

VETRAVAII ETRAN Lawelawe i nā koa kahiko me ka ha'aheo: "Serving veterans with pride"

Vol. 3 No.1

State of Hawaii Office of Veterans Services

Spring 1994

vet news

Expanded programs for women veterans

The Women Veterans Health Programs Act of 1992 authorized new and expanded services for women veterans, including counseling for sexual trauma on a priority basis; specific health services for women, such as Pap smears, mammography, and general reproductive health care (including family planning and birth control); and full-time women veterans coordinators in the four VA medical regions. About \$7.5 million was appropriated in 1993 specifically for these and other services for women veterans.

In response to the new legislation, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is augmenting staff at 69 Vet Centers, with full and part-time counselors who have specialized skills in providing counseling to women. In January 1993, VA also established a new division within the National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) to study the impact of military trauma on women veterans. For women veterans coordinator information, call 1 (800) 827-1000.

(continued on page 6)



Nancy S. Chappell

Newly appointed American Battle Monuments Commission member, Alfred Los Banos (center) meets with retired Lt. Gen. Joseph S. LaPosata, commission secretary designate (left), and Gene Castagnetti, director, National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl), Feb. 16.

Los Banos appointed to presidential commission

Korean War veteran Alfred "Freddy" Los Banos was awakened at 6 a.m., Feb. 8, by the White House calling to inform him of his appointment by President Clinton to the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC). The appointment is subject to final confirmation.

The ABMC is an independent agency of the Executive Branch of the federal government. Its principal functions are to commemorate the sacrifices and achievements of the U.S. military through the erection of suitable memorials, establish and operate permanent American military burial grounds in foreign countries, and control the establishment of U.S. military monuments in foreign countries by U.S. citizens.

The Commission maintains 24 permanent American military burial

grounds, 15 separate monuments and four memorials in twelve countries. Recently, it has been involved in the establishment of a World War II memorial on Guadalcanal and a Korean War memorial in Washington, D.C.

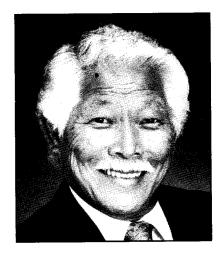
Los Banos was nominated to the Commission by Gov. John Waihee. He will be one of eleven members appointed by the President to the Commission's policy-making body and will serve for an indefinite term.

"I feel honored," said Los Banos. "I don't think there is anyone from Hawaii who has been appointed to the Commission. I hope I can do the job."

The Commission has a staff of 386 fulltime civilian employees and six military officers who work for it by arrangement with the Department of Defense. Its annual budget is about \$18 million.

Office of Veterans Services

State of Hawaii Department of Defense



Learn more about health care reform

From the Director Larry Lee

The National Health Care Reform Plan will be debated in Congress later this year, and it is incumbent on each and every veteran in America to educate themselves on how the plan will impact their personal life.

The Department of Veterans Affairs, a key player in this national health care reform, presently operates the nation's largest centrally managed health-care system and should be considered a viable choice for you, a veteran, whether or not you are currently eligible for care under their system.

The Department of Veterans Affairs will be actively competing with other health care providers to establish itself as the best choice for its millions of veterans. Veterans who choose to enroll

Corrections

- 1. The telephone number for Efficacious Development and Associates, the organization conducting a PTSD anxiety management study, was incorrectly listed on page 6 of the Winter 1993 issue of the *Hawaii Veteran*. The correct number is 538-3402.
- 2. The World War II veteran in the photograph on the bottom right of page 5 of the Winter 1993 Hawaii Veteran was incorrectly identified as William B. Hatcher. The picture is of William Keller.

in the VA plan will receive the comprehensive package of health benefits that is guaranteed by the reform proposals. Service-connected, low income and World War I veterans and former prisoners of war enrolled in a VA plan would not pay any deductibles, copayments or premiums not covered by the health alliance. Some of the key features of the VA benefit package include:

• Full coverage of care as a hospital inpatient, including bed and board, professional services, laboratory, diagnos-

tic and radiology services, and 24-hour emergency service.

