

2023 DOD RELATED BILLS & RESOLUTIONS



Courtesy Photo - Hawai'i State Senate Clerk

1.HB1033 (State Building Code Council - HIEMA) **Awaiting Gov's signature**

- Purpose: Establishes a representative from the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) to be added as a voting member of the State Building Code Council (SBCC).

- This bill will improve the state's building standards from an emergency management perspective and better posture the state to be more resilient from future disasters such as hurricanes. It will also greatly improve Hawaii's ability to compete for federal mitigation grants.

2.HB1036 (Hawai'i State Fusion Center - OHS) **Awaiting Gov's signature**

- Purpose: Formally establishes the Hawai'i State Fusion Center (HSFC) as a program under the department's Office of Homeland Security to be transferred to the newly formed Department of Law Enforcement, and codifies its roles and responsibilities within state law (i.e., Hawai'i Revised Statutes).

- The HSFC is the hub of information and intelligence sharing in our state and vital to Hawaii's homeland security. By formally establishing the Hawai'i State Fusion Center as a program under the Office of Homeland Security, this bill will help better protect Hawai'i's residents and critical infrastructure by securing federal grants from the Department of Homeland security.

- This bill will also have a Governor's Bill signing ceremony in the month of June or July (Date TBD)

3.HB1037 (Statewide Interoperable Communications Exec - OHS) **Awaiting Gov's signature**

- Purpose: Update the wording regarding the statewide interoperable communications executive committee and the statewide interoperable communications coordinator (SWIC) as part of the migration of the Office of Homeland Security to the newly established Department of Law Enforcement which will occur January 2024.

- This bill will ensure the Statewide Interoperable Communications Executive Committee and the Statewide Interoperable Communications Coordinator are codified in law and will have a seamless migration when the department's Office of Homeland Security is transferred to the Department of Law Enforcement.

Other DOD Bills & Resolutions Of Interest That Passed In The 2023 Session:

4. SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 100. **Resolution Adopted**

- This resolution requests the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to collaborate with the department's Office of Veterans Services to plan and construct memorials to honor the sacrifices and contributions of Veterans from Hawaii.

- This resolution dovetail with an appropriation to OVS in the amount of \$250,000 for planning and design of a

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Best Warriors



Hawai'i Army National Guard Spc. Quinn Mears, left, a combat engineer assigned to Alpha Company, 227th Brigade Engineering Battalion and Hawai'i Army National Guard Sgt. Cooper Hulse, a cavalry scout assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, 1-299th Cavalry Regiment, won the Region VII Best Warrior Competition, Waimanalo, Hawai'i, May 7-11 2023. The Region VII winners competed against National Guard service members from Arizona, California, Colorado, Guam, Hawai'i, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah in Army Warrior Tasks. The two HIARNG Soldiers now move on to the All-Guard National Best Warrior Competition in Alaska next month. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Sean Walker)

Kamehameha Schools grad takes regional crown in Army National Guard's Best Warrior Competition

Courtesy Story - *Hawai'i Tribune Herald* | Story by John Burnett | Thursday, June 11, 2023

The pain of regret is way worse than the pain of training."

Sgt. Cooper Hulse on Friday was reflecting on the Army National Guard's Best Warrior Competition.

The competition is an annual Army-sponsored event designed to measure a soldier's physical fitness, mental acuity, and demonstrated skill in warrior tasks and battle drills. So far, Hulse has taken first place at the brigade, state and regional levels.

This is the second time the 28-year-old Hulse, a 2013 Kamehameha Schools Hawai'i graduate from Kalapana, has vied to be Best Warrior. This time around, he's competing as a non-commissioned officer. The first time, in 2014, was in the enlisted soldier competition.

"I was a private back then, and I got second place," Hulse said. "So, coming back to it as an

NCO, it was more redemption for myself than anything else. The pain of regret is a helluva thing, I knew I could do it.

"So, when I was selected to represent, I left it all out on the field."

Between May 7 and 11, Hulse — who competed in volleyball and swimming at Kamehameha — won Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year in the Warrior Competition for Region VII. As Hawai'i state champion, he defeated soldiers from Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Guam.

Hulse, the non-commissioned officer in charge of the Tactical Command Center for the 1st Squadron, 299th Cavalry Regiment, 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Hawai'i Army National Guard headquartered in Hilo, advances next month to the All-Guard

National Best Warrior Competition in Alaska. He'll be one of seven regional winners competing for the coveted title of National Best Warrior.

