

# Emotion-Charged Scene As 300 Maui Men Leave

KAHULUI — Nearly 2,000 men, women and children jammed the Maui Airport Terminal here yesterday morning as 300 men of the 1st Battalion, 299th Infantry, Hawaii Army National Guard, left their families and home for active Federal service.

It was an emotionally-charged scene. Scarcely a woman taking leave of a husband or son was unmarked by the sorrow of parting or the uncertainty of the months ahead for herself or the man who was leaving.

The families began gathering at the terminal before 8:30 a.m. The two giant Globemaster transport planes did not load and depart for Hickam until nearly 11 a.m.

The terminal was a swirl-

ing kaleidoscope of color. Every man was decked with flower leis. The Baldwin High School Band in bright blue uniforms played as the men boarded the planes.

Earlier there was musical entertainment and speeches from a platform rigged inside the terminal. Most of it went unnoticed in the hubbub of the crowd.

Airport parking facilities were overwhelmed and cars were parked as far as a half-mile from the terminal building, along the airport approach road.

Among the departing Guardsmen was Dallas Kalepa, who at 57 was probably the oldest man going into active service. Kalepa is First Sergeant of Company C, 1st Battalion, and has 36 years of Guard service.

At least one man who left here yesterday with the Battalion had made an extraordinary effort to be with it. He is Homer Hungerford, 41, now staff sergeant with Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

Hungerford, a businessman associated with Pioneer Inn and W & D W Construction in Lahaina, dyed his graying hair black and managed to talk his way back into active service.

A World War II sergeant and a first lieutenant of paratroopers in the Korean War, Hungerford said he was "going again" "because there's a war on."

Probably the best-known in the community among the departing soldiers was Capt. Shigeto (Mustard) Murayama, Maui County Treasurer.

Young and old, single and married, when the time came they marched aboard the plane and back into military life.

As they filed up the plane ramps one man may have betrayed the feelings felt by many. Stooping to lift his bag, one lei around his neck, he had a second lei of bright red flowers in his hand.

He hesitated for a moment, as if to drape the second lei around his neck, or possibly to try to carry it in his hand with the bag. With a sudden, angrily sorrowful gesture, he threw the lei over his shoulder into the crowd. Without turning to look back, he lifted his bag and climbed the ramp into the plane.

## Big Island Says Aloha, Mahalo

HILO — The Big Island bid farewell to more than 800 reservists and National Guardsmen yesterday afternoon in ceremonies at General Lyman Field here.

Flights carrying the military men to Oahu began to leave from the airport shortly after the ceremonies ended.

Leis, the soft sobs of wives and the misty eyes of children were all part of the farewell.

There were no pickets or anti-war demonstrators in evidence, although more than 1,000 persons attended the ceremonies.

"We hope we can have another ceremony in the near future welcoming you back," County Chairman Shunichi Kimura told the Guardsmen and reservists.

"You have our deep appreciation as you leave us and leave for us."

Abraham Piianaia, who represented the Governor at the ceremonies, told the crowd, "We should be thankful that we have men to stand up and be counted."

Lt. Col. Fred Koehnea, who commands the 29th Battalion, comprised mostly of Big Island elements, said, "Every man in this unit recognizes that he is answering a call for which he volunteered."

Col. Lester Biehler of the U.S. Army Hawaii welcomed the Big Island unit into the ranks of the Regular Army.