- Unlimited outpatient prescription drugs and biologicals.
- Guaranteed access to comprehensive outpatient services.
 - Outpatient rehabilitation services.
- Hospice, home health and extended care services.
- Family planning and pregnancy-related services.
- Mental health and substance abuse treatment.
- •Broad provision of clinical preventive services including immunizations, screenings, routine vision and hearing exams.
- Durable medical equipment, prosthetic and orthotic devices.

I ask each veteran and their family members in Hawaii to pay attention to what is going on in the discussions on health care reform, particularly as it pertains to self and family, make your concerns known to our congressional delegation prior to the time the final vote is taken in Washington, and make a wise and well-researched choice of health carrier when decision time arrives.

OVS to relocate in April

The Office of Veterans Services will move from its current location on Bishop Street to an office in the former AAFES building on Ala Moana Boulevard, April 28. Their new address will be:

Office of Veterans Services 919 Ala Moana Boulevard Honolulu, HI 96814 (808) 587-3000

The new office, located on the ground floor, provides better parking and accessibility for veterans. It will be a temporary location until OVS moves with the Department of Veterans Affairs into offices at Tripler Army Medical Center's E-Wing when renovations are complete in 1997 or 1998.

Department of Veterans Affairs has new telephone prefix

Effective April 15, 1994 the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will have a new telephone system. The system's new prefix will be "566." Numbers currently between 1400 and 1899 will remain the same. All others will have new numbers assigned. The VA's main number, 541-1000, will not be affected.

New Filipino vets counselor joins OVS

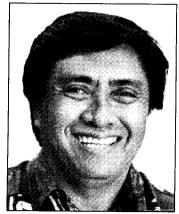
Feliciano A. Dona began work as the Office of Veterans Services' new Filipino veterans services coordinator, Jan. 3. He replaces Mila Medallon, who left OVS in October.

Dona was born and raised in the Philippines. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1960 to 1987, retiring as an equal opportunity instructor at the Naval Submarine Training Center, Pacific, at Pearl Harbor. In 1991, he earned a degree in business administration from Hawaii Pacific University.

Before joining OVS, Dona worked with

Child and Family Services as a case manager/employment specialist. He feels his new job will entail much of what he was already doing, only on a broader scale. He will be involved in outreach and assistance on issues such as housing, immigration and social security. He plans to coordinate his activities with a variety of non-profit service agencies.

Dona and his wife, Evangeline, have two daughters and a son. They reside in Mililani. In his free time, Dona is an adviser for the Fil-Am Military Association of Hawaii. He also loves to golf.



Dona

Kauai staff gets belated kudos for Iniki efforts



(From left) Manuel Corregedore, veterans services counselor, Jocelyn Miyake, clerk-typist, James Ishii, and Ricky Tumacder pause after being presented certificates of appreciation by Carswell Ross Jr., veterans services coordinator (right), for their courage and concern for veterans on Kauai during Hurricane Iniki, Sept. 11, 1992. The staff and volunteers, at risk to themselves, assisted 275 visiting veterans and their spouses in evacuating their hotel and ferried them to the airport where they were airlifted to Oahu. Meanwhile, Jocelyn Miyake traveled through wind and rain to the Kauai Office of Veterans Services to secure the office. She left knowing that veterans' files would not be compromised if the office was damaged.

Representative Young appointed to DACOWITS

State representative Jackie Young of the 51st District (Lanikai, Keolu and Waimanalo) was notified, Feb. 10, that she has been selected for a three-year term as a member of the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS).

DACOWITS was established in 1951 by then Secretary of Defense, George C. Marshall, to advise him on matters pertaining to military women. Through the ensuing 43 years, this distinguished group has made many significant contributions to the effective integration and utilization of women in the military and to the quality of life these women enjoy.

Young's experience in women's issues includes a Ph.D in communication and women's studies. From 1986 to 1987 she served as an appointee to the Honolulu County Committee on the Status of Women and, in 1987, became chair of the Hawaii Women's Political Caucus. She also acts as a consultant on issues relating to workplace diversity.

"Military sexual harassment will be the problem I will strive hardest to overcome as a member of DACOWITS," said Young. "Opportunities for military women will not be available unless we take appropriate action to bring the issue of military sexual harassment to the forefront."



Young

Wakinekona is first Hawaiian to receive native American VA loan



Ezekiel R.H. Wakinekona (right) and his wife, Lynette, sign papers to close Hawaii's first native American VA home loan, Feb. 25.

