



# HAWAII VETERAN

## STATE OF HAWAII OFFICE OF VETERANS' SERVICES

### THE WALL THAT HEALS O'AHU 2026: VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL REPLICA COMING TO UH WEST O'AHU

KAPOLEI, HI – O'ahu will host The Wall That Heals (TWTH), a traveling three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., along with its mobile Education Center. The exhibit is scheduled for display at the University of Hawai'i–West O'ahu in Kapolei.

#### Schedule of Events

Wednesday Jan. 14, 2026

10:00 - 11:00 am - Opening Ceremony

5:50 pm - Taps

Thursday Jan. 15, 2026

5:00 – 6:00 pm - Welcome Home Ceremony

Friday Jan. 16, 2026

5:50 pm - Taps

Saturday Jan. 17, 2026

6:30 – 7:30 pm - Light the Night Event

Sunday Jan. 18, 2026

5:49 pm - Taps

Monday Jan. 19, 2026

1:30 PM - 2:00 pm – Closing Ceremony



*Overhead night view of the TWTH exhibit in Maui last January.  
(Photo by Karen Mahoe)*

The Wall is open 24 hours a day from 2 pm on Tuesday until 2 pm on Sunday.

This will mark the first time the renowned Memorial replica is exhibited on O'ahu, offering residents a unique opportunity to honor Vietnam veterans and reflect on the legacy of the war, right here at home. The Memorial will be open to the public 24 hours a day, free of charge, during its O'ahu appearance.

The traveling exhibit honors the more than three million Americans

who served in the U.S. Armed Forces during the Vietnam War, and it bears the names of the 58,281 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam. Hawai'i has 278 of its sons and daughters memorialized on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in D.C., representing local service members who never returned. By bringing this exhibition O'ahu, organizers hope to provide veterans, families, students, and community members who may not be able to visit the Washington, D.C. memorial a meaningful chance to experience its healing impact.



# THE WALL THAT HEALS COMING TO O‘AHU IN 2026

The O‘ahu visit of TWTH in 2026 is being organized by the TWTH O‘ahu Committee (under the nonprofit Friends of Kailua Elks Lodge) in partnership with UH West O‘ahu and PASHA Hawaii, with support from the City and County of Honolulu and the State of Hawai‘i. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund – the organization that built the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. and manages TWTH – selected O‘ahu as a host site on its 2026 national tour, after a local application highlighted UH West O‘ahu’s Great Lawn as an ideal location. UH West O‘ahu will serve as the host venue, and the campus is working closely with organizers to coordinate logistics, security, and volunteer support. Community volunteers (including veterans’ groups, students, and civic organizations) will be enlisted to assist with the exhibit setup, visitor support, and around-the-clock staffing, ensuring that the memorial’s solemn atmosphere is maintained throughout its stay.

Legislators and the public from across Hawai‘i are invited to attend the opening ceremony and other events during the week-long exhibit, alongside veterans and Gold Star families. Organizers aim to make the O‘ahu stop of TWTH one of the largest veteran commemorative events in the state. “By bringing TWTH to O‘ahu, we hope to shine a spotlight on UH West O‘ahu and our entire West O‘ahu community, and to show our gratitude to those who served,” said Eddie Freeman, co-chair of the TWTH O‘ahu 2026 Committee, in a statement. “This is a true partnership between the University, local veterans’ and com-

munity organizations, as well our government leaders to honor our Vietnam veterans and educate the public.” Co-Chair Sue Bauer added, “Rarely do you find a community in Hawai‘i that is untouched by the Vietnam war. We have this incredible opportunity to learn, remember and heal together, we want no one left behind.”

TWTH exhibit includes a 375-foot-long-replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, erected in a chevron shape like the original, and a mobile Education Center that displays photos of local fallen service members and veterans, along with historical displays. Since its debut in 1996, TWTH has visited nearly 800 communities, spreading the memorial’s healing legacy to towns and cities far from Washington, D.C. The upcoming O‘ahu exhibition will continue

that mission. Visitors will be able to do name rubbings of inscriptions on the Wall, view displays of Hawai‘i veterans’ photos, and receive support from volunteers onsite. Similar to its neighbor island stops, the O‘ahu exhibit is expected to be escorted in by a motorcade of veterans and first responders, and it will be open for viewing day and night, allowing people to visit at any hour for quiet reflection and remembrance.

Schools, community groups, and veterans’ organizations will be especially encouraged to visit. For more information or to get involved with TWTH O‘ahu 2026 event, interested parties can contact the TWTH O‘ahu organizing committee at [twthoahu2026@gmail.com](mailto:twthoahu2026@gmail.com) or Senator Mike Gabbard’s office at 808-586-6830 or visit the website [www.thewallthathealsoahu2026.org](http://www.thewallthathealsoahu2026.org)



*A moth came to visit the TWTH exhibit on Maui.  
(Photo by Karen Mahoe)*



# THE WALL THAT HEALS 2026: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Honolulu, Hawai'i  
— Organizers for The Wall That Heals (TWTH) is putting a call out for an army of 400 volunteers to assist with the week long presentation of TWTH at the University of Hawai'i West O'ahu Great Lawn from January 14 (3pm) – January 19 (2pm).

