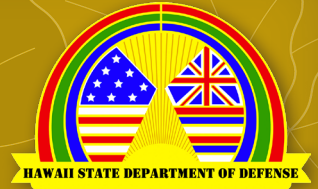


# pūpūkahi

*pūpūkahi: "harmoniously united"*



Vol. 55, No. 4  
October 1, 2025

## State responds to tsunami warning



On July 29, a tsunami warning was in effect after a magnitude 8.0 earthquake occurred off the coast of Kamchatka, Russia. The Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency's Emergency Operations Center was fully activated and the Joint Information Center was assembled inside Diamond Head Crater as Gov. Josh Green, Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Stephen Logan and Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency Administrator James Barros oversaw the preparation and response to the possible incoming tsunami. They coordinated with federal, state, county and military partners to plan how to keep Hawai'i safe.

— Photos by retired Master Sgt. Andrew Jackson



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## *Volunteers finish planting over 200 trees at Keaukaha Military Reservation on Big Island*



On Aug. 19, 11 community members joined Hawai'i Army National Guard and Liko Nā Pilina staff to outplant trees at the Keaukaha Military Reservation. Out-planting was finished up by a group of 12 volunteers from the Lanakila Learning Center on Aug. 29. Between the two groups, 232 trees were planted of 15 different species! Volunteers helped finish off what has been over a year-long effort to plant more desirable plants, both native and non-invasive introduced plants, along the roadside at KMR. Following planting, volunteers received a tour of the Liko Nā Pilina restoration plots and learned how to apply nematodes to tree infected with Queensland Longhorn Beetle larvae to kill the larvae and save the tree.

— Photos by Emma  
Stierhoff, University  
of Hawai'i at Hilo



# HFACS training strengthens safety culture



Hawai'i Army National Guard and South Dakota Army National Guard participants gathered with Brig. Gen. Tyson Tahara and instructor Mr. Thomas Clemente following Human Factors Accident Classification System (HFACS) training at the 298th Regional Training Institute on Sept. 7. Below, Clemente spoke to safety officers, commanders and professionals during the session. *(Hawai'i Army National Guard photos)*

## By Chief Warrant Officer 5 John Yim

*Hawai'i Army National Guard*

▶ The Hawai'i Army National Guard (HIARNG) Safety and Occupational Health (SOH) Office hosted a two-day Human Factors Accident Classification System (HFACS) training at the 298th Regional Training Institute on Sept. 6 and 7. The event was led by Chief Warrant Officer 3 Sun Min Chun-Dayondon, HIARNG Safety Specialist, and instructed by Mr. Thomas Clemente, a nationally-recognized expert in accident investigation and human factors.

HFACS is a proven framework used across the Department of Defense and aviation industry to identify underlying human errors that contribute to mishaps. By categorizing factors such as organizational influences, unsafe supervision, preconditions for unsafe acts and the unsafe acts themselves, HFACS helps leaders see beyond the immediate cause of an incident and address systemic issues.

The training brought together a diverse audience of safety



officers, commanders and safety professionals from both the HIARNG and the South Dakota Army National Guard. In addition, HIARNG Cmdr. Brig. Gen. Tyson Tahara addressed the class, emphasizing the critical role of safety leadership and the importance of applying HFACS principles to prevent accidents before they occur.

“HFACS equips our safety professionals and commanders with a structured way to analyze accidents, identify trends, and develop targeted inter-

ventions,” said Chief Warrant Officer 5 John Yim, HIARNG Safety Manager. “This training strengthens our ability to protect Soldiers, preserve readiness, and support mission success.”

Throughout the weekend, participants engaged in classroom instruction, case study analysis and group discussions. The collaborative setting allowed officers from Hawai'i and South Dakota to share lessons learned and best practices, building stronger inter-state partnerships.

Tahara praised the initiative, noting, “Investing in human factors training is investing in our Soldiers. HFACS gives us the tools to better understand risk, improve decision-making, and reduce preventable losses.”

The course concluded with a renewed commitment from attendees to apply HFACS principles within their commands, further embedding a proactive safety culture in the HIARNG.

Kūpono I ka Maluhia —  
Excellence in Safety.



# Commander's conference highlights HING's mission



**By retired Master Sgt. Andrew Jackson**  
*State of Hawai'i Department of Defense Public Affairs*  
**Col. Regina Komine**  
*Chief of Staff, Joint Staff, Hawai'i National Guard*

► The Hawai'i National Guard (HING) recently hosted a commanders conference, bringing together senior Hawai'i Army and Air National Guard commanders and their Senior Enlisted Leaders on July 25-26 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawai'i. The conference, hosted by the Adjutant General State of Hawaii, Maj. Gen. Stephen Logan, highlighted HING's dual role as an "elite warfighting force" while also being "trusted, ready and responsive" for state missions.

Setting the strategic tone, Hawai'i Lt. Gov. Sylvia Luke delivered



Above, Hawai'i National Guard leaders and service members posed for a photo at the Joint Commanders Conference in July at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. At left, Maj. Gen. Stephen Logan, Hawai'i Adjutant General, left, and Maj. Gen. Joseph Harris, Hawai'i Air National Guard Commander, at the Joint Commander's Conference in July at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. (Photos by retired Master Sgt. Andrew Jackson)





an opening address, emphasizing the HING's relationships with First Responders during times of crisis.

"The Hawai'i National Guard is vital in its role in supporting the state," Luke said. "The cooperation and communication between local and federal departments that HING demonstrates is the future of state operations and the HING is key to successful daily operations at the state level but it is vital in times of emergency."

Maj. Gen. Stephen Logan then presented his vision and expectations, focusing on "readiness for the future by learning from the past" and the crucial mission of "preparing to respond to the state's and the nation's worst day but to also come home".



The conference agenda featured a series of insightful briefings from leaders across the U.S. INDO Pacific Command's Area of Responsibility (AOR), designed to provide a comprehensive strategic and operational outlook.

Commodore Jonathan Lett, Royal Navy, INDOPACOM J5P, delivered a crucial USINDOPACOM update, effectively setting the regional context for discussions. During his presentation, Commodore Lett specifically highlighted the



Hawai'i National Guard's successful State Partnership Program with Indonesia and the Philippines and emphasizing the United Kingdom's mantra of "Capable and Credible Communication" and how it helps to provide stability and deterrence in the region by utilizing soft power to enable "lethality through relations."

Further deepening the understanding of the AOR, attendees received updates from Col. Deric Holbrook from U.S. Army Pacific and Maj.

Above, Hawai'i National Guard leadership greeted Hawai'i Lt. Gov. Sylvia Luke. Hawai'i Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Stephen Logan, far left, and Lt. Gov. Luke spoke at the Joint Commander's Conference in July at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. (Photos by retired Master Sgt. Andrew Jackson)

Gen. Christopher Sheppard from the Pacific Air Forces.. The agenda also included an intelligence update a People's Liberation Army overview presented by Mr. Ian Sullivan from U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, and a forward-looking INDOPACOM AI Integration brief by Mr. Robert A. Stephenson, Director, USINDOPACOM J8. These diverse presentations collectively addressed the complex challenges and opportunities within the Indo-Pacific theatre.