Ezekiel R.H. Wakinekona is the first native Hawaiian veteran to obtain a direct loan from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) under the Native American Veterans' Direct Home Loan Program. A ceremony commemorating the historic loan closing was held at the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL), Feb. 25.

The pilot loan program began last Septemberunder legislation sponsored by Hawaii Senator Daniel K. Akaka. DHHL was the first in the nation to enter into an agreement with the VA for direct loans to native American homestead lessees who are qualified veterans. Since Hawaiian home lands cannot be sold, native Hawaiian lessees were excluded from most conventional loan sources because the land cannot be used as loan collateral.

Under the program, the maximum loan amount for purchase, construction or repair of homes on Hawaiian home lands is \$120,000. The current interst rate for a fixed 30-year loan is 6.75 percent. Closing costs include a funding fee of 1.25 percent of the loan amount and payments for appraisal, credit reports and reserves.

DAV rally provides informative day for vets



Simeon Amor (left), a veteran of World War II's 1st Filipino Infantry, gets a tuberculosis test from a Department of Veterans Affairs nurse at Keehi Lagoon, March 6.

Between 150 and 250 veterans and their spouses turned out for information, medical treatment, lunch and entertainment during the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) rally at Keehi Lagoon, March 6.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the state Office of Veterans Services (OVS) were on hand to provide a wide variety of information on topics including veterans benefits, insurance, mental health programs, and medical services. The VA also provided tetanus shots and blood pressure, tuberculosis and glucose tests.

Representatives of the Social Security Administration and the Department of Labor also provided information, and an attorney was available to provide advice on wills and trusts.

The DAV encourages those who attended the event to contact DAV headquarters at 833-3746 to offer their comments and suggestions for similar events in the future.

PTSD program gives vets hope for the future

Story and photo by Nancy S. Chappell

On one floor in a wing of the Naniloa Hotel in Hilo, nine men live and gather to sort through hardened tangles of emotion born more than 25 years ago in the jungles of Vietnam.

They suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), a condition first diagnosed in 1980, and are participating in an innovative 11-week residential treatment program run by the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) Pacific Center for PTSD.

Since June 1993, the PTSD residential rehabilitation program (PRRP) has been providing intensive rehabilitation to veterans suffering war-related stress. The program is open to veterans of all eras and combines a community-oriented and integrative atmosphere with focused 24-hour care.

According to VA staff and veterans alike, appropriate treatment for PTSD was, until recently, hard to come by in the islands. Outpatient treatment is available through the VA's Vet Centers: however, for many, one or two hours per week with a VA counselor was simply not enough to unwind years of emotional distress. The only other alternative was acute in-patient psychiatric care at Tripler Army Medical Center. The hospital setting, however, was often counterproductive to the veterans' recovery.

PTSD symptoms include reexperiencing a trauma through flashbacks or dreams, avoidance of stimuli associated with the trauma, and physical arousal such as adrenaline rushes and increased alertness.

According to Jon Harlan, director of the PTSD residential program, veterans with PTSD, often misperceived as "crazy or unbalanced," have actually experienced "a very normal reaction to an abnormal situation" -- in the case of Vietnam veterans, the horrible trauma of war combined with the rejection of society upon their return.

Vietnam veterans who suffer from PTSD have largely retreated from a society they feel has betrayed them and that they can no longer trust. They



Agroup of veterans participating in the VA's PTSD residential treatment program gather at the facility's temporary location at the Naniloa Hotel in Hilo.

carry a great deal of unresolved anger and guilt about their war experiences. Because of a survival habit learned in battle, they have problems communicating and dealing with their emotions.

"When you see your buddies get killed, you tend to stuff it and pretend it never happened," says Terry, a program participant. "Then, you tend to stuff a lot of other things in your life."

The PTSD program combines group therapy with a "whole life" perspective. The group therapy component focuses on the veterans' war experiences. It helps veterans get in touch with their unresolved feelings and to "reframe" their experiences by creating positive associations to stimuli that for them produce negative reactions.

A didactic or teaching component provides coping skills for problems such as communication and anger management and promotes healthy living habits, enabling veterans to once again function as productive members of society.