To get the gist of the competition, imagine the "American Ninja Warrior" television show and then de-glamorize it — with an obstacle course that looks as though it will leave your hands splintered, a 12-mile rucksack march, fireman's carry run on the beach, sled drag, written exam, board interview, marksmanship and the standardized Army Combat Fitness Test.

"The coolest part of the competition for me was definitely the experience that I was able to learn and gain from not just our instructors and graders, but also from our fellow competitors," Hulse said. "They're bringing a wealth of knowledge from all across the country that not

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A Hawai'i Air National Guard weapons crew from the 154th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron arms an F-22 Raptor with inert munitions March 8, 2023, at the Pacific Missile Range Facility, Barking Sands, Hawaii. Aircraft armament systems crews from the 154th and 15th Aircraft Maintenance Squadrons were transited to Kauai on a C-17 Globemaster III to help receive, rearm, and launch fighter aircraft within a condensed time window. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. John Linzmeier)

F-22 Raptors Successfully Rearmed in ACE Capabilities Milestone
 154th Wing Public Affairs - Hawai'i Air National Guard | Story by Staff Sgt. John Linzmeier | Thursday, March 9, 2023

Total-Force weapons specialists from 154th and 15th Wings successfully rearmed F-22 Raptors at the Pacific Missile Range Facility for the first time, 8-9 March, marking a significant milestone in enhancing their ACE capabilities.

The maneuver operation was part of a larger Joint Base Readiness Exercise, carried out by Hawai'i Air National Guard and Active-Duty Airmen stationed at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Aircraft armament systems crews from the 154th and 15th Aircraft Maintenance Squadrons transited to Kauai on a C-17 Globemaster III, loaded with the bare essential equipment needed to help receive, rearm, and launch fighter aircraft within a condensed time window.

Known as the F-22 Tailorable Force Package, the outbound unit was strategically constructed of members with mission-critical skills. Minimal-Mission-Capable Airmen were

postured to sustain combat operations between a central hub, JBPH-H, and an outer spoke, the PMRF.

Each training day began with the routinely held launching of F-22 combat sorties. However, upon concluding their initial air battle, Raptor pilots delayed their usual return to JBPH-H and set a course for Kauai, where they would undergo refueling and rearmament. Then, after receiving a full complement of fuel and munitions, they returned to the battle space to engage in additional air-to-air combat training.

As part of the JBRE, all Kauai weapons activities were closely observed by a Wing Inspection Team, who assessed the weapons and ammunition teams' proficiency in munition preparation, procedures, and loading techniques.

Staff Sgt. Steve Tanaleon, 154th AMXS weapons technician, said his confidence skyrocketed after his team successfully armed

their first Raptor in the new, relatively remote environment in less time and utilizing limited resources.

"This is a big deal for all of us," said Tanaleon. "Especially for part-

timers like myself, we do most of our training on the weekend. But this joint operation thrust us into these positions of high responsibility and limited resources, proving that we can always get the job done."

While the inert munitions were non-explosive, participants were trained to always handle them as though the weapon systems were live to ensure that all appropriate safety procedures would be followed in an actual wartime scenario.

Identified as possible obstacles, the airfield's weather and remoteness turned out to be valuable learning experiences for the Airmen.

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YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY FEMALES TAKES THIRD PLACE

State of Hawai'i, Department of Defense, Public Affairs Office | Story by Bernhard Lashley/leidner

Kapolei, Hawai'i – The Hawai'i National Guard's Youth Challenge Academy (HIYCA) female cadets win third place in the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) Physical Fitness competition Mar 4, 2023, at Kapolei High School.

The HIYCA female cadets won third place in the Fitness challenge with a time of one hour, four minutes and four seconds.

"I was shocked when they said we had won third place," said cadet Ciatacecilia Kuka from America Samoa. "We were not ready to compete."

Kuka a soft-spoken and very religious young lady said they found out last night they would be competing today, and she gives all her thanks to God for their win.

"We prayed last night and today, said Kaku. "We asked God to help us in the fitness challenge."

The final trophy awarded of the day was the largest and most elaborate "The Motivation Trophy," which stood four feet tall, was awarded to the defending champions HIYCA for their outstanding motivation throughout

the fitness competition.

