

Hawai'i medical delegation teams up at Exercise Cope West 25 in Indonesia

By Rachel Blaire

State of Hawai'i Department
of Defense Public Affairs

▶ A U.S. Air Force and U.S. Army medical delegation conducted a three-day Subject Matter Expert Exchange (SMEE) during Exercise Cope West 25 with 15 Tentara Nasional Indonesia-Angkatan Udara (TNI-AU) medical personnel in Pekanbaru, Indonesia, Sept. 9-11, 2025. The primary focus of the SMEE was to enhance the TNI-AU's medical trauma capacity through a combination of didactic presentations and hands-on skills stations. Representatives from Pacific Air Forces and the Hawai'i National Guard participated in the SMEE including Guardsmen Lt. Col. Timothy Hiura, Chief of Trauma and Treatment Operations; Maj Jason Habu, Search and Extraction Rescue Operations Officer in Charge; and Sgt. 1st Class Bryan Hinkle, Critical Care Flight Paramedic.

"The SMEE provided a critical platform for the service members to partner directly with the TNI-AU medical

Continued on Page 22

▶ Lt. Col. Timothy Hiura, Hawai'i Air National Guard Chief of Trauma and Treatment Operations, demonstrated direct laryngoscopy to personnel of the Tentara Nasional Indonesia-Angkatan Udara during a subject matter expert exchange as part of Exercise Cope West 25 in Pekanbaru, Indonesia, Sept. 9-11, 2025. (Hawai'i National Guard photo)



pūpūkahi

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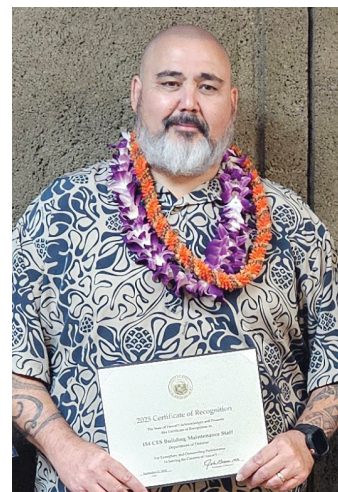
Hawai'i Department of Defense Incentive Service Awards winners attend Governor's Award Ceremony



Ramon Ramiro



Ronald Santos



Shane Harrell

► The Hawai'i Department of Defense Incentive Service Awards winners attended the Governor's Award Ceremony at the Hawai'i State Capitol Auditorium on Sept. 22, 2025. Recognized at the event were Ramon Ramiro, Electrician I, 154th CES (Adjutant General's Award), Ronald Santos, Building Maintenance Worker II, Engineering Office (Manager of the Year) and the HIANG 154th CES Maintenance Staff represented by Shane Harrell (Team of the Year). At top, HIANG 154th CES Maintenance member Keola Adaro, Ramon Ramiro, Shane Harrell, Hawai'i Deputy Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Phillip L. Mallory, HIANG 154th CES Maintenance supervisor Geronimo Angeles and Ronald Santos attended the ceremony.

— Photos by Nicole Sugai

HIEMA elevates emergency response with state departments' operations center exercise



Above, Miyoke Ng discussed the activation exercise with her State of Hawai'i Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) colleagues. Below, the DAGS Department Operations Center crew and Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency (HIEMA) observers gathered for a photo. (HIEMA photos)

By Kīele Amundson
*Hawai'i Emergency
Management Agency*

▶ On Monday, Nov. 3, a pivotal exercise was conducted for Department Operations Centers (DOC) within each state agency, perfectly synchronized with the state's monthly outdoor warning siren test. This initiative, organized by the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency (HIEMA), is designed to help bolster the state's preparedness and response capabilities during emergencies.

HIEMA personnel played an integral role, closely monitoring and observing the exercise — to ensure that all procedures were executed with precision. This hands-on training provided invaluable insights into the operational readiness of each state agency. By activating DOCs in conjunction with the state's monthly siren testing, the exercise allowed departments to



practice their coordination and communication plans, reinforcing a spirit of kuleana and assuring a united response in times of crisis.

A primary focus of the exercise was on enhancing interoperability among the various state agencies. The ability for these agencies to

seamlessly communicate and collaborate is vital during emergencies, as it ensures a swift and efficient response. This exercise specifically aimed to identify any gaps in coordination, offering a platform where agencies could refine their processes and strengthen their partnerships.

Looking ahead, HIEMA is committed to implementing these DOC exercises on a quarterly basis, fostering a culture of preparedness that aligns with our mission, which is to help Hawai'i prepare for, mitigate against, respond to, and recover from disasters. This regular practice will empower all agencies to remain nimble and ready for any emergency that may arise, demonstrating that we stand together — unified.

“By investing in these exercises, we only strengthen our collective ability to manage disasters effectively, ultimately protecting public safety across our communities,” said HIEMA Administrator James Barros. “Our vision is a ready and resilient Hawai'i — one where each of us, as part of this vibrant community, works together. It's always a kākou effort, and together, we can secure the safety and well-being of our kama'āina and visitors alike.”

CERFP goes 'Over the Edge' to help Special Olympics Hawai'i

► The Hawai'i National Guard's 93rd Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Enhanced Response Force Package (93rd CERFP) volunteered to assist with Special Olympics Hawai'i's "Over the Edge" fundraiser at the Hyatt Regency Waikiki Beach Resort and Spa on Oct. 11, 2025. The annual event helps to provide programs free of charge to Special Olympics Hawai'i athletes across the state.

Below left, Sgt. Kilauea Lau, Sgt. 1st Class Ross Nakatsu and Sgt. Paul Gallardo helped participants return safely to solid ground after rappelling 40 stories from the top of the hotel tower, top left. They supervised the descent, ensuring the ropes remained steady and untangled.

