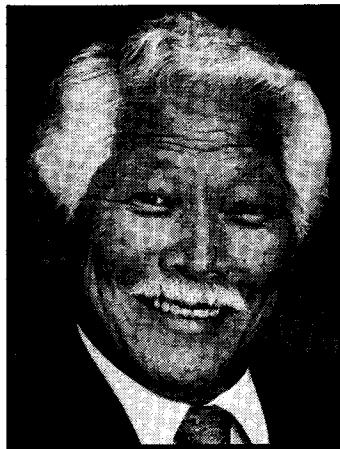
Office of Veterans Services

State of Hawaii Department of Defense

The State Office of Veterans Services (OVS) is the central point of contact in Hawaii government responsible for policies and programs relating to Hawaii veterans, their dependents and/or survivors. The office acts as a liaison between the Governor and veterans organizations and serves as an intermediary between the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) and veterans.

In addition to developing and managing veterans programs, the OVS serves as a clearinghouse for complaints regarding services for veterans and makes recommendations for developing and improving veterans services. Advocacy is a primary service of the Office of Veterans Services. OVS may take action on behalf of veterans, their families, dependents and survivors to secure appropriate rights, benefits and services. These include receiving, investigating and resolving disputes or complaints of any nature.

Established in 1988, OVS services are available to all eligible veterans, reservists, National Guard members, active duty military personnel and their dependents, including stepchildren. The office is located in the Grovesnor Center at 733 Bishop Street, Room 1270, and is open



Larry S. K. Lee
Director, Office of
Veterans Services

Monday through Friday, 7:45-4:30 p.m. Veterans are advised to park in the Aloha Tower parking lot on Nimitz Highway; OVS does not have validated parking.

Appointments are recommended, but walk-in service is also available. Home and hospital visits as well as group presentations may be scheduled.

Director

Lawrence S.K. Lee has served as the director of OVS since the office opened in 1988.

Lee retired from the Army as a lieutenant colonel with 20 years of distinguished service and is a Vietnam veteran. While in Vietnam, he served as the adjutant of the Army's largest supply depot at Long Binh. After retiring from the Army, Lee served as the information and referral coordinator in the city's Elderly Affairs Division, Office of Human Resources. In what he considers one of the most satisfying and enjoyable periods of his career, Lee assisted senior citizens in accessing the services they were entitled to.

Staff

The Office of Veterans Services is authorized 17 full-time state employees. The Honolulu office consists of the director, veterans services branch staff and administrative and office services personnel. A veterans services counselor and clerk typist are located on the islands of Hawaii, Kauai and Maui. The Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery operates under the auspices of OVS and is managed by a superintendent, an operations assistant, a secretary and two general laborers.

Clara Flower (left), administrative services assistant; Jennifer Aina, secretary; and Cathy Siu (seated), clerk-typist; administer the day-to-day operations of the Office of Veterans Services located at Grovesnor Center in downtown Honolulu.



Stephen M. Lum

State offers many veterans benefits

The following paragraphs highlight the many State benefits available to Hawaii veterans. For more information, call the Office of Veterans Services representative on your island.

*** Education --** Veterans who served "in-country" in Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia or the surrounding waters are eligible for tuition waivers at the University of Hawaii and its community colleges.

*** Employment and Re-employment --** The Employment Service Division of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations gives preference to veterans, service-related disabled veterans and their widow(er)s for civil service positions, training programs, job counseling and referral to civilian jobs.

*** Tax Exemptions --** Available on real property owned and occupied as a home by a totally disabled veteran or their widow(er) and on passenger cars owned by a totally disabled veteran and subsidized by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

*** Special Housing --** The State of Hawaii will pay up to \$5,000 to each qualified totally disabled veteran for the purpose of purchasing or remodeling a home for improved handicapped accessibility.

*** Vital Statistics --** Certified copies of vital statistics forms required for veterans claims are provided free of charge.

*** Burial --** Qualified veterans (including American war allies) and their dependents are eligible for burial in the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery on Oahu and veterans cemeteries on Hawaii, Kauai, Maui and Molokai.

*** License Plates --** Veterans may apply for specialty license plates from the Department of Motor Vehicles by completing an application and submitting one of the following: DD Form 214; official military orders; verification letter from the Department of Veterans Administration; or verification letter from the Office of Veterans Services.



Stephen M. Lum

Veterans may now apply for specialty license plates from the Department of Motor Vehicles. Alfred Los Banos (above), along with Paul Takaguchi, led the effort for the veterans license plates.