"Winning third place in the female category was nice," said cadet Malie-Vivian Barros. "But being able to defend the motivation trophy the previous class had won was much better."

Master Gunnery Sgt. Damion Moreno, Marine Corps Instructor for Kapolei High School, said to see HIYCA cadets marching from their campus to the school motivated and pumped up was a testament to their spirits.

"HIYCA cadets not only motivated their team, but the teams in front and behind them," said Moreno. "We all have our challenges, but if we put forth the best effort we have, we can achieve success."

Each school had an opportunity to enter up to three, four person teams for the fitness challenge, male, female and mixed teams.

Participants were judged on correctly completing each of the following exercises: 400-meter liter carry, K.I.M.S. memory game, 2-mile run with 30 lbs. ammo can, 100-meter buddy drag, 100-meter water jug carry, knot tying, bend

and thrusts (100 repetitions), map reading, 50 lbs. bag run and K.I.M.S. game completion.

"We were a last-minute entry and a little nervous that we wouldn't do well," said cadet Malie-Vivian Barros from Kunia. "We only had a day to train on the map reading and knot tying."

The cadets pushed themselves through fatigue and exhaustion to complete each challenge with the help of their fellow fitness teammates running alongside them and cheering them on.

"I want the male cadets to know that females can compete at a high level too," said Kuka.

Barros said she wanted to be a part of the fitness team to get in better shape and improve her communication and leadership skills.

Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Bruce Oliveira, Civilian Military Programs Director, said he was proud of what they accomplished in the JROTC physically fitness challenge.

"They are keeping with the traditions of the Youth Challenge

Academy participating in these kinds of events," said Oliveira. "They are entering week five and this was a good event for them to bond and come together as a team."

Oliveira said the HIYCA program keeps the cadets for 22 weeks and works with them academically to prepare them to take and pass the high school equivalency test (HiSET) examination.

"At-Promise Youth" completing the Hawai'i National Guard Youth ChalleNGe program and pass the HiSET receive their high school diploma," said Oliveira. "Every cadet has a unique talent and it's our job to bring it out."

Barros said coming to HIYCA really opened her eyes to the many possibilities in life. Her goal is to become a mentor to her siblings and keep them on the right track.

All four cadets' goal is to serve in the military once they complete the program to give back to their families.



A Love Letter to Samoa from Kuka

Much like Hawai'i's iconic 808 area code represents home for many locals, Cadet Ciatacecilia Kuka wants her 684 and 685 families in American Samoa to know that she carries them with her as she works to complete the Youth Challenge Academy program, now in its seventh week, at the time of this writing.

"I came here because I want to pay my parents back before it's too late," Kuka said when asked why she decided to attend YCA. "Being a good daughter but living there was too hard for me. I knew I had to leave them, that I had to move forward just for my future, and to make them happy."

Kuka's commitment to her future and her faith was on display March 4, 2023, during a JROTC competition at Kapolei High School.

"He gave me a good heart, a strong heart," she said, speaking of God and the physical pain she felt during running portions of the competition. "But then I heard His message, and He said, 'show them that my daughter can do what I can do.'"

Kuka, a daughter of American Samoa, credits her parents for everything they have done for her. "Everywhere I go, I always put my last name in front of me. Kuka, everywhere."

When asked what she was hoping to get out of the Youth Challenge Program, her reply was simple. "Everything. I want everything."

Ciatacecilia Kuka





Hawai'i Army National Guard (HIARNG) Soldiers from the 189th Aviation Regiment and 126th MEDEVAC receive special recognition from the Honorable Governor Josh Green, M.D. and Maj. Gen. Kenneth S. Hara, the Adjutant General at Wahiawa, Hawai'i, Feb. 4, 2023. Over 25 military personnel including flight crew, additional support staff, aircraft maintenance, re-fueling personnel, and paramedics were recognized for conducting over 14 flights, saved 14 lives, and logged a total 30.1 flight hours, covering the zones from Kauai, Molokai, Maui, Oahu and to Big Island. For the first time in history, U.S. Army National Guard flight paramedics and civilian flight paramedics joined forces treating patients together in the back of a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Justin Nye)

Governor honors HIARNG flight crews' life saving efforts

State of Hawai'i, Department of Defense, Public Affairs Office | Story by Bernhard Lashleyleidner

Wahiawa, Hawai'i – Governor Josh Green, M.D. and Hawai'i Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Kenneth Hara recognized military and civilian paramedics on February 4, 2023, for assisting with life-saving efforts last December.