Veterans enter the program as a cohort and remain together for the entire 11 weeks. Harlan emphasizes that relationships among the group are equally as important as patient-staff relationships.

"We recreate the comraderie of a squad," he says. "At first, it is very hard for them to allow themselves to become part of a group, but the program is structured to let it develop naturally."

Learning to trust people and society again is an important part of the veterans' recovery. Many in the program felt that, for the first time, they were willing to open up to people around them and begin looking to the future.

Family counseling is offered on a case-by-case basis. Class member Sonny says that such counseling was "the first time I could sit down and have an actual conversation with my wife."

The PRRP operated out of the Kilauea Military Recreational Facility before moving to its current location at the Naniloa Hotel. Bids for a permanent location are being reviewed by the VA.

The program has struggled against some community resistance during its establishment, largely because of misconceptions surrounding the veterans who might come for treatment.

"People in society are afraid of us, not realizing that we are even more afraid of them," says Ron, a member of the current class.

In fact, veterans enter the program on a referral basis and are subject to strict eligibility requirements. They must already be in (continued on pg.7)

Department of Veterans Affairs

May a nickname be placed on a gravemarker at government expense if the veteran has no middle name?

A nickname may never be placed on the name line, but may be included as an additional item at private expense. It would be placed below the authorized inscription, which is below the dates of birth and death. Diminutives, such as Jim for James. may be used in the name line.

I receive a VA pension. Can I qualify or be eligible for the VA's Vocational Rehabilitation Program?

Yes. Any veteran receiving a pension awarded between Jan. 30, 1985, and Dec. 31, 1995, can apply for a vocational rehabilitation evaluation. If an evaluation shows the veteran has the potential to achieve a vocational goal, the VA will help develop a plan of services which can lead to employment. If the veteran elects to enter a rehabilitation program, the pension is protected until the veteran is employed.

My husband, a veteran, died before our first anniversary. Am I entitled to any kind of widows' benefits from the VA?

Generally, to qualify for death benefits, a surviving spouse must have been married to a veteran at least one year, or for any period if they had a child. However, the marriage date requirement varies depending on the benefit involved.

For more information, contact any DVA office. In Honolulu, call 541-1000 or 1 (800) 827-1000 or write: VA Medical and Regional Office, P.O. Box 50188, Honolulu, HI 96850.

vet news -- continued from page 1

Special Forces Association elects new officers

The newly elected officers of the MSG Earl Kalani Memorial Chapter VII, Special Forces Association (SFA) are: Jim Santos, president; Vernon Broad, vice president; Al Fernandez, secretary; Harry Munck, treasurer; Duke Akina, sergeant-at-arms; and Alex Dimitriadis, chaplain. SFA meetings are usually held the first Sunday of the month at the DAV Keehi Lagoon complex. For information, contact Duke Akina, 845-6092, or Jim Santos, 638-9642.

New 5th RCT veterans group seeking members

The 5th Regimental Combat Team (5th RCT), Korean War Veterans, Hawaii, held its first meeting Feb. 19. The group adopted a constitution and bylaws and elected Alfred Los Banos, president, Irwin Cockett Jr., vice president, Shoji Kuroda, secretary, Hibbert Menley, treasurer, and Sterling Cale, historian.

The group's next meeting will be held at 10 a.m., May 21, at the Ft. Shafter community center. All former members of the 5th RCT are invited to attend. For more information, contact Alfred Los Banos, 373-1892, or Shoji Kuroda, 455-5644.

School band needs help for D.C. trip

Highlands Intermediate School's symphonic band has been invited by the U.S. Navy Memorial Foundation to represent benefit memorials Hawaii at a "Normandy Liberation and Bicentennial Music Celebration" in Wash- memorative Coin Act of 1993 authoington, D.C. from May 27 to June 3.

to dedicate their performances to the vet-silver coins to benefit the Vietnam Veterans of the Normandy invasion living in erans Memorial Foundation, the Women Hawaii. Although the school has done in Military Service for America Memosome research to identify Hawaii's rial Foundation and the Andersonville Normandy veterans, it has only found one Prisoner-of-War Memorial Endowment name. If you know of anyone who is a fund. Normandy veteran living in Hawaii, please

their trip (estimated cost: \$150,000). Do- and preserve Monticello, Thomas nations may be addressed to HIS Sym- Jefferson's home in Charlottesville, Virphonic Band, 1460 Hoolaulea St., Pearl ginia. Sales are scheduled to begin this City, Hawaii 96782.