Top right, Sgt. Daysen Chang, Staff Sgt. Jesse Jackola and Specialist Elvis Salinas, atop the 40-story hotel, assisted participants preparing to rappel, ensuring they were securely fastened into their equipment and onto the ropes prior to their descent.

As ropes operations subject matter experts, top far right, 93rd CERFP soldiers joined a team comprised of volunteers from the Honolulu Fire Department and Special Olympics Hawai'i to ensure the success and the safety of all participants.

Bottom right, 1st Lt. Karen Kaupp, left, Specialist Elvis Salinas, Sgt. Daysen Chang, Sgt. Makoa Frias, Staff Sgt. Jesse Jackola and Sgt. Paul Gallardo flashed shakas.



Hawai'i National Guard photos by 1st Lt. Karen Kaupp



Hawai'i National Guard photos by Sgt. Daysen Chang



Hawai'i National Guard photo



Joint and multilateral personnel pose for a group photo at a Staff Exercise during Super Garuda Shield 25 in Jakarta, Indonesia, Sept. 1, 2025. Super Garuda Shield is an annual exercise between the Indonesian National Armed Forces and U.S. Military designed to strengthen bilateral interoperability, capabilities, and cooperation. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Sean Walker)

SUPER GARUDA SHIELD 25

Hawai‘i strengthens ties with Indonesia

By Sgt. Sean Walker
117th Mobile Public Affairs
Detachment

▶ The Hawai‘i National Guard (HING) played a key role in Super Garuda Shield 25, the largest bilateral exercise between Indonesia and the United States and one of the Indo-Pacific’s most significant multinational training events. Held Aug. 25 to Sept. 4, 2025, the exercise brought together about 6,500 service members from 13 nations. Designed to strengthen defense cooperation, Super Garuda Shield 25 featured a Joint Staff Exercise (STAFFEX), Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise (CALFEX), Engineering Civic Action Program project (ENCAP), medical exercise (MEDEX), small-unit and urban operations training (MOUT), subject-matter expert exchanges, and a cultural day.



Hawai‘i Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Stephen Logan, center, Hawai‘i Air National Guard Maj. Gen. Joseph Harris II, left, and Indonesian National Armed Forces Air First Marshal Ronny Moningka, Director of Research and Development (Dirjianbang), critiqued a course of action brief during Super Garuda Shield 25 in Jakarta, Indonesia on Sept. 2, 2025. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Sean Walker)

Training took place across multiple locations in Indonesia, including the Indonesian Navy’s training facility in Jakarta,

which hosted the STAFFEX.

HING’s contributions to Super Garuda Shield 25 were

multi-faceted. On the U.S. side, it served as the main training audience for STAFFEX and as the primary planners and executors of CYBEREX. HING’s Mayor Cell also provided logistical and medical support for STAFFEX and CYBEREX participants, ensuring smooth coordination throughout the exercise.

Col. Brandon Torres, the HING’s joint staff intelligence officer (J2), served as Chief of Staff for the U.S. delegation during the STAFFEX. He described the event as critical for advancing multinational planning and decision-making. “The significance of the STAFFEX is that this is where we do the planning at the operational level,” Torres said. “While other parts of the exercise are tactical, the STAFFEX focuses on refining how we address a fictitious operational scenario, bringing



Joint and multilateral military personnel converse at a Joint Staff Exercise during Super Garuda Shield 25 in Jakarta, Indonesia on Aug. 29, 2025. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Sean Walker)

together military planners from multiple nations to tackle complex problems.”

Torres emphasized that Indonesia’s forces were equally critical in developing and conducting the training, making the exercise a genuinely collaborative effort. He praised the Tentara Nasional Indonesia (TNI) for their professionalism and expertise. “They’re world-class planners, and I’m glad to be a part of helping develop and grow our relationship as they become even better,” he said.

Torres reflected on how the exercise has evolved from Garuda Shield in 2007. “Garuda Shield originally was an army-to-army exercise. Over the years, Garuda Shield merged with Gema Bhakti to form Super Garuda Shield,” Torres said. “I’ve participated in every iteration since that merger, and it’s been remarkable to see how the exercise has grown into a

truly joint, multinational effort.”

HING has participated in Garuda Shield since its early days, forging a long-standing relationship with the TNI. “I’ve seen our partnership evolve over time—from the early Garuda Shield exercises to now, as we conduct joint exercises and capacity-building activities,” Torres said. “The Hawaii National Guard and the TNI share a special relationship through the U.S.-Indonesia State Partnership Program, which allows us to partner and modernize each side through shared operations and activities.”

Torres, who grew up on the Big Island of Hawaii, added that cultural similarities further strengthened the partnership. “We share values such as family, friendship, and treating loved ones with dignity and respect,” he said. “These are principles that I hold very close to my heart.”

Col. Bagus Jatmiko, head of war gaming at the Indonesian Naval Command and Staff College and an exercise control group facilitator during STAFFEX, echoed Torres’ view that direct engagement and shared values are critical to building stronger partnerships. “Through face-to-face interaction between our forces, we build the understanding needed to truly operate together,” he said, adding that exercises like Super Garuda Shield are vital for fostering mutual understanding. “The key to success in joint operations lies in finding common ground, particularly in culture and language. These exercises bridge differences, strengthen personal bonds and create the shared understanding essential for effective cooperation.”