# *HING Counterdrug Program analysts complete D.A.R.E. training*



► On July 18, Hawai'i National Guard Counterdrug Program (HING CDP) analysts Sgt. Samson Achuela, Spc. Charles Iopa and Sgt. Arnold Escano (pictured above from left with lei) graduated from the 40th Hawaii Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) Officer Training (HI-DOT) at Kapolei Police Station. With over 80 hours of classroom instruction, they trained in the Keepin' it REAL curriculum, covering drug prevention, decision-making, peer pressure, communication, stress management and bullying. Their certification brings the HING CDP total to five trained instructors, delivering the Keepin' it REAL curriculum across Hawai'i schools on the islands of O'ahu and Hawai'i, with an additional instructor supporting on the island of Maui through the Law Enforcement Against Drugs and Violence (L.E.A.D.S.) program. Our HING CDP Guardsmen are proudly working alongside law enforcement to strengthen youth resilience and reduce substance abuse in our communities.

— Honolulu Police Department photos



## *Messages of Hope crane display showcased in third straight year*



▶ The Hawai'i National Guard presented the return of the Messages of Hope crane display at the Navy Exchange Mall. Located on the second floor, this collaborative effort united teams from the 154th Wing Directorate of Psychological Health, Behavioral Health, Family Readiness Center and more — raising awareness about suicide prevention and mental health. Thousands of hand-folded origami cranes carry heartfelt messages of encouragement, brightening days and fostering mental health awareness for all patrons and visitors. This was the third straight year that Hawai'i National Guard family care teams brought the inspiring initiative to life, strengthening bonds within our special community. If you or someone you know needs support, reach out anytime: Dial 988 for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, or for service members and veterans, call 988 and press 1 for the Veterans Crisis Line. Your well-being matters — help is just a call away.

— U.S. Air National Guard photos



# Operation Homefront readies local military families for school



➤ Above left, Sgt. 1st Class Andrea Faoa and her children, Taumalae and Kaden at posed for a photo at Operation Homefront. Above right, Spc. Aaron Pastoral's wife, Jasmyn Pastoral visited the event with their children, Zhaestyn, Xavier, Zakai, Zion and Zaylee.

— Hawai'i Army National Guard  
photos by Master Sgt. Celeste Lewi





## *Operation Homefront readies local military families for school*



▶ Operation Homefront's annual Back-to-School Brigade was held July 26 at the Hawai'i Army National Guard's 29th BDE Readiness Center in Kāpōlei. The organization had 440 backpacks filled with essential school supplies ready for military children. The Back-to-School Brigade distributes thousands of backpacks across the country, easing the financial burden of the season for military parents and fostering a sense of community and excitement for students. The program is about more than just pencils and notebooks, but about easing financial stress, helping children feel confident, and building a sense of belonging and community, even when everything else feels unfamiliar. Local sponsors included Hui 'O Na Wahine (Schofield Spouses Club), Veterans United, Hickam Officer's Spouses Club, Aloha Pacific Federal Credit Union and Navy Federal Credit Union.

— Operation Homefront photos





Above, Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Stephen Logan joined Chaplain Col. Christopher Guadiz, center, as the Hawai'i National Guard (HING) chaplains prayed at the Joint Chaplain Annual Sustainment Training (J-CAST), held at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Sept. 6. Below, Logan addressed the HING Religious Support Teams at the event. (Hawai'i Air National Guard photos by Staff Sgt. Julius Maeva)

## J-CAST training focuses on spiritual readiness

**By Staff Sgt. Julius Maeva**  
Hawai'i Air National Guard

➤ Maj. Gen. Stephen Logan, Adjutant General of the State of Hawai'i, Department of Defense, addressed Soldiers and Airmen of the Hawai'i National Guard during this year's Joint Chaplain Annual Sustainment Training (J-CAST), held on Sept. 6 during drill weekend at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Logan highlighted the importance of spiritual readiness and emphasized his commitment to family support through his "Pane Mai" program. Pane Mai — meaning "answer me" in Hawaiian — is an Ask-The-TAG initiative that allows Guard family members to submit questions, voice concerns and better understand the military. The program



was designed to bridge the gap between service members' duties and the families who support

them, giving loved ones a direct channel to leadership for clarity on military life.

"The Hawai'i National Guard is family oriented," Logan said. "It's about making sure families





feel just as connected to the mission as the service members in uniform.”

U.S. Navy Capt. Dave Yang, Chaplain for U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM), also spoke at the event, addressing the State Partnership Program with the Philippines and Indonesia. Yang underscored the value of spiritual fitness and collaboration with allies in the Indo-Pacific region to foster mutual understanding and strengthen unity.

The day also highlighted the accomplishments of two newly-commissioned officers. 2nd Lt. Sean Murley and 2nd Lt. Abraham

Hall were formally recognized with their promotion to commissioned officers in the Hawai‘i National Guard. Their commissioning represents both a spiritual calling as the newest Chaplains in the Chaplain Corps and the Guard’s continued investment in developing leaders for the future.

To close the training, airmen and soldiers assembled a Tactical Field Religious Support Kit, the kit includes portable worship supplies, counseling resources, and quick-deploy shelter equipment designed for austere environments. Airmen and soldiers work shoulder-to-shoulder in promoting safety and unity in

both the mission and the Hawai‘i National Guard ohana.

J-CAST brought together chaplains and religious affairs specialists from the Hawai‘i Army and Air National Guard, strengthening their ability to deliver spiritual support, foster resilience, and promote cultural awareness in joint and coalition environments.

The Hawai‘i National Guard remains committed to sustaining mission readiness and family support, ensuring Soldiers, Airmen and their families are prepared to serve and thrive in the ever-evolving security landscape of the INDOPACIFIC region.

Clockwise from top left: INDOPACOM Chaplain Capt. Dave Yang spoke to attendees about spiritual fitness; Second Lieutenants Sean Murley and Abraham Hall were administered the oath of office by Chaplain Christopher Guadiz; Members posed for a photo at the training; Participants assembled a Tactical Field Religious Support Kit to close the training.

*(Hawai‘i National Guard photos by Staff Sgt. Julius Maeva, Capt. Lindsay Kraus and Col. Christopher Guadiz)*



## Isle senators tour Hawai'i Army National Guard facilities



Sen. Brandon Elefante, Sen. Glenn Wakai and Sen. Samantha DeCorte spent the day touring the Hawai'i Army National Guard (HIARNG) facilities on July 23rd, 2025. The senators had the opportunity to tour Waiawa Armory, Bowers Armory, Army Aviation Support Facility #1, the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Readiness Center and the Rainbow Hangar. During the visit, the senators got to learn about the HIARNG's wide range of capabilities and their support to federal and state missions. They also met some of the full-time leaders and staff who described the detailed functions of the various units in the HIARNG. The HIARNG speakers included Col. Damon Hogsten, Chief of Staff for the HIARNG, Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Biancaniello, Command Sergeant Major of the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and Col. Wesley Kawakami, Commander of the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

— Hawai'i Army National Guard  
photos by Sgt. Casandra Ancheta





## *Isle senators tour Hawai'i Army National Guard facilities*





# Director Curtis Washburn retiring from State Approving Agency

▶ Curtis Washburn is retiring this month as director of the Hawai'i State Approving Agency (SAA), a position he has held since 2019. Washburn and his wife plan to move to the Philippines where she is from and explore his post-retirement options.