New information on veterans' benefits

DVA offers airfare for treatment at Tripler

Non-service connected disabled veterans from the neighbor islands who elect to receive treatment at Tripler Army Medical Center can now have some of their airfare paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA). Veterans must pay their own airfare for the first visit. Airfare for subsequent visits for the same condition will be paid by the DVA. Travel benefits can be ar-

ranged through island primary care clinics.

Legion offers special issue for Gulf vets

"The American Legion Handbook of Veterans Benefits" appeared in the May 1992 issue of *Legion Magazine*. The handbook provides information and advice on basic veterans benefits and unusual medical conditions found among military personnel who served in the Per-

sian Gulf. To obtain a free copy of the handbook, write to: The American Legion National Headquarters, Attn: Veterans Handbook Requests, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1055.

Veterans law

The 1988 Veterans' Judicial Review Act and the creation of the U.S. Court of Veterans Appeals offers many veterans and dependents a better chance of

receiving hearings and opening previously denied claims. Veterans Benefits Manual: An Advocate's Guide to Representing Veterans and Their Dependents provides a comprehensive discussion of veterans law and the Court of Veterans Appeals.

For more information, write or call the National Veterans Legal Services Project at 2001 S Street NW, Suite 610, Washington D.C., 20009-1125, (202) 265-8305.

Veterans cemetery dedicated

By Michelle Yu

An atmosphere of reflection and prayer pervaded the mid-morning ceremony dedicating the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery (HSVC) in Kaneohe, July 2. Highlighting the ceremony was Gov. John Waihee's keynote address and his presentation of a wreath to honor all Hawaii veterans. The governor's presentation was followed by military honors, including a 21-gun salute, the playing of echo taps, and a missing-man flyover by Hawaii National Guard F-15 jet fighters.

The ceremony began with an opening *oli* or chant by Wendell P. K. Silva, executive director of the State Foundation of the Culture and the Arts. Silva was followed by Rev. William Kaina, Kawaiahao Church pastor, who delivered the invocation. Entertainer Danny Kaleikini followed Kaina with a touching rendition of the Queen's Prayer. In addition to Kaina, other members of the religious community present were Bishop Thom Nakanishi of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii and retired Army colonel Monsignor Roy V. Peters. Peters made the more than 300 attendees laugh when he ended his prayer with an enthusiastic "Airborne!"

Following the presentation of colors by a joint service color guard, a trio of World War I veterans led the crowd in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Raising the American flag for the first time in the cemetery's impressive flag plaza were Medal of Honor recipients Allan Kellogg and

Hershie Miyamura. A Vietnam veteran, Kellogg retired from the Marine Corps as a sergeant major and lives on Oahu; Miyamura, now a New Mexico resident, rose to the rank of staff sergeant during World War II and was in Honolulu for a reunion of the Army Reserve's 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry.

The Hawaii National Guard's Royal Guard raised the Hawaii state flag in front of the administration building as Kaleikini sang Hawai'i Pono'i. Members of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard raised their respective service flags as the Fleet Marine Force Pacific band played a medley of service songs.

Construction of the cemetery began in September 1989 and phases 2 and 3 will be finished by July of next year. As of July 2, three-hundred thirteen veterans had been interred in the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery.



Maj. Wayne N. Yoshioka

A joint service color guard renders honors to the American flag during the playing of the national anthem.



Maj. Wayne N. Yoshioka

Veterans from past wars and conflicts attended the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery dedication ceremony.



Maj. Wayne N. Yoshioka

World War I veterans lead the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance.