Soldiers from Company G, Detachment 1, 189th Aviation Regiment and Company G, Detachment 1, 3-126 Aviation Regiment and Medical Evacuation Squadron (MEDEVAC) assisted civilian flight paramedics and flight nurses from Hawai'i Life Flight (HLF) during an unexpected shortage of staff and equipment, following a tragic loss of a HLF crew and plane in December of last year.

The aviation accident prompted an administrative grounding and safety stand-down for HLF. Governor Green then activated Hawai'i Army National Guard (HIARNG) Soldiers to assist with the support mission.

"I am really thankful that Governor Green took the time, on a weekend, to honor and thank the MEDEVAC Soldiers that supported with critical care air transport," said Hara. He also stated how proud he was of each Soldier from the MEDEVAC detachments for their commitment and willingness to protect Hawai'i.

The weeklong mission, which ended on Christmas Eve, involved transferring patients from Kaua'i, Moloka'i, and Hawai'i Island to Queen's Medical Center on O'ahu. Queen's Medical Center is the state's only Level 1 trauma hospital, requiring many neighbor-island residents to travel to O'ahu for life-saving care.

"Maintaining uninterrupted aerial medical evacuation is critical to the overall health of our state and island communities," said Capt. John Worthington Jr., commander of the Detachment 1, Company G, 3-126 Aviation Regiment, HIARNG. "Flight and medical training to support these missions never end, and the call to support can never be predicted."

Worthington said being acknowledged by the state's top officials was a credit to the HIARNG and the entire Army aviation community, along with the HLF paramedics, flight nurses, and aviation ground personnel.

"The civilian ground team performed the first patient assessment, stabilization, and transfer of patients with life-threatening illnesses," said Worthington.

Flight crews performed 11 sorties in thirty

hours over the course of seven days, as civilian paramedics treated injured patients aboard the HH-60 Blackhawk air ambulance helicopter and saved 14 lives.

Worthington said the HIARNG MEDEVAC unit was established in 2016.

"This is the first time in HIARNG history, military and civilian flight paramedics joined forces to treat patients in the back of a HH-60 Blackhawk helicopter," said Worthington. "Our crews were responsible for flying patients to the next level care facilities."

Hawai'i's unique geographical landscape requires thousands of patients to fly to O'ahu to receive critical and specialized care, and units like the 189th Aviation Regiment, Detachment 1, Company G, 3-126 Aviation Regiment and the MEDEVAC squadron are prepared to serve in emergency roles when needed.

Hara said they've proven that the National Guard is Always Ready, Always There.



STARBASE Hawai'i: Launching into the Future with STEM

Story by Staff Writer

As our world rapidly expands into a technology-based and digitally connected atmosphere, there is a growing need for STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) professionals, which is expected to continue to rise. Introducing STEM concepts in keiki education is an important step for building a foundation of understanding for the world they'll be working in as adults.

"Whatever you're into, STEM is going to be involved in some way," says Kenneth Smith, director of the STARBASE program on Hawai'i Island. "STEM effects everything in life already, so we try to find a way to relate that to the individual student."

The STARBASE program is a federally funded Department of Defense initiative that serves primarily fifth grade students in setting and achieving STEM goals during a 25-hour curriculum, which is offered to most schools,

or can be taken at no cost during summer programs. Apart from offering critical thinking skills in STEM fields, STARBASE seeks to serve students who are socioeconomically disadvantaged, historically underrepresented, or live in rural or inner-city areas (DoD STARBASE, 2020).

Located in Kea'au, STARBASE Hawai'i furthers state-wide initiatives for economic resilience by supporting youth education in STEM-related fields (Office of Planning, State of Hawai'i, 2016). Though the program provides their services through the Hawai'i National Guard's Kea'au Armory, STARBASE Hawai'i seeks to serve as many Hawai'i county communities as possible, welcoming students from around the island. The program has a computer lab equipped for 35 students, a robotics field, and four exceptionally dedicated staff members.

When Kea'au Middle School lost their long-time robotics coach last August, employees from STARBASE stepped into volunteer as coaches to help keep the program afloat and continue the legacy of the former coach who started the program 14 years ago.