Retired Brig. Gen. Bruce Oliveira, Director of Civilian-Military Programs which oversees the SAA shared his experience working with Washburn. "Curtis consistently demonstrated exceptional reliability, delivering high-quality work on time and with great attention to detail."

"He worked well with others and actively sought feedback and embraced learning opportunities," says Oliveira. "His leadership not only achieved results but also inspired a culture of collaboration and shared success, where everyone felt valued and motivated to contribute their best."

We asked Curtis some questions about his time with the SAA and what the future holds for him.

## Describe your position and what the SAA is and does.

The primary function of the SAA is to review, evaluate and approve quality educational and training programs for veterans' benefits. As the director and the sole member of the SAA, I handle everything related to the work of the SAA. There are about a dozen states like this and it's all based on the number of "active facilities" in the state. So, small states like Rhode Island, Delaware, Vermont, Alaska (big state, but small number of schools) are all one-person operations like Hawai'i. States such as Texas and California might have 25 or more people working in their office, strewn in various locations throughout their state.

## What do you enjoy about the position?

I have enjoyed working with schools to help them become



Curtis Washburn is retiring as Hawai'i State Approving Agency Director. He is pictured with his wife Eva in Dauin, Negros Island, Philippines. (State of Hawai'i Department of Defense, Curtis Washburn photos)

accepted and maintain compliance with ever-changing federal regulations. These regulations certify veterans at their institutions and help those VA students receive the benefits they are entitled to. I've been able to create a community of SCOs (School Certifying Officials) at the schools and have given them opportunities to meet and support each other. This support is more valuable than trying to get answers in other places as most of them occupy school positions where administrators know little or nothing about the work of the SCOs. These positions are crucial in helping veterans receive their benefits and schools get their tuition. These hardworking people are often underpaid, overworked, undervalued and misunderstood on their campuses. It's often a thankless job, and they should be appreciated for what they do to serve our veterans. If I've done even a little to shed some light on this, and to

help the SCOs get the recognition they deserve, then my time here has been very well spent.

## What did you do before being the SAA director that helped you in the position?

I spent about 20 years in various roles in higher education. Fifteen of those were at Chaminade University and another four and a half were in the University of Hawaii system, at both Leeward Community College and at UH Manoa. Of all the positions I held, perhaps the most helpful was early in my career when I was the director of a U.S. Department of Education "Trio" grant program at Chaminade. It was designed to assist low-income, first-generation and disabled students and to provide services to improve retention and graduation rates of those populations. It was helpful for the SAA Director

job because it taught me about reading and interpreting federal regulations, knowing when things were clear cut, and when other things were open to some interpretation. The regulations guiding the utilization of VA benefits on a campus are similar in that way.

## What were some of the challenges you faced during your tenure?

The first challenge was I took over the position after a five-year period when there was nobody (essentially) doing the job. The existence of the SAA is mandated by federal law, but Hawai'i lost its SAA in 2014 and for five years, the VA sent people from the mainland to do the work for six months at a time. Schools were confused about any new regulations about the approval process. Every new person came with



their own “focus” and their own interpretation of the regulations. Some schools took advantage of the lack of oversight, some gave up, most plugged away doing the best they could.

Early in my tenure, someone at the VA told me, “There’s a mess in Hawai‘i, and we’re hoping you can clean it up.” That was an entirely accurate statement. On top of that, many of my counterparts in other states told me, “It will take you two to three years before you feel like you know how to do this job well.” That was also accurate.

On top of that, COVID occurred in spring 2020, before I was able to truly be trained, and shut down any training opportunities for about two years. So, my learning curve was extended, to say the least. Thankfully, I am now proud to say that I’ve made some great strides and the schools throughout the state are much better prepared to remain in compliance and be able to certify veterans properly at their schools.

“

His leadership not only achieved results but also inspired a culture of collaboration and shared success, where everyone felt valued and motivated to contribute their best.”

**Retired Brig. Gen. Bruce Oliveira**  
*Director of Civilian-Military Programs on Curtis Washburn*

**What is/was the most interesting schools that you were able to get someone into?**

Well, technically, I don’t really get any students “into a school.” Although sometimes the approval of a school is initiated by a veteran who wants to use their benefits there. I approve the school so that they may administer VA benefits to eligible students.

When I first started this job, I was

aware of all the traditional “Institutions of Higher Learning” (IHL) in the state, such as those in the UH system, Chaminade, BYU, HPU, etc. But I knew very little about the various “Non College Degree” (NCD) schools. These provide certification to veterans looking for a different path. For example, I’ve learned a great deal about schools in Hawai‘i that train students for diving instruction, massage therapy, cybersecurity, esthetician, barbering/hair design, etc. It’s been fascinating to get to know those schools and to see the service they provide to their students and the community.

**What advice would you give to the next director?**

Part of the job is working with schools to get approved and to maintain that approval through their compliance with the regulations. In a sense, the director of the SAA is an advocate for the schools in working with the VA. Another part of the job is oversight, ensuring that schools are doing the right thing and assisting them in

correcting if compliance issues are found. If more serious issues arise that lead the SAA to determine that something illegal is happening, it’s part of the job to work with the VA to hold schools accountable. It is sometimes a challenge to wear all these hats at the same time but finding that proper balance is a key part of the position.

**What are your retirement plans?**

My wife Eva and I will be living in the Philippines, where she is from. We have a house built there already, and we will be very close to her family. As for plans, I would say they are “might-y”. Might teach some yoga, might work with some orphanages, might continue some contract work with the VA, might teach some English, might connect with the dive resorts in the Philippines (there’s a ton of them!) – lots of “mights.”

*The State of Hawai‘i Department of Defense bids Aloha to Curtis, says Mahalo for a job well-done and wishes him the best of luck in retirement.*

## UPCOMING OBSERVANCES AND SIGNIFICANT DATES

**October:** National Cyber Security Awareness Month

**Oct. 13:** Navy Birthday (250 Years)

**Oct. 13:** Columbus Day

**Oct. 26:** National Day of the Deployed

**Oct. 31:** Halloween

**November:**

• National Veterans and Military Families Month

• Warrior Care Month

**Nov. 2:** Daylight Savings Fall Back

**Nov. 10:** Marine Corps birthday (250 Years)

**Nov. 11:** Veterans Day

**Nov. 27:** Thanksgiving



## Hawaii National Guard Defense Organizational Climate Survey (DEOCS)

# Empowering Every Service Member

The DEOCS is about YOU. Every opinion counts in building a better work and unit environment for everyone. Let’s make it happen together. 🙌 #YourVoiceMatters #DEOCS





# John Kahue was a great boss, coworker and friend



Above left, John Kahue paying for his friend's lunch at Golden Duck Chinese Restaurant. Above right, Patrick Tangonan, left, John Kahue, Randy Yamura, Gov. John Waihee, Freddy Kaluna, Randy Choy Foo and Eddie Tangonan at the Hawai'i State Veterans Cemetery ribbon-cutting ceremony in 1991. Below, John and his partner Debra Brownhill at a birthday party for Patrick Tangonan's son at Mālaekahana Beach Park. (Patrick Tangonan photos)

▶▶ Longtime State of Hawai'i Department of Defense (HI-DOD) employee John J. Kahue was well-loved and respected by everyone he worked with. He passed away on May 14, 2025, at the age of 64. He was an integral part of our department and touched many of the projects and day-to-day operations.