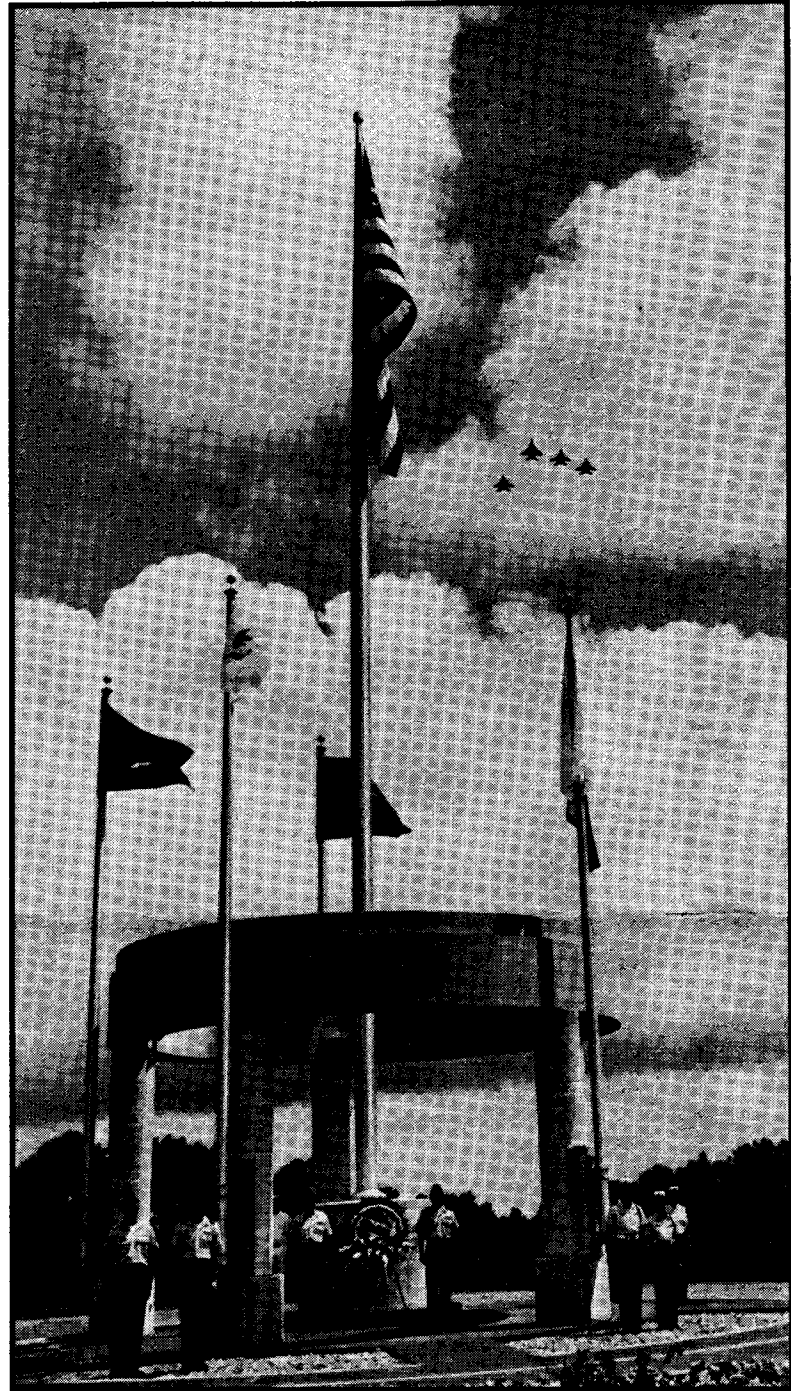


Maj. Wayne N. Yoshioka

Gov. John Waihee pauses in silent reflection after placing a wreath at the flag plaza.



Maj. Wayne N. Yoshioka



Michelle Yu

Hawaii Air National Guard F-15 Eagle jet fighters fly the missing-man formation over the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery during dedication ceremonies, July 2.

(Left) A Marine Corps trumpet player plays *Taps* as the rifle squad from Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station awaits the signal for the 21-gun salute.

Advisory Board on Veterans Services

The Advisory Board on Veterans Services (ABVS) advises the OVS director on matters concerning the identification of issues and alternative approaches to solutions, development of position statements and papers, advocacy and legislative actions, and program development and operations.

Judith (Joy) Worobe Chairperson

Worobe served in the Air Force and is the only female to have held the office of commander of the Department of Hawaii for the Disabled American Veterans.



Worobe

She and her husband have been active supporters of the DAV for the past 17 years and also belong to the American Legion.

A Red Cross nurse for two decades, Worobe is now employed by the Waianae Comprehensive Health Center

and Kaiser Permanente Medical Care Program.

John Iwamoto Vice Chair

Iwamoto enlisted in the Army during the Korean War and received the Silver Star for Gallantry. He is a life member of the Disabled American Veterans and a former senior vice commander of the Department



Iwamoto

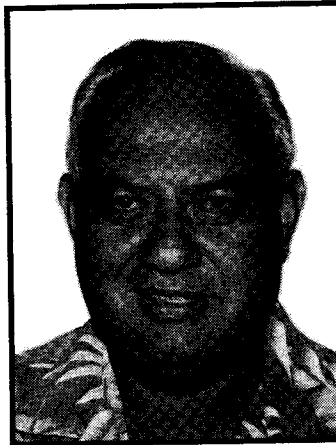
of Hawaii. His other veterans affiliations include the Kauai Veterans Council and Military Order of the Purple Heart.

Iwamoto is a retired electrical inspector and a long-time supporter of the Boy Scouts.