Torres recalled his first cultural experience in Indonesia during Garuda Shield 2010 in Bandung, describing it as pivotal in shaping his lasting interest in

the country. “I was struck by the similarities between Indonesia and Hawaii, particularly the sense of community and how people treat one another,” he said. “From that point, my interest in Indonesia grew, and when I learned that Hawaii was paired with Indonesia through the State Partnership Program, I became even more invested in strengthening our relationship.” That interest later led him to formally study the Indonesian language and serve as the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM) desk officer for Indonesia, where he specialized in advancing bilateral military cooperation and strategic engagement.

As the exercise concluded, Torres reflected on its impact. “Every time I come to Indonesia, it’s professionally rewarding,” he said. “I look forward to continuing our collaboration and helping both of our forces grow as we face new challenges together.”



Hawai'i Youth Challenge Academy (YCA) cadets helped at the Iolekaa Family Farm as part of a service to community missions. (YCA photo)

History of the Civilian Military Programs

By Rachel Blaire
State of Hawai'i Department
of Defense Public Affairs

▶ The Civilian Military Programs (CMP) is in the process of recognition and approval through the 2025 State Legislature, but its predecessor was called Community Programs. CMP aims to strengthen the partnership between military resources and civil-

ian communities, with a mission of leveraging skills, knowledge and organizational capacity to improve the quality of life for Hawai'i's people. Over time, the programs have included youth development, family strengthening, disaster resilience and broad community engagement initiatives.

The longest running program to fall under Community Programs

is the Hawai'i National Guard Youth Challenge Academy which started in 1994. It targets young people aged 16-18 who face challenges such as academic struggles or involvement with the justice system teaching them military discipline, academic instruction and civic engagement.

By 2019, Community Programs emphasized three priorities in ad-

dition to Hawai'i National Guard Youth Challenge Academy: STARBASE, KOA and HHARP. STARBASE inspired students to explore science, technology, engineering, and math as part of their educational journey. STARBASE is an active and growing program operating on Hawaii Island. KOA strengthened families by educating parents and youth on substance abuse prevention, commu-



Hawai'i Youth Challenge Academy (YCA) cadets helped near Diamond Head Crater as part of a Service to Community missions. (YCA photo)

nication and structure, ultimately reducing status offenses and petty misdemeanors, however the program was later retired. HHARP (Hawai'i Hazards Awareness and Resiliency Program) helps communities become self-reliant before, during, and after natural hazard events. HHARP is currently under the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency and is a growing program.

In 2020, Community Programs broadened its reach by supporting statewide initiatives. It played a role in the Hawai'i Government Complete Count Committee, the Joint Venture Education Forum, the Hawai'i Interagency Council on Homelessness, the Workforce Development Council Youth Committee and the Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters.

Most recently in 2021, the Hawai'i State Approving Agency which reviews, evaluates and

approves educational and training programs for veterans' benefits was moved under Community Programs from the University of Hawai'i system.

From its early focus on youth strengthening and disaster resilience, Civilian Military Programs has evolved into a vital bridge between the State of Hawai'i Department of Defense and local communities. Its initiatives have supported families, empowered youth, aided veterans, and fostered community resilience, ensuring that Hawai'i's people benefit from enduring civil-military partnerships in both times of stability and crisis.

Hawai'i National Guard Youth Challenge Academy

The Hawai'i National Guard Youth Challenge Program (YCP), established in September 1994, has transformed the lives of at-promise youth across

the state, helping them become responsible and productive citizens. The program, which integrates military discipline, academic instruction and civic engagement, targets young people aged 16-18 who face challenges such as academic struggles or involvement with the justice system. To date, Hawaii Youth Challenge campuses have graduated over 5,000 cadets in over 30 years.

YCP operates as a quasi-military intervention, consisting of a two-phase structure. The first phase is a five-and-a-half-month residential component focused on physical training, academic achievement and character development. This culminates in a competency-based high school diploma for many participants. The second phase provides a 12-month mentorship and post-residential support to ensure continued success.

Academically, the program focused on practical subjects, including government, health and consumer economics, as well as developing skills in mathematics, reading and communication. Service to the community played a central role, with cadets participating in environmental cleanups, volunteering at local organizations and supporting veterans' events, fostering a sense of civic responsibility.

The program's rapid success was evident as enrollment averaged approximately 100 corpsmembers per residential class, with two classes conducted annually. In 1998, the program became a permanent national initiative. This success was reflected in national recognition, including the United Services Organization's 1997 award for educational achievement and the Ola Pono Award from the Hawai'i Medical Service Association in 1998. By the end of the decade, YCP had graduated over 600 students, many of whom continued to higher education, military service or the workforce.

The 2000s saw continued growth, with the program's 1,000th graduate achieved by 2001. YCP received multiple accolades, including being named Federal Agency of the Year in 1996. In 2000, the program re-branded as the Youth Challenge Academy (YCA) and expanded with a second campus on the Big Island in 2011. In addition to core academic programs, the academy introduced vocational training and partnerships with local businesses to offer career development opportunities.

By the 2020s, the YCA had firmly established itself as a beacon of hope for at-risk youth in Hawai'i, graduating over 250 cadets annually. YCA's impact remained strong, adapting to challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic and was the only high school in Hawai'i to maintain 100% in-person classes. They were able to do so

because of the closed campus and dedication from their students and faculty. Community partnerships continued to expand, offering cadets exposure to career fields, mentorship, and further education.

In 2024, Youth Challenge Academy Hilo transitioned to Hawai'i Job Challenge Academy (JCA). The JCA program is designed to give YCA graduates a place to live for five months, provide them three meals per day, enroll them in academic classes and allow them to choose and work toward a state- and/or nationally-recognized certification/credential to ensure that they are ready to enter the workforce.

The final YCA Hilo class graduated in June 2024 and the first class for JCA began in July 2024. Alumni success stories and continued partnerships with local organizations ensure that both YCA and JCA remain a transformative force in shaping future leaders.