John was the General Labor Supervisor (I) and was responsible for the control, operation and supervision of the Grounds Maintenance Units. That section consists of the General Laborers, who are tasked with the maintenance and repairs of sites at multiple locations, like Fort Ruger, Diamond Head, Waiawa, Wahiawā, Wheeler, Waimanalo (Regional Training Institute), Hawai'i State Veterans Cemetery, Kalaeloa and the neighbor islands.

John started with the HIDOD in 1980 as a Hawai'i Army National Guard Groundskeeper, later moving to General Laborer (I) with the Hawai'i Air National Guard. He continued in that position but was with the HIDOD Engineering Office starting in 1981. In 1982, he rose up to General Laborer (II), then became Truck Driver Laborer in 1984. He became the



General Labor Supervisor (I) on May 23, 1994, a position he's held for the last 31 years.

Employee Harlan Tasaka shared his experience working with John. "Johnny was a great boss and always took care of his guys. He would always come in early to do paperwork or go on the road to check the progress of employees' work."

"If the yard was overgrown, or if he wasn't satisfied with the way it looked, you would see him on the lawnmower making the yard nice. Sometimes you would even see him with a weed whacker, cutting grass himself," Tasaka said.

"Employees will see things differently and get mad when things are difficult. Times like these, Johnny would talk to them about the problem and have it resolved."

His coworker and best friend, Patrick Tangonan, was honored to answer questions about John's time with the department.

**How would you describe John's work ethic and professional and personal outlook?**

As a professional he was very determined and always eager to learn — not afraid to get his hands dirty and work hard. His personal outlook was always being a happy-go-lucky guy. He was fun to be around and always making people laugh and smile!

**How was it working with John?**

Working with John was a privilege and an honor. He was always laughing and cracking jokes. There was never a dull moment when he was around.

**What is something that most people don't know about him?**

Something that most people don't know about him was that he was

a great cook, creating Hawaiian to Filipino food. Never trust a skinny cook. (LOL!)

**What did you admire about John the most?**

He would always find time to help everybody, from going to Wai'anae at the last minute to help his sister unclog her toilet, coming to the rescue when his nephew got into an accident and got stuck on the freeway or being a caregiver to his longtime partner, Deb, while she was going through dialysis. He had endless acts of kindness for everyone who needed help — even strangers. He was a BIG MAN with a BIG HEART!

**Is there anything you wish you had said to him or done with him?**

If there is one thing that I wish I could say to him is "I love you" and "thank you" for everything and for always being there for me and my family whenever I needed him. He was family! We worked together since 1980 at Hickam and here at Fort Ruger. He wasn't just a co-worker, he was my best friend, I will truly miss him! You will never find another Hawaiian like him!



## *Hawai'i Army National Guard provides aerial firefighting support in Kunia*



### OPERATION HO'OPAUHAI



▶ Flight crews from the Hawai'i Army National Guard flew a UH-60 Blackhawk and CH-47 Chinook with bambi buckets suspended to provide aerial firefighting support for the wildfire yesterday in Kunia. A total of 49,000 gallons of water were dispersed in 39 drops. As part of Gov. Josh Green's emergency proclamation for wildfire season, the Hawai'i National Guard's Operation Ho'opauahi keeps an aircrew ready to provide aerial firefighting capabilities to augment county and state level first responder elements during the wildfire season.

– U.S. Army photos by Sgt. Olivia Cowart



## *Hawai'i Army National Guard supports fire department during red flag warnings*





## *Hawai'i Army National Guard supports fire department during red flag warnings*



Following a red flag warning of increased fire risk, the Hawai'i Army National Guard (HIARNG), staged in support of the Honolulu Fire Department with ground assets in a first-time collaboration for community safety. Soldiers assigned to the 297th Engineer Detachment Firefighting Team, 103rd Troop Command, HIARNG, went to Fire Station 28 in Nanakuli, Hawai'i with their M1158 Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck-based water tender on Aug. 1, 2025. During the visit Staff Sgt. John Segawa, a station chief assigned to the 297th ENG DET, explained his equipment and capabilities including the water tender which holds 3,000 gallons. Above, fire crews from Nānākuli, Makakilo and the HIARNG meet with Dori Booth, the new State Fire Marshal and Maj. Gen. Stephen F. Logan, Adjutant General for the State of Hawai'i, to discuss the importance of interoperability amongst fire crews.

— Hawai'i Army National Guard  
photos by Staff Sgt. John Schoebel





# 103rd Troop Command (103rd TC)

## Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 103rd Troop Command "Kupa'a"



HHC 103rd TC conducts training, provides ready forces, executes mission command,

and support exercises/overseas deployments in support of federal and state missions within the state of Hawai'i, and anywhere in the world as required.

- Conducted Tiger Balm 2025 with in Pasir Laba and Mandai Hill, Singapore
- Conducted Command Post Operations exercises at Waiawa Armory

- Volunteered at kalo patch in Waimanalo to give back to the community

## 297th Engineer, Firefighting Detachment



The 297th FFD's mission is to mobilize and deploy to any theater of operations to provide

fire protection for aviation assets and other major facilities and to provide firefighting services during peace time in support of local civil authorities.

- Participated in a live environment training with Marine Corp Air Station - Kaneohe during Annual Training
- Performed aircraft rescue firefighting training with State Crash Rescue, Maui.
- Participated in USARPAC's static display for the Army's birthday.
- Activated to support the state of Hawaii's red flag warning, by providing ground support to the Honolulu Fire Department

## 1950 Support Detachment



The 1950th SUP DET's mission is to mobilize and deploy to provide contracting support

in a contingency environment to include contracting for supplies, services, and construction.

- Focused joint training with USPFO full time staff on all contracting matters regarding contract solicitations, awards, closeouts, GPC surveillances, and Contingency Contracting.
- Assisted USPFO with closing out \$263,576.00 worth of contracts.

## 50th Quartermaster Detachment Field Feeding Team



The 50th QM DET's mission is to provide field feeding support for up

to 700 Echelons above Brigade personnel as well as provide National Guard civil support throughout Hawaii.

- Provided feeding support to 14 units under the 103rd TC, preparing and delivering over 4,000 hot meals throughout Training Year 2025.
- Sgt. Roark was recognized by Brig. Gen. Logan for her outstanding performance and Spc. Antone Joseph being recognized for representing the 50th QM DET and 103rd TC during the 2025 Best Warrior Competition.

## 111th Army Band "Kahi Mele Ku Kahi"



The 111th AB's mission is to conduct missions that promote the Army and

our national interests, enable commanders to shape the environment to accomplish their mission, and set the conditions that lead to trust and confidence in America's Army and its readiness to conduct operations in peacetime, conflict, and war.

- Prepared and successfully completed its 7th Annual three-day Music Fellowship Workshop joined by 75 talented musicians from across the island.
- The Marching Band participated in the Waianae community Christmas parade, Pan-Pacific festival parade, and the Kailua 4th of July Parade.
- The small music performance team "Drive On", participated in the first ever USINDOPACOM Commander-hosted Battle of the Bands showcasing HIARNG's band along with other military bands in the Navy, Marines, and the Air Force.

## 117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment "Ha'i Lono"



The 117th MPAD's mission is to provide direct public affairs support to units

deployed in support of Army, joint, interagency, intergovernmental, and multinational operations.

