



HAWAII VETERAN

STATE OF HAWAII OFFICE OF VETERANS' SERVICES

Mahalo Diane Ramsay for your service!

By Jayme Nagamine

Photos provided by Diane Ramsay

About 11 years ago, Diane Ramsay was living in Massachusetts. On an impulse, she started scrolling through the Internet looking for state jobs in Hawai'i. This was a destination she had always wanted to visit. After going through the Department of Human Resources website, she saw that there was a position open for a Veterans Services Counselor in Kona, Hawai'i. After reading the qualifications, she thought that the job would be a good fit. At the time she was working for the State of Massachusetts in Employment and Training for disabled veterans.

be interested in an interview. She said "Yes, I am so excited to be interviewing for this position." After the phone interview, she waited in anticipation. Shortly after the interview she received a letter stating that she had been chosen for the position. "We were on our way to live in Hawai'i, and I would be able to serve the veteran community in the Kona district (West Hawai'i) as a Veterans Services Counselor. It was a dream come true," Ramsay said.



Diane Ramsay enjoying her sushi by the beach. Making her family jealous in the mainland.

"I was talking with my husband about the idea of applying for the job in Hawai'i, he agreed to give it a shot. Rod, my husband thought the change would be good and was willing to move to Hawai'i. Thinking about it now, we were in the dead of winter with four feet of snow outside our door. Hawai'i looked like a tropical paradise" Ramsay said.

She submitted her application and soon after received a phone call from the Veterans Coordinator Mr. John Condello asking if she would

Ramsay said that her last ten years have been a roller coaster ride of new adventures different climates, lots of learning, and meeting new friends along the way. "It has been such an honor to work with the veterans in West Hawai'i on the Big Island."

"Thank you to my supportive family, husband Rod and son Nathan for going along with my spur of the moment, crazy idea. My appreciation goes out to my fellow coworkers who had faith in me (coming all

the way from Massachusetts) to hire me and help me along my journey. Mr. John Condello, Mrs. Lyndie Michioka, Mrs. Kelcie Figueira, and the late Col. (R) Ronald P Han, Jr. They always showed me that in this field of work you must be committed and show the aloha spirit each and every day," Ramsay said.

Her last day in the office will be April 11. She will be living a warm retirement lifestyle, spending half

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New Employees at OVS

HILO OVS LOCATION



**NOHELANI
JAVELLANA**
Office Assistant

Nohelani spent five years with the state Department of Education, working closely with families and the community. Three of her brothers serve in the U.S. Navy and her grandfather and grandmother both served in the U.S. Air Force. She is proud to serve our veteran community.



**ANGELA
ABURAMEN**
Veterans Services
Counselor

Angela graduated from the University of Hawai'i at Hilo with a bachelor's degree and is currently pursuing a master's degree. She previously worked at Hawai'i Community College in disability services. Throughout her life and career she has always been motivated to advocate for those who cannot advocate for themselves.

Happy Retirement Diane!

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the year living in New Hampshire for the summer months and then flying back to Kailua-Kona for the winter months.

Thank you Diane Ram-say for your 10 years of service at the Office of Veterans' Services in Kailua-Kona. We appreciate all the time you have



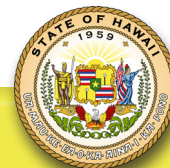
taken to meet with the veterans. Value the time you have spent, attending all the veteran events. From all of us at OVS, thank you for your patience and kindness. Retirement is just the beginning of another amazing journey! You will be greatly missed.

TRIPLER O'AHU LOCATION



ANTHONY SILVA
Veterans Services
Counselor

Anthony has become a permanent state employee at the OVS office. He has been a Combat Engineer with the Hawai'i Army National Guard HIARNG for 19 years. He served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and has been a member of the 93rd Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Enhanced Response Force Package (93rd CERFP) Search & Extraction team since 2007.



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