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Letter Causes N-Guard To Change Flower Drop

A letter from "A Hawaiian Mother" from Hilo caused the Hawaii National Guard to change plans to airdrop plumeria blossoms at the Aloha ceremony for the 29th Brigade in Honolulu Monday.

Instead, vanda orchids were dropped.

The Hilo mother wrote:

"For goodness sakes! Whose idea was it to drop plumeria blossoms over the heads of our guardsmen and reservists? That kind of display was appropriate tribute to the two well-known Hawaiians who died — Kui Lee and Duke Kahanamoku. Let's reserve that expression of aloha and

farewell for the dead only! I am sure there are other Hawaiians who share my sentiments."

Capt. Robert R. Bean, National Guard public relations officer in Honolulu, commented: "We always try to adhere to Hawaiian customs as best as we can."

He said Big Islanders donated more than 50,000 vanda blooms for the ceremony, which he described as a big success.

In a postscript the Hilo mother said she was not disclosing her identity "because it might embarrass my sons who will be mustering in . . ."