- National recognized, it is ranked second out of 23 organizations in the National Guard Bureau's Maj Gen. L. Ware Communications awards for 2024.
- Participated in multi-national, multi-component exercises in 2025, such as Yama Sakura (Japan), Tiger Balm (Singapore), and Super Garuda Shield (Indonesia). Members of the unit contributed as Public Affairs planners during the Staff Ex-

ercises as well as "real-world" public affairs Soldiers producing photographic and video products.

- Soldiers of the 117th MPAD are currently deployed to Europe and the U.S. South border.
- Produced 15 video releases, 19 news stories and 740 captioned photos which covered a variety of missions throughout the year, such as wildfire mitigation, ceremonies, and training events.

## 230th Engineer Vertical Construction Company

The 230th ENG, EVCC's



mission is to provide ready forces to support federal and state missions and provide

vertical and horizontal engineering support in the construction, repair, and maintenance of infrastructure to support domestic, and overseas missions.

- Conducted annual training at Kaho'ohanohano Armory where Vertical Construction Platoons created a wind barrier and jersey barrier forms while the Horizontal Construction Platoon continued operations in the rear of the armory to provide additional parking for military vehicles. The FMT Section conducted scheduled and unscheduled maintenance, providing support to all operations utilizing vehicles and equipment.
- Conducted individual weapons qualification and crew served weapons qualification at Schofield with a greater than 90% pass rate for Soldiers in the company.
- 45 Soldiers supported the County of Maui in response to a kona low storm system that caused flooding in areas of Maui. Soldiers provided



security presence at shelters and manned traffic control points in partnership with the Maui Police Department over a period of two days.

### Company B, 777th Aviation Support Company



The Co B 777th ASC's mission is to provide aviation field-level maintenance, quality assurance, production control and supply management for the supported aviation unit and Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade as part of the global force pool of operational forces.

- Executed year-round annual training by assembling staggered maintenance teams to support HIARNG aviation resulting in an increase to HIARNG aviation operational readiness. This generated 3,652 maintenance man hours to support AASF#1 at Wheeler Army Airfield and AASF Kalaeloa in Kapolei.

- Conducted individual and collective training facilitated by the AASF to compound maintenance productivity with subject matter experts that progressed individuals through the aviation maintenance training program.

### Company B, 2 Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment "Voyagers"



The Co B 2-211th AVN's mission is to mobilize and deploy worldwide to conduct combat, combat

support, combat service support to heavy lift operations throughout all modes of flight (day, night, and night vision devices) in support of unified land operations.

Conducted a mixed MDS multi-ship flyover for the University of Hawaii at Manoa Football Homecoming Game.

Supported the State of Hawaii with aerial firefighting capabilities throughout the 2025 fire season.

The first Army Fitness Test event for B Co, 211th was successfully conducted with zero injuries at Kalaeloa IOT comply with HQDA requirement.

Conducted annual training which included aerial gunnery and degraded visual environment landings (dust landings) at Pohakuloa Training Area.

Supported the 299th CAV, 150th EWS, and 230th ENG Det with air movements between Oahu, Kauai, and Maui.

### Company B, 1109th Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group "Koa Aka"



The Co. B 1109th TASMGM's mission is to provide direct

and habitual combat service support to the Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group.

- Completed 100 maintenance work orders during annual training 2025 to include services on various vehicles, generators, and small arms weapon systems.

- Trained and qualified 19 guardsmen from multiple 103rd TC units for the 40 hours combat lifesaver course.

### Company C, 1 Battalion, 183rd Aviation Regiment



The Co C 1-183rd AVN's mission is to mobilize worldwide in order to provided air assault and

air movement operations in multi-domain operations.

- Supported the State of Hawaii with fire suppression support throughout the 2024 and 2025 fire season.

- Provided air assault, air movement and sling load operation training support to the 29th IBCT, 1-299th CAV, D/FSC and other units within HIARNG.

- Provided subject matter expert exchange support to the 205th PHW Philippine Air Force; Provided demonstrations such as sling load operations, instrument flight rules, night vision devices, and flight academics.

- Supported the State of Hawaii with standby search and rescue support in response to the Tsunami in July 2025.

- Supported the 2025 ESGR Boss Lift event with orientation flights and static display

- Conducted underwater egress training to qualify 24 Pilots and Crew Chiefs

### Detachment 1, Company A3 Battalion, 140th Aviation Regiment "Kia'i Ma Ka Lani"



The DET 1 CO A 3-140th AVN's mission is to conduct aviation security, reconnaissance, support

and other operations for Homeland Security and Defense, counter drug operations, and other agencies as approved by the Secretary of Defense for both CONUS and OCONUS areas of responsibility.

- Deployed and supported Homeland Security on the southern border mission

### Detachment 1, Company G, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment "Kahu O Ke Ola"



The DET 1 CO G 189th AVN's mission is to mobilize and deploy worldwide to perform aeromedical evacuation opera-

tions under day, night, and night vision conditions. Conduct medical resupply, transport of medical personnel, hoist operations, and search and rescue operations.

- Supported the Jungle Medicine Course, 24-25 January 2025 in a multi-COMPO training exercise providing MEDEVAC support to their MASCAL exercise. The personnel that participated were

recognized by Command Sgt. Maj. Victor Laragione, Command Sergeant Major of the U.S. Army Medical Department Center of Excellence.

- Supported both water bucket operations in support of fire suppression and tsunami response crews for search and rescue.

- Conducted tail to tail missions with the Air Force during the joint exercise NEXUS FORGE, on 05-06 February 2025.

- Conducted MEDEVAC scenario-based training in support of the 227th BEB annual training in June 2025.

### Detachment 1, Company G, 3 Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment "Ke Ola Malu Mau"



The DET 1 CO G 3-126th AVN's mission is to mobilize and deploy worldwide to perform aeromedical

evacuation operations under day, night, and night vision conditions. Conduct medical resupply, transport of medical personnel, hoist operations, and search and rescue operations.

- Supported the jungle medicine course, 24-25 January 2025 in a multi-COMPO training exercise providing MEDEVAC support to their MASCAL exercise. The personnel that participated were recognized by Command Sgt. Maj. Victor Laragione, Command Sergeant Major of the U.S. Army Medical Department Center of Excellence.

- Supported both water bucket operations in support of fire suppression and tsunami response crews for search and rescue.

- Conducted tail to tail missions with the Air Force during the joint exercise NEXUS FORGE, on 05-06 February 2025.

- Conducted MEDEVAC scenario-based training in support of the 227th BEB annual training in June 2025.



# HIARNG represented at Na Koa Wounded Warrior Canoe Regatta



Three teams representing the Hawai'i Army National Guard Outrigger Canoe participated in the Na Koa Canoe Regatta at Fort DeRussy Beach Park on Aug. 23. Launched in 2009, the Na Koa Wounded Warrior Canoe Regatta was created to assist recovering troops through the 'healing power' of the Hawaiian waters. The first event took place at the Pearl Harbor Marina with 67 teams from the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard and other organizations. The event has since expanded to include a Youth Division, and to include our Gold Star Ohana in the Wounded Warrior Division.