"I grew up fortunate with doing a lot of after-school programs, but the network of friends I met and how my character grew through that meant so much to me," Smith says. "I can see that with the kids here and thought 'this is what we're supposed to do! This is what STARBASE is all about, connecting people and getting them excited about STEM.'"

During robotics coaching the STARBASE volunteers combined elementary school teams with middle school teams, practicing together in the same space at the same time. This allows younger

children to observe what older, more experienced students are attempting and creates a trickle-down mentorship among all the students.

STEM education becomes more important as students move through their primary education, setting the stage for more diverse opportunities when it comes to college or a professional career. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, STEM occupations are expected to grow 10.8 percent between 2021 and 2031, compared to a total occupation growth of 5.3 percent for employment in the U.S. STEM occupation salaries were, on average, nearly twice the median annual wage for all other occupations in 2021. This is an important pathway for economic equity in Hawai'i, whose cost-of-living standards have forced many Native Hawaiian and Pacific

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HING Celebrates Diversity during AAPI Month

State of Hawai'i, Department of Defense, Public Affairs Office | Story by Bernhard Lashleyeidner | Thursday, May 25, 2023

Kalaeloa, Hawai'i – Soldiers, Airman, DoD civilians and family members of the Hawai'i National Guard (HING) attended the combined cultural, spousal appreciation and family day celebration in honor of Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Month, at the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team's assembly hall on May 25.

May marked the beginning of AAPI Heritage Month; Thirty-one days dedicated to celebrating and honoring Asian Americans and Pacific Islands heritage; their cultures, history and accomplishments.

The celebration began with a traditional Chinese Lion dance performed by the Hawai'i Lion Dance Association, followed Filipino Folk dance performed by Tekniqilingz, and a martial arts demonstration performed by the Hawai'i Defense Academy.

Cadets from Hawai'i Youth Challenge Academy, Kalaeloa campus, treated the audience to three traditional performances of Samoan, Hawaiian and Tahitian dances, which held the crowd in awe!

"The performances were outstanding, and the Youth Challenge team was fantastic," said Staff Sgt. Angie Sunio, Instructor of 2nd Battalion, 298th Regiment, Multi-functional Training Regiment HIARNG. "Loved it! Wish we did something quarterly, but annually works."

Retired Brig. Gen. Bruce Oliveira, director Civilian-Military programs, said that the Hawai'i Youth Challenge Academy saw AAPI Heritage Month as an opportunity to share their diverse Asian American and Pacific Islander identities through unique dances and songs that represent our cultures.

"Our cadets were honored to join the celebration in recognition of the cultural contributions of Asians and Pacific Islanders in our community and across the country," said Oliveira.

Sunio said this celebration was a great opportunity to see friends and co-workers and learn about other cultures through friendship

and camaraderie, while building rapport.

The Yellow Ribbon and Family programs presented HING spouses Mrs. Malia Soares-Gualdarama, Mrs. Desiree Ching, Mrs. Leticia Kukona, Mrs. Nicole Fuertes, Mrs. Jessica Nagatani and Sharon Ganir, with certificates of appreciation signed by Brig. Gen. Stephen Logan, Deputy Adjutant General, gift bags from Aloha Pacific Credit Union, gift cards, HING swag and earrings from Chloe clay shoppe.

Sgt. 1st Class Celeste Lewi, Yellow Ribbon Coordinator, said it is extremely important to recognize military spouses, because they are the backbone of the family.

"When service members are activated or deployed, spouses are left to handle things on the home front," said Lewi. "We are so thankful for our military spouses who are resilient and go above and beyond for our organization."

Lewi said the families' well-being, for better or worse, affects military member's well-being, which could divert their attention from the mission.

Service members and their families enjoyed the different cultural display booths and mouthwatering food samples and desserts from the various AAPI countries being highlighted.

The 111th HIARNG Band's "Na Koa" ensemble, played music throughout the event. Master of Ceremony, "JP" Paraoan, grabbed his acoustic guitar and joined the band on stage, where he belted-out requests to the enjoyment of the crowd.

"I really appreciated the photos that were displayed in the front entrance, especially Captain Kuhinapuitetamalai Naki and Captain Shao Yu Lin Lee's photos, where it shows their culture and how they look in uniform," said Sgt. 1st Class Charifel Mateo, 111th HIARNG Band. "It was nice to celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage month."