Louis Kaouiwi

A charter member of the 100th Battalion, Kaouiwi served for 24 years with the Army Reserve. He is a

former junior vice commander of the Department of Hawaii. In addition to the



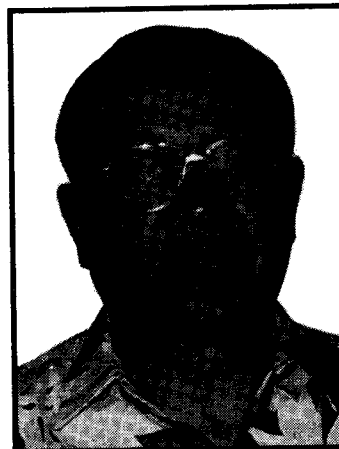
Kaouiwi

DAV, Kaouiwi belongs to the American Legion and Big Island Veterans Association.

Kaouiwi is presently employed as a lieutenant at the Kalani Correctional Facility in Hilo.

Alfred Los Banos

Los Banos served in World War II and the Ko-



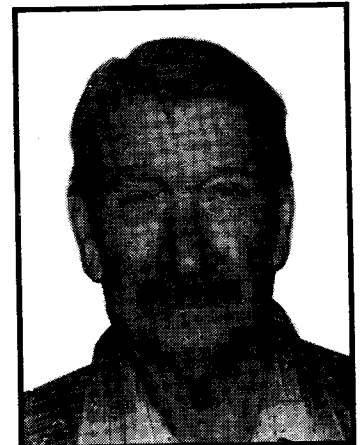
Los Banos

rean Conflict while in the Army. He is the state commander for the Military Order of the Purple Heart and is a member of the American Legion and Disabled American Veterans.

A dedicated supporter of veterans rights, Los Banos is well-known in veterans circles and was instrumental in obtaining special license plates for veterans.

Walter J. Hayes

Hayes served as an enlisted soldier during World War II and is a former prisoner of war. A member of



Hayes

the Maui Veterans Council, he serves as an advisor to the island's Viet Nam Veterans Association and is a life member of the Disabled American Veterans.

Hayes retired as a supervisor from Ford Motor Company and is an active member of his church.

Veterans meetings open to public

The public is invited to attend meetings of the Advisory Board on Veterans Services and the State Commission on Memorials for Veterans of the Korean and Vietnam Conflicts.

Advisory board meetings are held

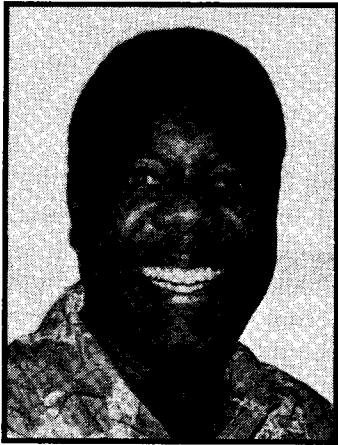
on the first Friday of each month in the State Department of Defense Conference Room at 3949 Diamond Head Road in Honolulu. Visitor parking is available on the makai (ocean) side of the building.

Meetings of the memorials commission are scheduled as needed and interested persons are asked to call OVS at 587-3000 for updates. Notices are posted at the Lieutenant Governor's office.

Veterans Services Counselors

Carswell (Caz) J. Ross Jr. *Veterans Services Coordinator*

A former Air Force communications specialist, Ross supervises OVS counselors statewide and prepares legal testimony in support of veterans issues. He has done volunteer work with the Veterans Center, Honolulu Community Housing Resource Board and Hawaii Services on Deafness. He is also a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

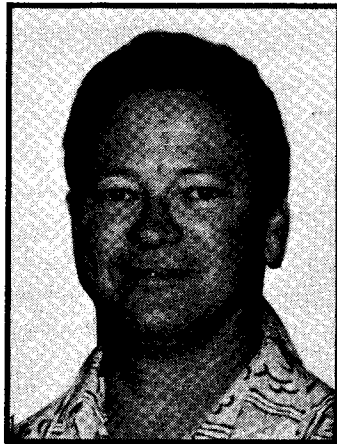


Ross

Ross earned a masters degree in counseling and guidance from the University of Northern Colorado and is the drug and alcohol noncommissioned officer for the Hawaii Air National Guard.

John D. Utley *Veterans Services Counselor for Oahu*

Utley served 23 years in the Army, including two tours in Vietnam. He is the OVS' point of contact for the estimated 87,000 veterans living in the city and county of Honolulu. His veterans affiliations include the Soci-



Utley

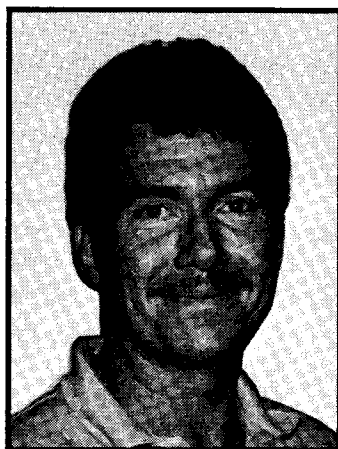
ety of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, Military Order of the Purple Heart and Disabled American Veterans.