STARBASE Hawai'i History

The Department of Defense Science and Technology Academies Reinforcing Basic Aviation and Space Exploration (STARBASE) Program traces its roots to Michigan, where it began in 1991 as Project STARS. Initially developed to inspire and educate youth in the fourth, fifth and sixth grades the program introduced students to engaging, hands-on activities in science, technology and mathematics (STEM). Guardsmen played a key role in demonstrating the use of STEM in their daily work, while serving as mentors and role models for the students.

Building on its early success, the program gained national attention and in Fiscal Year 1993, Congress appropriated funds to formally establish the DOD STARBASE Program and launched pilot sites in seven states. Over the years, STARBASE expanded with locations across the U.S., making STEM education accessible to students nationwide.



The State of Hawai'i Department of Defense hosted a blessing and dedication ceremony for the re-designation of its youth service facility in Hilo, Hawai'i on Jan. 17, 2025. The newly re-designated program called Hawai'i Job Challenge Academy falls under the Nā Kula Alaka'i (leadership school) which allows graduates of the Youth Challenge Program to continue growing into productive members of their communities. (Photo by retired Master Sgt. Andrew Jackson)

STARBASE Hawai'i was first established in September 2008, operating out of the Kea'au Armory on Hawai'i Island. STARBASE Hawai'i serves over 700 students annually, primarily focusing on fifth graders supporting a variety of public, private, and charter schools.

In 2016, STARBASE Hawai'i partnered with the Volcano School of Arts and Sciences to offer an after-school robotics program for teams competing in the TMT Kea'au-Puna-Ka'u VEX IQ League where students designed, built and tested robots for various driver-controlled and autonomous challenges.

In recent years, STARBASE Hawai'i has expanded beyond its Level I (fifth grade) program, aspiring toward Level II and III accreditation to introduce robotics and intermediate/high school curricula.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, STARBASE Hawai'i partnered with Kea'au Middle School to

host robotics practices at the Kea'au Armory since after-school programs were canceled. This collaboration with Kea'au Elementary and Middle School led to the formation of the STARBASE-Kea'au VEX IQ Robotics Program and in 2022, the STARBASE team became certified VEX IQ Robotics coaches.

In 2023, STARBASE Hawai'i expanded its classroom into a fully equipped Robotics Lab to host team practices. The STARBASE-Kea'au Robotics Team qualified for and competed in the VEX IQ Hawai'i State Championship in 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025, achieving a 5th place finish in 2025.

Community outreach has become a hallmark of STARBASE Hawai'i. It has engaged thousands of students and families through events like Science and Math Nights at local schools, Keiki Summer Fun camps, Astro Day at Prince Kuhio Plaza and television features like the Na Leo Hawai'i TV

"Island Science" program. As of August 2025, STARBASE Hawai'i has inspired, motivated and empowered the students of East Hawai'i, having served over 10,000 students.

Over the years, STARBASE Hawai'i has grown into a cornerstone of STEM education and fostered a strong sense of community and curiosity. As it looks to the future, STARBASE Hawai'i remains dedicated to expanding opportunities, nurturing young minds and building the next generation of scientists, engineers and leaders.

Hawai'i State Approving Agency

The Hawai'i State Approving Agency (SAA) traces its roots to the passage of the original GI Bill of Rights in the aftermath of World War II. Officially authorized under Title 38, U.S. Code, Chapter 36, the SAA was established to safeguard the quality and integrity of educational and training programs accessible to veterans utilizing

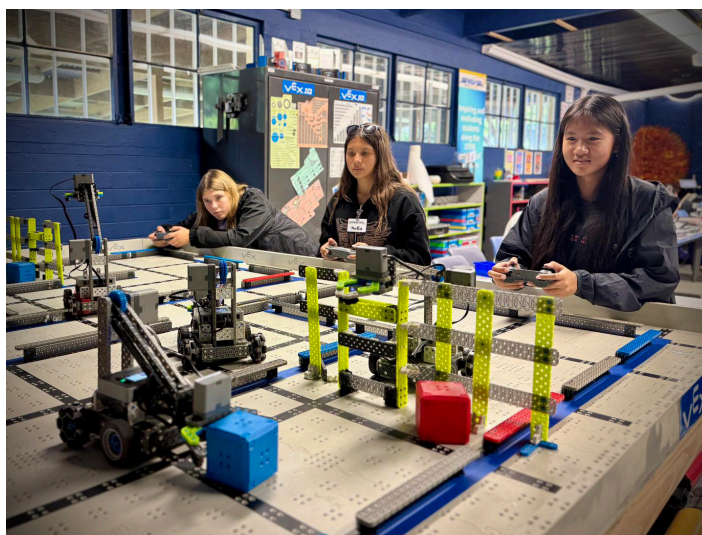


In June, STARBASE Hawai'i participated in robotics challenges at the Hawai'i Army National Guard's CAV-299th Family day, above, and students, below attended the UH Hilo PISCES STARS Program. (STARBASE Hawai'i photos)

federal education benefits. Every U.S. state maintains its own SAA, responsible for approving programs within its jurisdiction and ensuring compliance with Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) requirements.

The SAA's core responsibilities include inspecting and supervising educational institutions, approving or disapproving training programs for GI Bill eligibility, and reviewing institutions' compliance with federal standards. These functions are codified in 38 CFR §21.4151(b), which defines the agency's role in collaboration with the VA.

In Hawai'i, the SAA has evolved over the decades. For many years, the agency was housed within the University of Hawai'i system, until a pivotal transition in 2021. The Isakson-Roe Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act mandated that SAAs be independent of state



universities to avoid potential conflicts of interest. In response, the Hawai'i SAA was officially transferred to the State of Hawai'i Department of Defense on Oct. 1, 2021.