## Team Ikaika Mau Loa

Seat 1: Sgt. 1st Class Jay Bal (227 BEB)  
Seat 2: Sgt. Kawika Low (1-487 FA)  
Seat 3: Master Sgt. Mabel Requilman (JFHQ)  
Seat 4: Sgt. 1st Class Hanakeawe Kaipo (1-487FA)  
Seat 5: 1st Lt. Karen Kaupp (29th BSB)

## Team Imua Lanakila

Seat 1: Sgt. 1st Class Theresa Gualdarama (29th BSB)  
Seat 2: Sgt. 1st Class Cori Lum (29th BSB)  
Seat 3: Staff Sgt. Ainoa Oliveira (1-487FA)  
Seat 4: Sgt. 1st Class Kimo Puailihau (29th BSB)  
Seat 5: Sgt. 1st Class Kristin Northrup (93rd CST)

## Team Onipa'a

Seat 1: Maj. Marissa Romero (JFHQ)  
Seat 2: Staff Sgt. Mylah Carlos (JFHQ)  
Seat 3: Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Carreiro (JFHQ)  
Seat 4: Maj. Alike Kuamoo (JFHQ)  
Seat 5: Sgt. 1st Class Marc Aquino (RRB)

— U.S. Army National Guard  
photos by Sgt. 1st Class Jay Bal





# History of the 1950th Support Detachment

By Rachel Blaire

State of Hawai'i Department  
of Defense Public Affairs

▶ The 1950th Support Detachment was federally recognized Aug. 31, 2010 as the 1950th Contingency Contracting Team (1950th CCT) at Waia-wa Armory in Pearl City, as a specialized element within the Hawai'i Army National Guard. Formed to support contracting operations during contingency missions, the 1950th CCT was designed to deploy globally in support of both federal and domestic operations.

The unit is composed of nine Soldiers — two officers and seven enlisted personnel — who operate in close coordination with civilian contracting offices. The 1950th CCT achieved a major operational milestone with its deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from August 2013 to May 2014 with guardsmen being assigned to Contracting Centers at Bagram Airfield, Kabul, Kandahar, and Qatar.

Further demonstrating its versatility, the 1950th CCT supported Operation Longclaw in fiscal year 2020 and contributed vital contracting assistance to the State of Hawai'i's during its COVID-19 response. This marked the unit's critical role in domestic emergency operations, highlighting its flexibility in serving both overseas and state-level missions.

Most recently, the 1950th CCT was successfully deployed from October 2023 to July 2024 in support of Operation Spartan Shield at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. In FY 2025 the 1950th CCT was redesignated as the 1950th Support Detachment (1950th SUP DET).

Since its establishment, the 1950th SUP DET has demon-



## LEARN MORE

Website: [dod.hawaii.gov/blog/history-of-the-1950-support-detachment/](https://dod.hawaii.gov/blog/history-of-the-1950-support-detachment/)



strated professionalism, agility and mission focus in both wartime and peacetime roles. As a deployable contracting asset, it

remains a key enabler of mission success for the Hawai'i Army National Guard and its partners around the world.

At top, members of the 1950th Contingency Contracting Team (1950th CCT) participated in the annual Turkey Trot run at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, during Operation Spartan Shield on Nov. 23, 2023. At left, 1950th CCT Soldiers took on the challenge of the Norwegian Foot March Badge (Marsjmerket) at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, during Operation Spartan Shield. Above, Staff Sgt. Celeste Lewi of the 1950th CCT worked alongside her interpreter and local contractor in Kandahar, Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom. Bottom left, members of the 1950th CCT stand proudly after receiving the Army Commendation Medal from Maj. Robert Frank at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait during Operation Spartan Shield. Pictured left to right: Mr. Kit Ariyat (Contracting Deputy), Staff Sgt. Genavi Oshiro, Staff Sgt. Stephanie Takayesu, Staff Sgt. Jonathan Yi, Staff Sgt. Joseph Sumang, Maj. Robert Frank. (1950th Support Detachment photos)





## UNIT HIGHLIGHTS

# 154th Wing, Hawai'i Air National Guard

▶ The 154th Wing, located at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, stands as the largest and most geographically diverse unit in the Air National Guard. Headquartered at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, we are charged with a dynamic mission: to provide combat-ready Airmen and equipment for both federal and state missions. With more than 2,000 highly trained Airmen across five major groups — Operations, Maintenance, Mission Support, Medical and Regional Support — our wing exemplifies Total Force Integration, seamlessly partnering with Active Duty and Reserve components to project power, protect the homeland and support our community.

This year focused on a multitude of exercises and deployments across the globe, enhancing interoperability and strengthening regional security. Here are

some recent highlights and global engagements:

**BALIKATAN 2025:** 154th Security Forces Squadron provided force protection for 14,000+ U.S. and coalition personnel, enhancing regional defense ties in the Philippines.

**NATO Deterrence Operations:** The 292nd Combat Communications Squadron deployed across the USAFE-AFAPRICA Area Of Responsibility (AOR), delivering agile comms support for NATO and partner nations.

**Theater Security Package:** 199th Fighter Squadron deployed to Kadena AB, flying F-22 Raptors in joint missions with U.S. and Japanese forces — reinforcing a free and open Indo-Pacific.

**Operation Midnight Hammer:** The 154th Maintenance Group and

154th Operations Group supported B-1 and B-2 bomber movements from Guam to Diego Garcia, ensuring rapid global strike readiness via KC-135 refueling ops.

**Medical Partnerships:** The 154th Medical Group conducted Tactical Combat Casualty Care with the Armed Forces of the Philippines, strengthening allied life-saving capabilities.

**Talisman Sabre 25:** The 154th Wing deployed over 200 Airmen, along with F-22 Raptors, KC-135 Stratotankers, and C-17 Globemasters, to support Talisman Sabre 25, Australia's premier military exercise.

**Sentry Aloha:** For over two decades, Sentry Aloha has delivered tailored combat training to Air National Guard and joint forces as each iteration includes live-fly operations with visiting units, focused on elevating

tactical proficiency and joint warfighting integration.

**Resolute Space:** As a new participant, the 109th Electromagnetic Warfare Squadron exercised and validated space-based warfighting capabilities, operating in a contested environment participating in the largest USSF exercise, Resolute Space.

**Toxic Swell:** Co-hosted by the 154th Civil Engineering Squadron, Toxic Swell sharpened CBRN emergency management skills with participants from the USMC, Air Force Reserve, and Australia, enhancing joint disaster response capability.

**Human Spaceflight Support:** The 204th Airlift Squadron trains and supports contingency astronaut rescue, encompassing airdrop recovery scenarios in open-ocean environments.

## HISTORICAL RECORDS

The Hawaii National Guard History records span over 150 years, and it is our responsibility to preserve and make available these historical records. A summary of the Hawaii National Guard history is currently available online as well as the chronological history which is currently a work in progress. The history features annual reports, newsletters, photos, publications and news articles from the major events that have occurred over the years. Please take a look and check back to see the website expand as we digitize our large historical collection.

[dod.hawaii.gov/hawaii-national-guard-history](https://dod.hawaii.gov/hawaii-national-guard-history)





**Guam Tanker Task Force:** The 203d Air Refueling Squadron maintains aerial refueling operations under the USINDOPACOM Theater Security Package, projecting airpower from the strategic hub of Guam.

**State Partnership Program:** Over decades, we have partnered with the Philippine and Indonesian militaries. Training and events include: disaster response & urban search and rescue, cybersecurity & peacekeeping, maintenance & logistics, aircrew training, tactical casualty care and officer & non-commissioned officer development

#### Upcoming missions

**Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center 26-01 (JPMRC):** Set for November, JPMRC is Hawai'i's largest live-fly exercise, integrating thousands of troops and cargo across jungle, maritime, and mountain scenarios. It reinforces joint and multi-national operational readiness.