Utley has a bachelors degree in psychology and business administration and is taking graduate courses in counseling psychology at Chaminade University.

Utley can be reached at:
733 Bishop St., Ste 1270
Honolulu, HI 96813
Tel. 587-3007

William F. Staton *Veterans Services Counselor for Maui, Molokai and Lanai*

A Vietnam veteran, Staton worked as a drug and



Staton

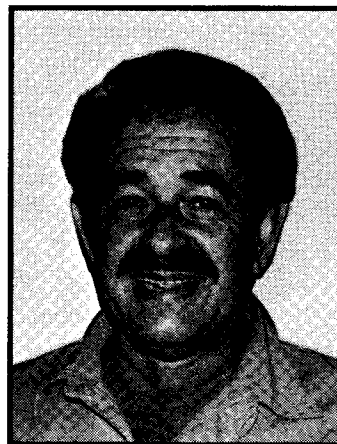
crisis intervention counselor and residence and counseling manager on the mainland before joining the Office of Veterans Services. He belongs to the Vietnam Veterans of Maui County, Disabled American Veterans and Veterans of Foreign Wars, and does volunteer work for Mediation Services of Maui and Alternatives to Violence.

Staton received a bachelors degree in counseling and education from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Staton can be reached at:
333 Dairy Rd., Rm. 106
Kahului, HI 96732
Tel. 243-5590

Manuel G. Corregedore Jr. *Veterans Services Counselor for Kauai*

Corregedore is a Vietnam veteran and retired from the Army as a command ser-



Corregedore

geant major. He is a former commander of the Disabled American Veterans and also belongs to the Kauai Vietnam Veterans Association, Kauai Veterans Club, Vet-

erans of Foreign Wars and American Legion.

Corregedore has studied public and business administration at West Oahu College.

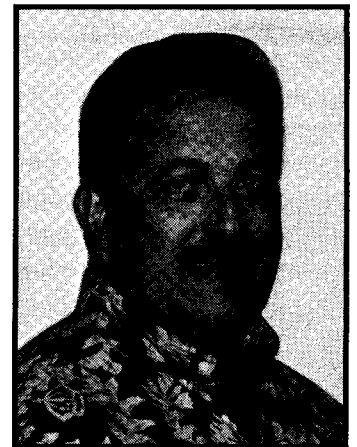
Corregedore can be reached at:

3122 Kuhio Hwy., A-15
Lihue, HI 96766
Tel. 241-3348

Patrick A. Pavao

Veterans Services Counselor for the Big Island

A veterans counselor for 22 years, Pavao served in Vietnam with the 29th Infantry Brigade and 101st Airborne Division. He is a



Pavao

member of the Big Island Veterans Association and Hawaii County Veterans Advisory Committee.

Pavao has a bachelor's degree in personnel and industrial relations from St. Martin's College, Wash.

Pavao can be reached at:
101 Aupuni St., Rm. 212
Hilo, HI 96720
Tel. 933-4586

3rd Annual "Old Soldiers Reunion" September 18-19, 1992

Friday, Sept. 18

Golf tournament - Leilehua Golf Course, 7:00 a.m.

\$12 for USASCH Golf Association members, \$20 - 22 for non-members

Bowling tournament - Fort Shafter Bowling Lanes, 10:00 a.m.

\$1 per game, 3 games

Fellowship Night - Oceanfront Club, Waianae Army Recreation Center, 6:30 p.m.

Buffet dinner featuring roast pig, baked ham and roast chicken.

No-host cocktails. \$12 per person.

Saturday, Sept. 19

Hawaiian Luau - Waianae Army Recreation Center grounds, noon-4 p.m.

Choice of Hawaiian plate or charbroiled steak menu. \$20 for adults; \$10 for children ages 6 to 10. Beer, wine and punch included. Entertainment provided.

For more information, write to: Old Soldiers Reunion, P.O. Box 476, Aiea, Hawaii 96701, or call/fax (808)488-7126.

Future issues of the Hawaii Veteran will contain a calendar of upcoming events for veterans and veteran organizations. If you want to list an event, please forward the information to the State Department of Defense Public Affairs Office at 734-8527 (FAX), or call 732-1711.



V HAWAII VETERAN

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