The Hawai'i SAA engages with educational training institutions across the state, at various stages

of the approval process. These include institutions of higher learning that offer degree programs ranging from associates to doctoral levels. Other non-college degree schools offer vocational or certification programs in areas such as massage therapy, cybersecurity, esthetics, flight school and yoga instruction. The

approval process is thorough and can take months to complete, especially for new institutions.

In addition to program approvals, the agency conducts outreach engages in supervisory and compliance related school visits, processes reapprovals, modifications, suspensions and withdrawals. Withdrawals can be due to factors such as school closure, inactivity, voluntary withdrawal, non-participation in federal financial aid programs, or federal compliance violations.

Today, the Hawai'i SAA continues its mission to approve and monitor education and training programs, ensuring that veterans and their families receive the full value of their hard-earned GI Bill benefits. It also assists veterans in identifying appropriate programs locally and nationwide, affirming its role as a vital resource within the broader network of veterans' services.



Job Challenge Academy joins airport exercise

▶ On Sept. 18, 2025, the Hawai'i Job Challenge Academy (JCA) participated in the 2025 Hilo International Airport Triennial Exercise, a full-scale Airport Emergency Plan (AEP) exercise held at least once every 36 consecutive months. The exercise reviews, tests and analyzes the airport's response to an incident by its stakeholders and mutual air organizations. It involved multiple agencies from federal, state, county, private and public entities. JCA's staff and associates supported the exercise by providing actors that were moulage for a variety of injuries during the real-life scenario of an aircraft collision simulation. The participants were then triaged and evacuated to staging locations based upon urgency and severity of their assigned injuries. The exercise would show the airport's ability to activate and maintain communication with all mutual aid partners within minutes of the incident notification. — *Hawai'i Job Challenge Academy photos*





JCA associates Kalanikupule De Cambra, left, and Trinity Pyne-Williams, above, are assisted by fire department personnel during the 2025 Hilo International Airport Triennial Exercise. – *Hawai'i Job Challenge Academy photos*



Hawai'i Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Stephen Logan, center, attended a key leader engagement hosted by Armed Forces of the Philippines Lt. Gen. Rey Alemania, Army Joint Sustainment Command commander, right, at Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Philippines on Sept. 24, 2025. The engagement recognized 25 years of partnership between the Hawai'i National Guard and Armed Forces of the Philippines under the State Partnership Program, the Indo-Pacific's longest-running SPP. (Hawai'i Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Mysti Bicoy)

Hawai'i, Philippines celebrate enduring partnership

By Master Sgt. Mysti Bicoy
154th Wing,
Hawai'i Air National Guard

CLARK AIR BASE, Philippines — Cheers, handshakes and shared stories filled the air Sept. 23–25 as the Hawai'i National Guard and Armed Forces of the Philippines celebrated 25 years of partnership — a bond that has endured typhoons, crises and global challenges to become the Indo-Pacific's longest-running State Partnership.

"This 25-year partnership is the first and longest continuous State Partnership in the Indo-Pacific," said Maj. Gen. Stephen Logan, Hawai'i's adjutant general. "It's a quarter-century of steady engagement, cooperation and deep friendship."

The anniversary, observed Sept. 25 at Clark, highlighted how the partnership has grown from a handshake in 2000 into more than 400 engagements across cyber defense, aviation, medical readiness, air defense and disaster response.

At Clark, the AFP's Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Reserve Force Development hosted a ceremony that blended military tradition with cultural symbolism. Philippine Army Reserve Col. Emmanuel "Manny" Pacquiao attended as a guest.

"Col. Pacquiao's presence showed how this partnership weaves into our nations' cultural fabric," said Command Sgt. Maj. Brandon Kumalae, the Hawai'i Guard's senior enlisted leader.

"It connected Aloha with the honor of service."

In Manila, Guard leaders met with U.S. Embassy officials, the Philippine Department of National Defense and the Joint U.S. Military Assistance Group to discuss homeland defense, cyber resilience and infrastructure training. The talks reinforced Indo-Pacific Command's security priorities and Pacific Air Forces' focus on interoperability and people-centered partnerships.

Philippine Secretary of National Defense Gilberto Teodoro Jr. has called for "functional replication" of reserve forces to match the readiness of active units. He said the Philippines must develop reserve formations that are capable of responding to both external threats and domestic emergencies.

The State Partnership Program has already supported that effort. Through combat casualty care training, cyber defense exchanges and aviation cross-training, the Hawai'i and Guam National Guards have worked with the AFP to move reserve concepts from doctrine into practice. These efforts embody the Hawai'i National Guard's vision and priorities — building 'Ohana through community, Optimizing the force, remaining Ready for any mission, honoring Kuleana through responsibility, strengthening Partnerships, and living Aloha wherever duty calls.

"Through hundreds of exchanges, our Guardsmen embody 'bayanihan' — unity and friendship," Logan said. "This reflects the strong people-to-people and



Hawai'i Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Stephen Logan and Armed Forces of the Philippines Air Force Brig. Gen. Jose Bonafacio, 410 Maintenance Wing commander, rendered honors during a pass and review at Clark Air Base, Mabalacat City, Pampanga, Philippines on Sept. 25, 2025. Below, Philippine Air Force Reservist Col. Emmanuel "Manny" Pacquiao, left, received a commemorative coin from Maj. Gen. Stephen Logan during the 25th anniversary celebration of the State Partnership Program at Clark Air Base. (Hawai'i Air National Guard photos by Senior Master Sgt. Mysti Bicoy)

security ties between the United States and the Philippines, making us stronger together, stronger tomorrow."

