



HAWAII VETERAN

STATE OF HAWAII OFFICE OF VETERANS' SERVICES

OVS Returns to Lānaʻi for Veteran Outreach

By Darren Eugenio
Maui OVS Supervisor

On June 19, 2026, the State of Hawaiʻi Office of Veterans' Services (OVS) on Maui conducted its first outreach visit to Lānaʻi in five years. This is an important milestone in re-establishing a connection with the veteran community and expanding access to services for Lānaʻi veterans and their families.

The event was held at the Lānaʻi Senior Center. To expand the range of services available to veterans,



Lānaʻi veterans advocate Butch Gima, left, Maui County Veterans Council President Chelsea Fernandez, OVS Advisory Board Member Aris Banaag and Maui OVS Supervisor Darren Eugenio discussing the needs of Lānaʻi veterans.

(Photos by Darren Eugenio)



Karen Mahoe of OVS with U.S. Air Force veteran Bradford Oshiro

Chelsea Fernandez, President of the Maui County Veterans Council; Zach Drum, counselor of the Maui Vet Center; and Aris Banaag of the OVS Advisory Board Member, were invited to participate in this outreach. Their involvement complemented OVS's benefits and claim assistance by providing veterans and their families with information on housing resources, counseling services, bereavement support and other community programs,

helping address a broader range of veteran needs.

"The energy and motivation from everyone involved was felt early in the planning process," said Maui OVS Supervisor, Darren Eugenio. "We were joined by some great partners who knew that the outreach and education would be valued. This trip to Lānaʻi was important and the mission to assist Lānaʻi veterans directly was the primary objective."

OVS Returns to Lāna‘i

One of the most valuable aspects of the visit was the opportunity to hear directly from 10 Lāna‘i veterans about their experiences, concerns and needs. These conversations helped strengthen relationships and reinforced OVS’s commitment to ensuring that veterans feel heard and supported. The outreach team also met with local veteran advocates, Pat Reilly and Butch Gima whose knowledge of the community and dedication to serving fellow veterans shows collaboration is important in reaching and assisting those in need.

A visit to the Lāna‘i Veterans Cemetery provided an opportunity to discuss ways to enhance the experience for veterans and their families. The cemetery’s grounds were well maintained, and community members shared ideas for future improvements, including the installation of benches and expanding the use of the facility for events honoring our veterans.

“The Maui staff plan on going back



Cheryl Guzikowski of OVS sharing information on veterans’ services with U.S. Navy veteran Neizen Pascual.

to Lāna‘i in September of this year,” said OVS Director John Alamodin. “The outreach team was encouraged by the strong support shown by Lāna‘i veterans, local organizations and community advocates.”

Through continued collaboration, OVS hopes to expand access to resources and provide veterans with a broader range of services and support. We would like to recognize

OVS staff members Karen Mahoe and Cheryl Guzikowski for their dedication and outstanding work throughout the visit. Their professionalism, attention to detail and commitment to serving veterans played a key role in the success of the Lāna‘i outreach program.



The visit to the Lāna‘i Veterans Cemetery led to a discussion with community members on ideas for future improvements, such as the installation of benches or expanding the use of the facility for events honoring our veterans.

(Photos by Darren Eugenio)



Zack Drum from the Maui Vet Center traveled to Lāna‘i to offer free, confidential counseling to help veterans, service members, and their families navigate life after military service.

City & County of Honolulu introduces a new exemption for veterans 65 and older

Beginning on July 1, 2026, veterans of the U.S. armed forces 65 and older who were not dishonorably discharged may receive an exemption to the \$20 City and County of Honolulu motor vehicle registration fee for one non-commercial vehicle annually.

This exemption, in appreciation for the veteran's service to the nation and state, was passed by the City Council in October and signed by Mayor Blangiardi in November, 2025.

This exemption is for the **\$20 city and county registration fee only**,

and does not apply to other city and state taxes and fees that make up the annual registration charges.

To obtain this exemption, the applicant must:

- Schedule an AlohaQ appointment and appear in person at a satellite city hall
- Complete the Veteran 65+ Motor Vehicle County Fee Registration Exemption Form (CS-L(MVR)50B)
- Provide Proof of Veteran Status (Original or certified copy of a DD-214, VA Benefits Summary Letter, Military Retiree ID (DD Form 2),

NGB-22, Honorable Discharge Certificate, or Veteran-designated Hawai'i Driver License)

- Proof of Age (Hawai'i Driver License, Passport or other government-issued ID)
- Proof of Vehicle Ownership (Current Hawai'i Registration, Out-of-State Registration, Title (newly purchased vehicle))
- Exemption remains with vehicle until removed by owner

To learn more go to <https://www.honolulu.gov/csd/veterans/>

Korean and Vietnam War Memorials Anniversary



On July 24, 2026, The Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Stephen Logan and OVS Director John Alamodin attended the Korean and Vietnam War Memorials Anniversary which was celebrated at the State Capitol.



The Hawai'i National Guard's 111th Army Band provided the musical performance for the Anniversary. (Photos by Hector H. Venegas)



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