#### New technologies or systems recently integrated

**National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account (NGREA) Funded Equipment:** NGB/A5R (a functional element within the National Guard Bureau's A5 organization, specifically plans and requirements for the Air National Guard, responsible for development of new warfighting systems and operational capabilities) have worked with multiple personnel within the 154th Wing to procure essential, innovative equipment items that will enhance the 154th Wing's readiness and capability to defend our homeland and project power into the USINDOPACOM AOR. Equipment includes:

#### 154th Maintenance Group

- Tow FLEXX for Military Aircraft Towing: remote-controlled, electric, towbarless aircraft tugs that will increase towing safety due to improved visibility, ease of use, precise controls and smaller footprint than that of traditional towing.
- Nitrogen Backpack & Stored

Energy System Nitrogen Kits for F-22s and KC-135s for enabling Agile Combat Employment

- Specialized F-22 maintenance stands providing a safer and more efficient way to access the hard-to-reach areas of one of the world's most advanced stealth aircraft.

#### 154th Security Forces Squadron Armory Operations:

- The installation of the Modular Armory Vault System (MAVS) and the Smart Track Inventory System has eliminated 2 major and 1 minor deficiencies within the 154th SFS.
- The MAVS provides secure storage for more than 600 weapons and high-value assets, adds over 700 square feet of usable space, and introduces a dedicated weapons cleaning and maintenance area. Its state-of-the-art security features and efficient layout reduce weapons cleaning time from one hour per weapon to just 30 minutes.
- Complementing this upgrade, the Smart Track system streamlines weapons issue, turn-in,

accountability, and cleaning processes. By leveraging RFID and barcode technology, Smart Track cuts man-hours by 50% — saving approximately four hours per drill weekend — and significantly reduces the risk of human error.

#### 154th Medical Group

The Air National Guard and its partnership with Operative Experience Inc. which involves deploying advanced, high-fidelity medical simulators for tactical and trauma care training. Medical Technicians and Providers are provided with realistic hands-on practice to improve combat casualty care skills.

The high-fidelity patient simulators are highly realistic and anatomically accurate, include both male and female versions, designed to mimic a wide variety of combat injuries. The manikins feature lifelike skin and tissue that can be cut, and have realistic simulated features such as blinking eyes, airway complications, and “pulsatile” bleeding.

## How to find our social media accounts

#### Hawai'i Adjutant General

-  [facebook.com/taghawaii](https://facebook.com/taghawaii)
-  [instagram.com/tagofhawaii/](https://instagram.com/tagofhawaii/)
-  <https://x.com/HawaiiTAG>




#### Hawai'i Deputy Adjutant General

-  [facebook.com/daghawaii](https://facebook.com/daghawaii)

#### Hawai'i National Guard Command Senior Enlisted Leader

-  [facebook.com/cselhawaii](https://facebook.com/cselhawaii)

#### State of Hawai'i Department of Defense

-  [dod.hawaii.gov/](https://dod.hawaii.gov/)
-  [linkedin.com/company/hidod](https://linkedin.com/company/hidod)
-  [youtube.com/@HI\\_DOD\\_PA](https://youtube.com/@HI_DOD_PA)
-  [open.spotify.com/show/6bAGObUEBSc0Ni5ScJ6Tc9](https://open.spotify.com/show/6bAGObUEBSc0Ni5ScJ6Tc9)
-  [podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/na-koa-exchange/id1755459732?l=zh-Hant-TW](https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/na-koa-exchange/id1755459732?l=zh-Hant-TW)

#### Hawai'i Army National Guard

-  [facebook.com/HIARNG](https://facebook.com/HIARNG)
-  [linkedin.com/company/hiarng](https://linkedin.com/company/hiarng)

#### State of Hawai'i Office of Veterans' Services

-  [facebook.com/SOHOVS](https://facebook.com/SOHOVS)



#### STARBASE Hawai'i

-  [facebook.com/STARBASEHawaii/](https://facebook.com/STARBASEHawaii/)
-  [instagram.com/starbase\\_hawaii/](https://instagram.com/starbase_hawaii/)



#### Hawai'i Air National Guard

-  [facebook.com/hawaiiairguard](https://facebook.com/hawaiiairguard)
-  [instagram.com/hawaiiairnationalguard/](https://instagram.com/hawaiiairnationalguard/)
-  [linkedin.com/company/hiang](https://linkedin.com/company/hiang)





#### Hawai'i Youth Challenge Academy Oahu

-  [facebook.com/hawaiiyouthchallenge](https://facebook.com/hawaiiyouthchallenge)
-  [instagram.com/hyca808/](https://instagram.com/hyca808/)

#### Hawai'i Job Challenge Academy

-  [facebook.com/HIJobChallengeAcademy](https://facebook.com/HIJobChallengeAcademy)
-  [instagram.com/hawaiijobchallengeacademy/](https://instagram.com/hawaiijobchallengeacademy/)


#### Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency

-  [facebook.com/HawaiiEMA](https://facebook.com/HawaiiEMA)
-  [instagram.com/hawaii\\_ema/](https://instagram.com/hawaii_ema/)
-  [https://x.com/Hawaii\\_EMA](https://x.com/Hawaii_EMA)
-  [linkedin.com/company/hiema](https://linkedin.com/company/hiema)



# *HIANG members help upkeep Hawai'i State Veterans Cemetery*



 A very big mahalo and appreciation to the members of the 298th Air Defense Group, Hawai'i Air National Guard (HIANG). Every month, members from the 298th Air Defense Group help pick up brown flowers at the grave markers and/or columbarium at the Hawai'i State Veterans Cemetery in Kāne'ohe. Col. Keolani Bailey, Chief Master Sgt. Bradley Spencer, Master Sgt. Kehau Villa-Hashimoto, Tech Sgt. Mathew Young, Airman 1st Class Noalei Malacas and Airman 1st Class Jayton Pestana were joined by friends & family in the cleanup.

— Photos by Jayme Nagamine, State of Hawai'i Office of Veterans' Services





## Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program event held on Kaua'i



▶ A Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program event was held Aug. 15-16 on Kaua'i. It was presented by the Hawai'i Army National Guard and Hawai'i Air National Guard to support service members and their families as they navigate the transitions and challenges of deployment and reintegration. The gathering was a testament to our military community's unwavering commitment, resilience and strength.

— Hawai'i National Guard photos

*Pane mai!*  
ASK THE  
TAG

## Pane mai!

Pane mai means "to respond." This is your opportunity to ask the Adjutant General / Command Senior Enlisted Leader a question. The new leadership Team, Maj. Gen. Stephen Logan and Command Sgt. Maj. Brandon Kumalae, want to hear from the Soldiers, Airmen and state workers of the Hawaii Department of Defense.

For details on submitting your question, go to [dod.hawaii.gov/ask-the-tag](https://dod.hawaii.gov/ask-the-tag) or scan the QR code below.