U.S. Air Force Maj. Stephen Brightman's tour as bilateral affairs officer at the U.S. Embassy in Manila was extended to sustain momentum. "Maj. Brightman's extension ensures mission success and preserves trust, respect and shared purpose," said Maj. Reuben Kim, the Hawai'i Guard's SPP director.

Since 2000, the partnership has supported key milestones:

- 2013: Joint response to Super Typhoon Haiyan.
- 2023–2025: More than 90 annual engagements in cyber-security, aviation and medical training.
- 2023: A Series of Rotary Wing Aviation engagements launched



- April 2025: Eighty-five AFP personnel trained in combat casualty care at Camp O'Donnell.
- August 2025: Over 500 events planned through the Mutual Defense Board and Security Engagement Board cycle.

Maj. Gen. Pablo Rustria Jr., AFP

Reserve Command commander, said the partnership has built resilience in the face of natural disasters. "We've faced typhoons, earthquakes and floods over two decades," he said. "The SPP has built a response framework that's faster, stronger and more unified."

Beyond training, cultural exchanges — lei greetings, Filipino Boodle fights, school renovations and community gatherings — have forged lasting bonds. "We come for the mission but stay for the people," said Col. John Udani, the Hawai'i Guard's director of military support. "We're Pacific family."

Those ties endure, as former exchange participants now mentor cadets and Guardsmen return as senior leaders. With more than 60 engagements already this year, the SPP continues to evolve, tackling challenges from climate change to cyber threats while developing future leaders.

The State Partnership Program, established in 1993, links National Guards with partner nations to build relationships that support access, interoperability and shared security interests.



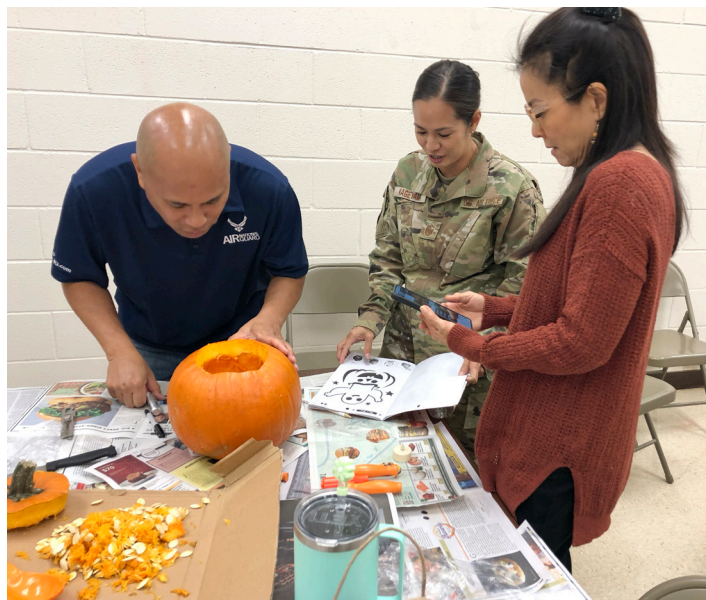
HIANG holds Leadership Conference

▶ The Hawaii Air National Guard recently held its Leadership Conference at the 29th IBCT Readiness Center at Kalaeloa, Hawaii. Hosted by HIANG commander, Maj. Gen. Joseph Harris II, the event brought together commanders, deputies, program and operations managers, and senior enlisted leaders for a day of strategic discussions, collaboration, and shared vision. Also stopping by was Maj. Gen. Timothy L. Reiger, vice chief of the National Guard Bureau, who recognized several of the top-performing Airmen and Soldiers of the Hawai'i National Guard. By uniting leaders and celebrating excellence, the HIANG continues to strengthen readiness, build partnerships, and shape the future of service in Hawai'i and beyond.

— Hawai'i Air National Guard
photos by Tech. Sgt. Orlando Corpuz



Halloween pumpkin carving, food sale supports Aloha United Way



▶ Hawai'i Dept. of Defense employees participated in a pumpkin carving and food sale fundraiser in the multi-purpose room at Building 306A on Oct. 29. The event raised \$855 for Aloha United Way. Mahalo to members from HIENG, HIANG, FMO, HIEMA, ASO, DAG/OTAG, PAO and the janitorial staff.

— State of Hawai'i Department of Defense photos

‘Mr. Aloha’ Gilbert Farm Sr. remembered

▶ State of Hawai‘i Department of Defense (HIDOD) employee Gilbert K.Y. Farm Sr. was always ready to help and did more than what was asked of him, taking great pride in his work. He was well-loved and will be greatly missed. He passed away on June 6, 2025 at the age of 69.

As a building maintenance worker, Gilbert was responsible for a variety of skilled construction work, including the maintenance and repairs of buildings, structures, fixtures and equipment housed in structures for all of the HIDOD facilities statewide.

Gilbert started his HIDOD career as a General Laborer (I) on Jan. 28, 1991 as an 89-day hire, then transitioned to a permanent employee. He was promoted to General Laborer (II) in November 1991. He later moved up to Building Maintenance Helper in 2007 and became a Building Maintenance Worker (I) in 2013.

Co-worker Harlan Tasaka shared

his experience working with Gilbert. “‘Hammah’ was the type to take on anything assigned to him and was not afraid to ask for help when needed. Hammah was a very reliable worker as a laborer, as well as his last position with building maintenance. He was also a very funny and great friend to everyone, as well as cheering up everyone at the shop.”

His coworker and good friend, Patrick Tangonan, was honored to answer questions about Gilbert’s time with the department.

How would you describe Gilbert’s work ethic and professional and personal outlook?