Deborah Gier, State Equal Employment Manager for the HING, said the purpose of

the event was to educate the force on the many different cultures within the organization and throughout the communities we serve and recruit from.

"The month of May, being AAPI Heritage Month, this is the best representation of the Hawai'i National Guard," said Gier. "We wanted to do our best to represent every Asian and Pacific Islander ethnicity instead of grouping them all together."

AAPI heritage month originated in 1977 by former congressional staffer Jeanie Jew, who proposed the concept of establishing an entire month to honor Asian and Pacific Americans.

She initially spoke with Rep. Frank Horton about the proposal. A proposal to declare the first 10 days of May as Asian Pacific Heritage Week and was submitted in the U.S. House of Representatives by Horton and Rep. Norman Mineta in June 1977. A month later, former senators Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga both from Hawai'i, proposed a comparable bill in the Senate.

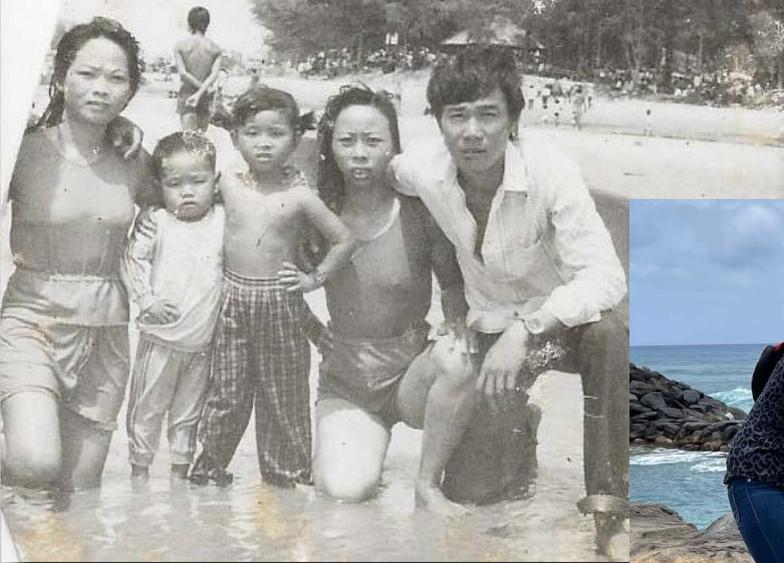
On October 5, 1978, President Jimmy Carter approved a joint resolution recognizing the occasion. In 1990, President H.W. Bush signed a bill passed by Congress to extend AAPI Heritage Week to a month.

On May 14, 1991, a public law was passed unanimously by congress and then signed by Bush, proclaiming May as Asian and Pacific American Heritage Month. In 1992 it was officially designated as AAPI Heritage Month.

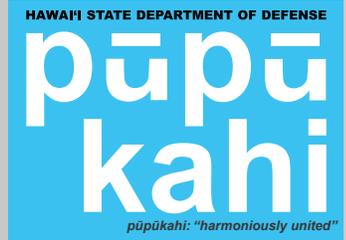
The HING's first annual cultural and spouse appreciation day, a part of the AAPI Heritage month observance, ended with the announcement of best cultural display booth, which was awarded to the HIARNG medical detachment for their "all-out assault on the senses" display of the Chinese culture.

Mateo said being able to celebrate the diversity of the HING was a welcome change from the daily grind and she wish it was over a weekend, so more traditional Soldiers and Airmen could've attended this amazing event.

Asian American Pacific Islander M o n t h



Photos Courtesy Huynh Ohana



A Soldier's Journey to Freedom and Life in America

State of Hawai'i, Department of Defense, Public Affairs Office | Story by Bernhard Lashleyleidner | Thursday, May 25, 2023

Kalaeloa, Hawai'i – While most kids are safely exploring in their early years frolicking through fields, laughing, and playing basketball or baseball in their neighborhood parks; others spent their time dodging soldiers and fighting in the streets, while trying to escape from war-torn countries and poverty.

Staff Sgt. An Huynh, a supply sergeant in the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Hawai'i Army National Guard (HIARNG) had an incredible journey to America.

It was the mid-80s and the Vietnam War was a distant memory for many Americans, but one hard-charging HIARNG Soldier's perilous journey toward the American dream and a new life in the service, just began.