## COLOR GUIDE

-  **Hawai'i National Guard**
-  **Hawai'i Army National Guard**
-  **Hawai'i Air National Guard**
-  **Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency**
-  **State of Hawai'i Office of Veterans' Services**
-  **Civilian Military Programs**
-  **Hawai'i Department of Defense Public Affairs**

## RESOURCE GUIDE

### VA Support, Benefits

Oahu: (808) 433-0420  
Hilo: (808) 369-3538  
Kona: (808) 844-6664  
Kaua'i: (808) 369-3535  
Maui: (808) 369-3541

### VA Education Benefits

Hawai'i State Approving Authority: (808) 369-3559

### Military Records

HIARNG: (808) 672-1286  
HIANG: 1 (800) 525-0102

### Common Access Card

O'ahu: (808) 844-6425  
Big Island: (808) 844-6616  
Maui: (808) 789-0637  
Kaua'i: (808) 844-6735

### Support Services/Units

dod.hawaii.gov/jstaff/  
hawaii-department-of-defense-community-support/

### Contact list of departments and divisions

dod.hawaii.gov/contact-us/

## CONTRIBUTORS

Chief Warrant Officer 5  
John Yim, HIARNG

Col. Regina Komine, HING

Master Sgt. Celeste Lewi, HIARNG

Staff Sgt. Julius Maeva, HIANG

Capt. Lindsay Kraus, HING

Col. Christopher Guadiz, HING

Sgt. Casandra Ancheta, HIARNG

Staff Sgt. John Schoebel, HIARNG

Sgt. 1st Class Jay Bai, HIARNG

Jayne Nagamine, OVS

GayAnn Kino, SHRO

Paul Choi, HRO

Sgt. Olivia Cowart, U.S. Army

Emma Stierhoff, University of Hawai'i at Hilo

Honolulu Police Department

Operation Homefront

## NEW HIRES & TRANSFERS – STATE

EMPLOYEE	DATE	POSITION	PROGRAM
Bugarin, George	7/16/25	Environmental Health Specialist IV	HIARNG / ENV
Salinas, Elvis	7/16/25	Emergency Management Reserve Corp Specialist	HIEMA
Fautanu, Leif	7/16/25	Operations Specialist (EMPG)	HIEMA
Kina, Bryan	7/16/25	Energy Management Control Specialist (fka EMCS Asst.)	HIARNG / CFMO
Magee, Dominique	7/16/25	Logistics Systems Specialist - Planning Unit (COVID19)	HIEMA
Tasato, Sharon	7/16/25	GIS Specialist	HIARNG / CFMO
Jordan, Brandon	7/18/25	Cadre	YCA - Kalealoa
Titworth-Machado, Tynelle	7/28/25	Cadre	YCA - Kalealoa
AuYoung, Waylene	8/1/25	Grant Account Clerk	ASO / FISCAL
Fernandez, Joshua	8/1/25	Shift Leader	YCA - HILO
Furuya, Wayne	8/1/25	Distribution Worker (COVID 19)	HIEMA
Howe, Shawn	8/1/25	State Warning Point Supervisor	HIEMA
Keomalu, Marc	8/1/25	Siren Program Assistant - WF	HIEMA
Pudiquet, Jonathan	8/1/25	Janitor II	ENG / MAINTENANCE
Lee, Raymond	8/1/25	Contracts Assistant I	ENG
Robella, Steven	8/1/25	Emergency Management Reserve Corp Specialist	HIEMA
Vigil, Juan	8/1/25	EOC Operations & Threat Specialist	HIEMA
Walker, Bryson	8/1/25	Mentor Coordinator	YCA - HILO
Ahue, Aaron	8/6/25	Radio Tech I	HIEMA
Kealoha, Lena	8/7/25	DA Office Assistant -- May 18 Kilauea	HIEMA
Rubalcava, Jack	8/7/25	DA Program Specialist - May 18 Kilauea	HIEMA
Silva, David	8/8/25	Cadre	YCA - Kalealoa
Spencer, Emmalee	8/18/25	Emergency Management Reserve Corp Specialist	HIEMA
Heoksema, Jordan	8/18/25	Logistics Management Officer (COVID19)	HIEMA
Wren, Joseph	8/18/25	Emergency Management Reserve Corp Specialist	HIEMA
Kauffman, Lloyd	8/18/25	General Laborer III	ENG / MAINTENANCE / KMR
Kawamura, Kalamehana	8/18/25	General Laborer II (Burial Team)	ENG / MAINTENANCE / HSVC
King, Harvy	8/18/25	Regionald Catastrophic Planner (EMGP)	HIEMA
Sevaaetasi, Neomi	8/18/25	Case Manager	YCA - KALAELOA
Agbayani, Arlina	8/19/25	Logistics Planner (COVID19)	OTG
Foreg, Ryan	8/20/25	Cadre	YCA - Hilo
Aburamen, Angela	9/2/25	Veterans Services Counselor II	OVS / HILO
AuYoung, Waylene	9/2/25	Account Clerk II	ASO / FISCAL
Holley, Jeraldine	9/2/25	Lead Counselor	YCA - HILO
Kukona, Kaponoponaikaolani	9/2/25	Emergency Management Reserve Corp Specialist	HIEMA
Ugalde, Jonette	9/2/25	Lead Instructor	YCA - HILO
Vero, Carols	9/2/25	EOC Warning Officer	HIEMA
Williams, Javier	9/15/25	Cadre	YCA - KALAELOA
Angeles, Geronimo	9/16/25	Building Maintenance Supervisor I	HIANG / 154TH CES
Baustisa, Alexis	9/16/25	Tractor Operator	HIANG / 154TH CES
Iwasaki, Heather	9/16/25	Engineer V	ENG
Chen, Jeffrey	9/16/25	Engineer II	ENG
Kamai, Devin	9/16/25	Building Maintenance Worker I	ENG / MAINTENANCE
Poyo, Vince	9/16/25	Building Maintenance Worker I (Burial)	ENG / MAINTENANCE / HSVC
Scholzen, Hannah	9/16/25	Design & Project Manager	HIARNG / CFMO
Liedtke, Shayne	9/16/25	Emergency Management Reserve Corp Specialist	HIEMA
Yugawa, Rayson	9/16/25	Accountant III	ASO / FISCAL

## NEW HIRES & TRANSFERS – FEDERAL

EMPLOYEE	DATE	POSITION	ORGANIZATION
Ford, Randall	7/28/25	Personnel Security Specialist	154 WG, HIANG
Sta Maria, Mark James	8/25/25	Telecommunications Specialist	154 OPS SQ, HIANG
Okawa, Braden	9/7/25	Aircraft Electrician	154 AMX SQ, HIANG

## FOLLOW ON LINKEDIN

- State of Hawai'i Department of Defense
- Hawai'i Army National Guard
- Hawai'i Air National Guard
- Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency

Find information on the benefits and job opportunities within the HIDOD and read about our employee's and Soldier's accomplishments. If you are a HIDOD/HI-EMA employee or HIARNG/HIANG member, add us as your employer.

- HIDOD: [LINKEDIN.COM/COMPANY/HIDOD](https://www.linkedin.com/company/hidod)
- HIARNG: [LINKEDIN.COM/COMPANY/HIARNG](https://www.linkedin.com/company/hiarng)
- HIANG: [LINKEDIN.COM/COMPANY/HIANG](https://www.linkedin.com/company/hiang)
- HI-EMA: [LINKEDIN.COM/COMPANY/HIEMA](https://www.linkedin.com/company/hiema)