As a professional his work ethic was always willing to work non-stop, he couldn’t keep still, always looking for work. We sent him to patch and paint a wall, he ended up painting the whole room. When we (HIENG) took over the Hawai‘i State Veterans Cemetery in 2004, he used to come into work for love on the weekends



Above, Herring Kalua, left, Eddie Tangonan, Joe Malepai, Don Muraco, Ikaika Tangonan, Curtis Iaukea, Patrick Tangonan, Gilbert Farm, Erik Raphael and Alvin Rapheal posed for a photo after helping a friend move his pigeon coop in July 1992. (Photos courtesy Patrick Tangonan)



At far left, Gilbert Farm and his wife Dorothea. At left, Gilbert Farm, left, Lee Seleni, Kevin Ancog, Chris Alapai, Simoi Luafalemana, Kainalu Maikui Ah Mook Sang at the Hawai'i State Veterans Cemetery in May 2018. (Photos courtesy Patrick Tangonan)

just to empty the trash in the cemetery. He took pride in his work. His personal outlook was always helping his family and friends. He was always joking around and teasing everybody in a good way. He was LOUD! (LOL).

How was it working with Gilbert?

Working with Gilbert made me PROUD to have an outstanding worker like him on our TEAM.

He was my "LEAD MAN." He led by example and never said NO when asked to things.

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

Something that most people don't know about Gilbert is that we all called him "HAMMAH." He was "Mr. ALOHA." If you couldn't see him, you could HEAR him. Gilbert was one of a kind.

What did you admire about Gilbert the most?

He loved his family unconditionally. He would do anything for his wife and kids. He was their "HERO". He had a BIG HEART and will be FOREVER MISSED.

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

We worked together since 1991

here at Fort Ruger and have become FAMILY and I just wanted to say "THANK YOU" for all your hard work and dedication all these years.

I'm going to miss all your noises, laughter and jokes. We invested a DOLLAR and we got a MILLION DOLLARS worth from a MILLION DOLLAR MAN. Rest in PEACE my BROTHER. Until we meet again.

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



HING joins flag-flying commemoration

▶ On Oct. 16, 2025, the Hawai'i National Guard (HING) was honored to take part of the America250 flag-flying commemoration. This flag has flown over the American Battlefield cemeteries in Europe and was in Hawai'i to fly on as many flag poles of importance over two days in October, before continuing its journey to American Samoa. Retired Col. Art Tulak, Hawai'i Commissioner of America250 (seen holding the flag bottom right), Brig. Gen. Walter Ross, director of the HING Joint Staff, and retired Col. Michael Anastasia, secretary for the Hawai'i AUSA Chapter, joined HING members for the afternoon ceremony at our Diamond Head headquarters.

— Photos by retired Master Sgt. Andrew Jackson





Above left, Sgt. Ryan Cardenas, left, and Sgt. Mark Sulpico prepared collection boxes during the National Take-Back Initiative event at the Kahala Times Supermarket collection site. Above right, Sgt. Arnold Escano, left, and Sgt. Navi Chambers stood alongside local law enforcement partners at the Pearl City Police Station collection site. (Hawai'i National Guard Counterdrug Program photos)

Counterdrug team co-hosts prescription drug disposal event



By Sgt. Paulo Honrales

Hawai'i National Guard Counterdrug Support Program

▶ On Oct. 25, 2025, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), in partnership with the Hawai'i National Guard Counterdrug Program and local law enforcement agencies, hosted the Biannual National Take-Back Initiative (NTBI). The statewide drive-thru event provided residents with a safe, convenient, and responsible way to dispose of unused, expired, and unwanted prescription medications.

Across five collection sites statewide, the effort successfully gathered 2,636 pounds of medications. This collaborative initiative not only helped reduce opportunities for prescription drug misuse, accidental ingestion, and environmental contamination, but also strengthened community engagement and awareness around responsible medication disposal and drug prevention.



Above left, Sgt. Samson Achuela, Staff Sgt. Brandon Corales and Sgt. 1st Class Waylen Mendoza supported collection efforts during the National Take-Back Initiative event at the Hawai'i State Capitol. At left, Maj. Brian Kwak received unused, expired or unwanted medications from community members at the Hawai'i State Capitol. (Hawai'i National Guard Counterdrug Program photos)



Hawai'i National Guard and U.S. Air Force personnel posed with Tentara Nasional Indonesia-Angkatan Udara (TNI-AU) members for a photo during a Subject Matter Expert Exchange as part of Exercise Cope West 25 in Pekanbaru, Indonesia, Sept. 9-11, 2025. Exercise Cope West 25 is a bilateral tactical fighter exercise where U.S. and Indonesian forces work together to promote interoperability. Below, Sgt. 1st Class Bryan Hinkle, Hawai'i Army National Guard, Critical Care Flight Paramedic, worked with TNI-AU personnel during the Mass Casualty Exercise (*Hawai'i National Guard photos*)

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professionals, sharing expertise that will significantly boost both nations' military trauma and mass casualty capacity," said Hiura.

The U.S. delegation provided a series of didactic presentations on critical trauma topics, including: mass casualty and mass triage flight line crash/trauma response airway and breathing management circulation and hemorrhage control traumatic brain injury spinal injuries patient packaging. The TNI-AU provided didactic presentations on F16 Hydrazine leak response and human factors in flight safety incidents.

"It was a great experience working with the Active Duty and learning how the TNI-AU's medical forces approached situations differently from us," Habu said. He was one of only three guardsmen at the SMEE.