Women in Military Service calendar available

The Women in Military Service for Memorial Foundation America (WIMSA) has printed a 1994 calendar commemorating women's service during World War II. The calendar contains reproductions of 12 of the most famous posters used to recruit women for that war. A limited number of copies are available for \$8.50 each (including postage). Send a check payable to 'WIMSA Calendar" to WIMSA, Dept. 560, Washington, D.C. 20042-0560.

'Fighting '69th' returns to Kauai

World War II veterans of the 169th Infantry or the 'Fighting '69th' will return to Kauai May 18-22 to celebrate the 52nd anniversary of their landing on Kauai and to finish their 50th anniversary celebration which was interrupted on its third day by Hurricane Iniki. The reunion will take place at the Aston Kauai Beach Hotel.

The "Fighting '69th" was a National Guard unit comprised mainly of Irish Americans from New York. They were the first troops to serve on Kauai after the outbreak of World War II. The Regimental colors display 24 campaign battle honors and 63 battle rings from the Pacific campaign. Seven members received the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Commemorative coin act to

The United States Veterans Comrizes the secretary of the Treasury to As part of the program, the band plans mint 500,000 each of four one-dollar

A \$10 surcharge for three of the coins contact Jane Himeda, principal, 455-4121. will go to these organizations. Proceeds The students also need help funding from the fourth coin will help restore summer.

Maui vets spotlight outstanding law officers

From The Maui News

Wailuku Post 61 of the American Legion honored a group of Maui police officers for outstanding service to the community during an awards dinner at the Maui Beach Hotel, Jan. 19. Seven officers received 1993 Crossed Flags Plaques.

Detective Joseph Higgins, the Maui Police Department's fire investigator, was a key investigator in several recent "smash and grab" cases and has one of the highest clearance records for the Wailuku detective division.

Sgt. Arthur Dadez, a Maui police officer since 1986, has served in Wailuku, Hana and Lahaina and is now supervisor of the DUI task force. Dadez made nearly 400 drunken or drugged driving arrests in 1992 and 1993. He has also made presentations to schools and businesses on the dangers of drunken driving.

Sgt. Clyde Tamura, a Maui police officer for more than 18 years and now a field supervisor with the Wailuku

patrol division, is a certified firearms instructor and fingerprint examiner. He is described as "a very intelligent individual, well respected by his subordinates and peers."

Sgt. Louis L. Romero has served as a police officer on Lanai for 17 years. He has never missed a day of work in his 23 years with the department. Romero is very active in the community, coaching the Lanai High School basketball team and Little League baseball. He refuses to accept overtime pay when called out on an emergency.

Sgt. Leland Scott Jr., a Maui police officer for seven years, holds a bachelor of arts degree in police science and a masters degree in theology. Scott is a lifetime member of Lambda Alpha Epsilon, a criminal justice fraternity for those in law enforcement who have achieved academic excellence. He has also been recognized for perfect attendance.

Sgt. Tivolo Faaumu, an eightyear veteran of the Maui Police Department, was promoted to sergeant and assigned to the Lahaina division in July 1992. He is a weaponless defense instructor for the department and a certified firearms instructor. He also works with the Tongan community in the areas of AIDS education.

Sgt. Robert Ribao, a member of the Maui Police Department since 1973, has worked with the vice division as a detective and now works as an investigator on Molokai. He is known for his honesty, sense of fair play, and high moral standards.

The American Legion also presented humanitarian awards to Oliver H. Cummings Sr. of Wailuku Post 61 and Maui Police officer Derek S. Lee. Kualii Oliver, commander of Post 61, was presented the Clarence M. Broughton "For God and Country" Award.

Also presented with "Citation of Appreciation" plaques were Ron Vaught, Fusayo Koike and Paul Douglas of radio station KMVI, and Christie Wilson and Tim Hurley of The Maui News.

