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Big Island plans sendoff for Guard

HILO — The Big Island will give an aloha sendoff Monday to National Guard and Reserve units called to active duty.

The bulk of the Guardsmen, the second battalion of the 299th Infantry, and the Reserve unit, of the 100th Battalion, will leave in an aerial shuttle Tuesday.

But the ceremony, at 4 p.m. Monday near the National Guard Hangar at the airport, will honor all departing men.

Music will be provided by the county band.

Speakers will include County Chairman Shunichi Kimura, a representative of Gov. John A. Burns, Col. Lester Beihler, commander of the reserve unit, and Lt. Col. Fred Koehnen, guard battalion commander.

Arthur Herbst, president of the Hawaii Island Chamber of Commerce, will be master of ceremonies, and the Rev. Kay Tagami and Fr. Edward Fleming will give the invocation and benediction.

Leis, to be supplied by schools in the area, will be presented by Hawaii Visitors Bureau greeters.