TWTH is free to the public, open 24 hours a day, with setup beginning on January 13. Consist-

ing of 140 panels standing 3.5 feet tall at each end and rising 7.5 feet in the center, the chevron-shaped replica is constructed of Avonite, a synthetic granite. As on The Wall in Washington, the names are listed

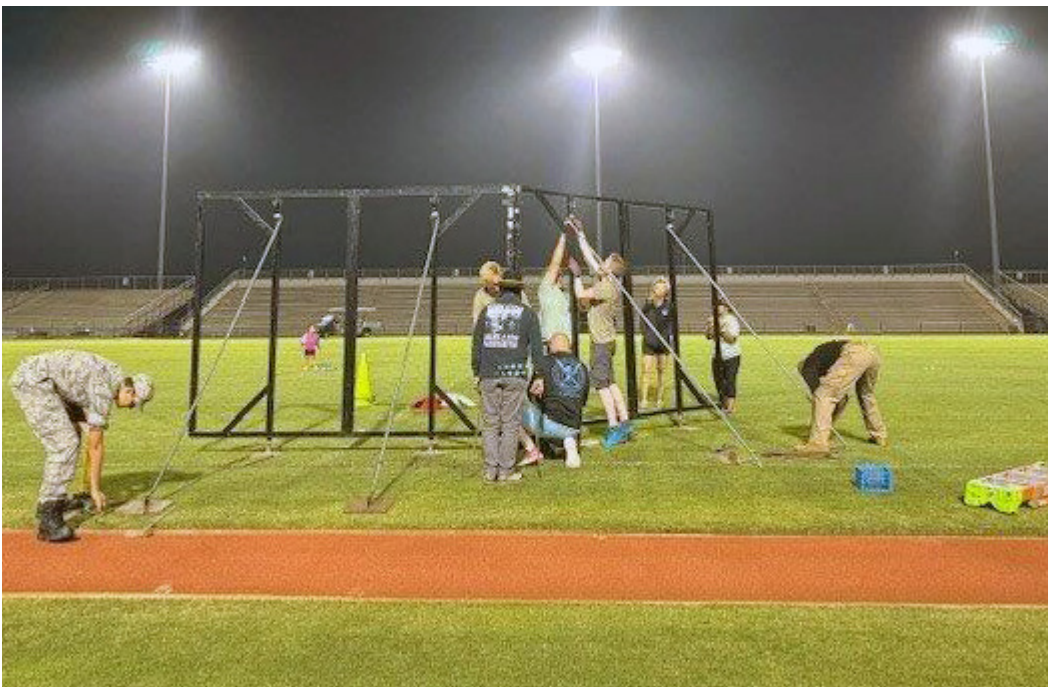
by day of casualty, beginning with the first casualties engraved at the center/apex. The names start on the East Wall (right side of apex) working its way to the end of that wing. It then picks up on the far end of the

West Wall (left side of apex), continuing to the center of the apex, representing the beginning and end of the conflict at the center. "Volunteers are needed to assist visitors in finding names and obtaining a name rubbing of their loved one", says co-chair Sue Bauer. "Other support will be needed with daily ceremonies and helping with tours at the 53 ft. mobile Education Center that shares the chronological history of the Vietnam war."

For volunteer opportunities, visit [www.TheWallThatHealsOahu2026.org](http://www.TheWallThatHealsOahu2026.org) or contact organizers at [twthoahu2026@gmail.com](mailto:twthoahu2026@gmail.com).



*Volunteers are unloading the trailer and cleaning the windows for the TWTH exhibit.*



*Volunteers are setting up the frames for the wall of TWTH exhibit.  
(Photos by Karen Mahoe)*

# Veterans Engagement Session on the 3rd HI State Veterans Home Planned for Maui

Key State of Hawai'i Department of Defense leadership will be at the Veterans Engagement Session on the 3rd Hawaii State Veterans Home. The meeting will update Maui County Veterans, their families and Gold Star parents on the 3rd Hawai'i State Veterans Home Maui Project. Taking place on Jan. 14th, 2026 at 4:30pm the meeting will be held at the PFC Anthony T. Kaho'ohanohano Armory, Hawai'i Army National Guard, Pulehunui District, 2701 Maui Veterans Highway, Kihei.

## New Employees at OVS

### TRIPLER O'AHU LOCATION



#### STATE OF HAWAI'I OFFICE OF VETERANS' SERVICES

**459 Patterson Road  
E-Wing, Room 1-A103  
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**Governor Josh Green  
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John P. Alamodin  
*OVS Director***

**Jayme Nagamine  
*Editor***



**RICHARD  
BARLETT**  
Veterans Services  
Counselor

Richard Barlett is a Veterans Service Counselor with OVS. He guides clients through the VA claims process, reviews records, and explains complex procedures to help ensure each case is as strong as possible. Before joining OVS, Barlett served as a VFW Accredited Claims Consultant at Tripler. Raised in a Navy family, Barlett's respect for military service and sacrifice runs deep. "It's the best feeling in the world when you help someone get their VA claims in order," said Barlett.



**TAU MOE**  
Veterans Services  
Counselor

Tau Moe is a Veterans Service Counselor with OVS. He is excited to be working with this organization and everyone that is a part of it. Previously Moe worked with Veterans at U.S.VETS for 3 years before coming to OVS. He is looking forward to continue using his experience working with and serving Veterans in this new role. Before working at U.S.VETS, Moe was a military spouse and was stationed at Edwards AFB, Calif. and Shaw AFB, S.C.