Korean vets compare return visits

The wives of Hawaii Chapter, 45th Division Association of Korean War Veterans, chaired by Eloise Murakami, hosted a dinner reunion for 75 Korean War veterans and their spouses at the Wisteria Restaurant, Dec. 3. The veterans included those who had participated since 1989 in the Korean War Revisit Program.

Guest speakers included Consul General Sei-Hoon Yang of the Korean Consulate General's office; Mr. Larry Lee, director, State Office of Veterans Services; and Mr. Louis Baldovi, member, Governor's Advisory Board on Veterans Services.

Consul General Yang expressed the gratitude of the Republic of Korea for the Hawaii veterans' role in the Korean War. Mr. Lee spoke about the progress of the Korea-Vietnam War Memorial, the state veterans' cemetery in Kaneohe and the government's proposed long-term care health care program for veterans. Mr. Baldovi urged fellow veterans to help raise the level of awareness of Hawaii's citizens about the Korean War and to become involved in legislation affecting veterans' interests.

Veterans were able to socialize, renew old friendships and share their impressions of the "new" Korea with that of the Korea they knew back in the Fifties.

After dinner, a Chinese auction was held to raise money for memorial wreaths to be presented at occasions honoring Hawaii's veterans.

PTSD program -- continued

an ongoing counseling relationship, be "psychiatrically stable," and be alcohol and drug free. At the PRRP they are required to pass random drug tests and may leave only with a pass.

When veterans complete the program they are strongly encouraged to continue with active counseling to consolidate and enhance gains made in the program. The PRRP maintains close working relationships with private and VA care providers to facilitate this aftercare component.

When asked how life would have been different if the PRRP program had been available when American men and women began returning from Vietnam, program participant Milo's face lights up, and he expresses his conviction that many of the problems in today's society would be drastically reduced. "Society would not have been so torn asunder. Our generation runs things now, but many of us have no coping skills. We would have been more psychologically ready to take on the duties of our country."

calendar/notices

April 9

POW/MIA ceremony -- 10 a.m., National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl).

Banquet for former POWs and families of MIAs -- Queen Kapiolani Hotel, Peacock Room. No-host cocktails, 6 p.m., dinner, 7 p.m. \$20 per person. For reservations, contact Nick Nishimoto, 946-1117.

April 22

Military retiree golf tournament -- Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station, 11:30 check in, 12:30 start. For more information, call 449-9896.

May 21-24

Society of the 28th Division AEF (WWII/Korea)--State College, PA. Contact: John T. Dickey, 1130 W. Nelson St., Coal Township, Pa. 17866-3416.

May 22

Plaque dedication for unknown soldiers of the Korean War, sponsored by the Chosin Few -- 10 a.m. National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl). Contact: Bob Holtzer, 4664 W. Leonesio Dr., Sparks, NV 89433, (702)673-3590.

May 22-26

WWII Flight Nurse Assn., inc. (WWII)--Holiday Inn Embarcadero, San Diego, Calif. Contact: Florence Rockwell, (805)483-1281.

May 29

Join the Friends of the Natatorium in observing Memorial Day at 9 a.m. on the grounds of the Waikiki War Memorial Natatorium, featuring Senator Daniel Inouye as the principal speaker.

June

Co. C, Staff Bn, HQ & SVC CMD (HSC), General Headquarters, Far East Command Reunion -- Rapid City, S.D. Contact A.L. "Arch" Telgren, 1023 Forest St., Brookings, S.D. 57006-3225, (605) 692-6692.

June 10-12

Department of Hawaii, Disabled American Veterans annual state convention -- Hilo Hawaiian Hotel. For information and registration contact your chapter adjutant.

July 6-9

101st Airborne Division Association 49th annual reunion -- Nashville, Tenn. Contact: Ivan Worrell, 101st Airborne Division Association, P.O. Box 586, Sweetwater, Tenn. 37874, (615) 337-4103.

July 15-18

"K" Co/4th Bn/12th Marines/3rd Mar Div.--Carnival Cruise (Departs from Miami, Fla.). Contact Doug (Doc) Wean, 708-629-3216.

If you want to list an event for veterans or veterans organizations in the *Hawaii Veteran*, please forward the information to the State Department of Defense Public Affairs Office, 734-8527 (fax), or call 732-1711. The submission deadline for the Summer '94 (June 15) issue is May 27.



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