Additionally, participants engaged in hands-on skills training at various stations, allowing for direct application of their didactic knowledge. These stations included: autologous blood transfusion, direct laryngoscopy intubation, needle chest decompression, chest tube placement, pelvic binder placement (commercial and field expedient), femoral fracture

reduction via mechanical traction, CAT V tourniquet application for extremity hemorrhage, junctional tourniquet application (axilla and inguinal), use of combat gauze for non-compressible arterial bleeding management, surgical cricothyrotomy and patient packing.

"I thoroughly enjoyed working with our partners," said Hinkle.

"This exchange proved how valuable the friendship between our nations is and enhanced both services knowledge and capabilities. I hope this relationship between the TNI-AU and the Hawai'i National Guard continues for years to come."

The SMEE culminated in a mass casualty tabletop exercise, which provided a simulated environment for participants to apply their newly acquired knowledge and skills in a collaborative scenario-based setting. Having successfully increased the participants' knowledge base and practical skills, the SMEE fostered a strong professional relationship between the two nations' medical forces.

"It is always fascinating to compare SOPs and tactics to solve common problems, this exchange of information will make interoperability in the next fight that much better," Hinkle concluded.

UH Hilo Veteran Student Services Resource Center opens

By Jayme Nagamine
State of Hawai'i
Office of Veterans' Services

Josh Sze, a Navy veteran, UH Hilo student contacted Director John Alamodin from the Office of Veterans' Services. Josh was looking for information and resources to fill his newly established Veteran Student Services Resource Center (VSSRC) which is dedicated to supporting those who've served. The VSSRC is in room E232 of the UH Hilo Student Service Center. Josh wanted to create a dedicated space for veterans and their families to network, connect, and get support through campus and community-connected programs. Dir. Alamodin provided Josh with information, a few service flags and brochures before the opening of the VSSRC on Sept. 20, 2025.

"This non-judgmental, supportive space will have such a positive impact on our veteran community on this campus," said Josh Sze, a Navy veteran, UH Hilo student, and founder of



Congresswoman Jill Tokuda meets with veterans and students during UH Hilo tour and visits to VSSRC ahead of Open House (Photos courtesy of University of Hawaii at Hilo Communications Staff)



Josh Sze

the Hawai'i Island Veterans Club. "Just having a place where a group of vets can just listen to you — not tell you what to do, not try to control your journey,

not say you're wrong or dismiss you — but to honor you and validate your experience; where you can just be seen."

"I want this to be a one-stop shop for veterans to connect

with resources — whether it's nonprofits, whether it is through the VA, whether it's through any other organization that is vet-friendly — you don't have to navigate it alone," described Sze, who says veterans often struggle with accessing their medical, disability, or educational benefits. "You have support here, and you have a community here."

Sze says he's spent the last two years working to make this dream come true and he's incredibly grateful for support from key community leaders, like Congresswoman Jill Tokuda who toured the space while on campus.

NEW HIRES & TRANSFERS – STATE

EMPLOYEE	DATE	POSITION	PROGRAM
Sandaoval, Casey	9/22/25	General Laborer II	ENG / MAINTENANCE / HSVC
Rice, Brendan	10/1/25	Purchasing Technician I	HIARNG / CFMO
Rudnick, Stephen	10/1/25	Cadre - Kalaeloa	YCA - KALAELOA
Johnson, Korey	10/1/25	Cadre - Kalaeloa	YCA - KALAELOA
Kahele, Alfred	10/1/25	Janitor II	ENG / MAINTENANCE / KALAELOA
Ganiron, Rayanne	10/1/25	Assistant Mentor Coordinator - Hilo	YCA - HIO
Pate, Gordon	10/1/25	Operations Specialist (EMPG)	HIEMA
Sambrana-Silva, Taquila	10/1/25	Cadre - Hilo	YCA - HILO
Andrew, CJ	10/1/25	Cadre - Hilo	YCA - HILO
Foreg, Ryan	10/1/25	Cadre - Hilo	YCA - HILO
Aku, Brooklyn-Lee	10/3/25	Cadre - Hilo	YCA - HILO
Calamayan, Antonio	10/3/25	Cadre - Hilo	YCA - HILO
Hoelt, William	10/3/25	Cadre - Kalaeloa	YCA - KALAELOA
Jordan, Brandon	10/3/25	Cadre - Kalaeloa	YCA - KALAELOA
Kekoa, Lepeka	10/3/25	Cadre - Hilo	YCA - HILO
Sung, Steven	10/7/25	Departmental HR Officer II	ASO / SHRO
Kekoa, Makaiwakeala	10/16/25	Administrative Assistant (Case Mgr)	YCA - HILO
Santiago, Bryant	10/16/25	Logistics Planner (Wildfires)	HIEMA
Dowda, Scott	10/16/25	General Laborer II	ENG / MAINTENANCE / HSVC
Gilmore, Maria	10/20/25	Project Specialist - WF	HIEMA
Sawyer, Stacey	11/3/25	Veterans Services Counselor III	OVS / KONA
Siquig, Siana	11/3/25	Cadre - Kalaeloa	YCA - KALAELOA
Garingo, Jermaine	10/1/25	Emergency Management Reserve Corp Specialist	HIEMA
Bee-Chow, Julia	10/6/25	IT & ESS Assistant	ASO / Fiscal

NEW HIRES & TRANSFERS – FEDERAL

EMPLOYEE	DATE	POSITION	ORGANIZATION
Kau, Benjamin	9/21/25	Budget Analyst	Joint Force HQ, HING
Griffin, Taryn	9/22/25	Ordnance Equipment Mechanic	Munitions Activities, HIANG

pupukahi

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
Kauai: (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
Oahu: (808) 844-6425
Big Island: (808) 844-6616
Maui: (808) 789-0637
Kauai: (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/

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