For Huynh, it all started when he was three years old. The North Vietnam Army/Viet Cong (NVA) wanted to consolidate their gains and they began taking land from

farmers and landowners; killing anyone involved with the South Vietnamese government.

Huynh's grandfather had served in the Army of the Republic of Vietnam in South Vietnam supporting the U.S., so at the conclusion of the war they had to run in order to not be killed. Eventually, the NVA began bullying the elders and families in the village over land and valuable rubber trees.

Huynh's family decided it wasn't safe and abandoned the area. They took what meager possessions they could carry and headed to the harbor to try to find transportation on one of the boats heading out of the country.

"My mother was carrying me, while my five-year old sister was walking beside her," said Huynh. "Once at the harbor my mother told my sister to wait, while she placed me on the boat and went back to the shore to grab my sister," said Huynh. "When she

went back to grab my sister the boat departed. My mother yelled out to get them to stop the boat, but it kept going."

"I only have a faint memory of the experience, but I do remember hiding from the rain with the boat owners' kids under a cardboard box," said Huynh.

The boat reached the refugee camp in Malaysia. The United Nations High

Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) registered Huynh as an unaccompanied minor, one of the many fleeing Vietnam.

After the Fall of Saigon, in 1975 at the end of the Vietnam War. The first refugee boat arrived in Malaysia in May of 1975, carrying 47 people.

A Vietnamese refugee camp was established later in Pulau Bidong in August 1978 with the assistance of the United Nations. Other

refugee camps were also set up in other regions of Malaysia such as Pulau Tengah, Pulau Besar, Kota Bharu, Kuantan, Sarawak, Sabah, and Kuala Lumpur.

"My mother and sister jumped on the next boat leaving the harbor thinking it was heading to the same place," said Huynh. "The boat ended up going to a refugee camp in Thailand, where they stayed for the next five years."

Huynh said his mother was able to contact his grandmother, who had remained in Vietnam despite the devastation, to ask for help in locating Huynh. His grandmother immediately contacted Huynh's mother's sister, who was married to an American living in Hawai'i, to see if she could help find him.

"My Auntie, who was married to a colonel in the military, contacted the American Red Cross for assistance," said Huynh. "The Red

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David Cole botanical program manager with the Center of Military Environmental Land Management (CEMML) showing Youth Challenge Academy cadets the proper way to plant a tree at U.S. Army Garrison Pōhakuloa Training Area, February 23, 2023.

Partnership Providing Youth Challenge Academy Cadets With Meaningful Experiences

U.S. Army Garrison Pōhakuloa Training Area | Story by Amy Phillips | Wednesday, March 1, 2023

U.S. Army Garrison Pōhakuloa Training Area (PTA) and the Hawai'i National Guard Youth Challenge Academy (YCA) have a long-standing partnership to provide cadets with meaningful experiences such as the native tree planting initiative at PTA on February 23, 2023.

Ten female cadets from the academy were provided information on PTA's native plants planting initiative and shown how to properly plant trees by natural resources staff.

"We have a duty to preserve our surroundings, and the cadets definitely understood that as they planted each tree," said PTA Command Sgt. Maj. Jessica Cho. She spoke to cadets about the positive impact each person can make by taking one step at a time. Like the slow growing ohia tree, she said that good things come to those that persevere and never quit. "I know that the academy provides a great environment for healing, discipline and education, and I'm happy to be able to work with them," said Cho, who is also signing up to be a mentor.

The tree planting event supports the Responsible Citizenship component of the YCA's eight core components, and a team work opportunity. Cadet Shaleah Tacang said she had a fun experience planting trees with her cohorts.

She has been with YCA for five weeks and hopes "to be a stronger individual and stand on my own two feet." Tacang said she likes everything about the program because it is teaching her discipline and team work. "Most of us cope in negative ways and we're learning to cope in positive ways, which is a really good skill that everyone should have," said Tacang.

Cadet Chanel Almonte has also been with YCA for five weeks, and is the vice president for Class of 2025. "It's been hard but it's helping me become stronger and more motivated," said Almonte. "It is teaching me work ethics and team ethics and discipline."

The YCA website states that it "is a community-based program that leads, trains and mentors 16-18-year-old high school dropouts so that they may become productive citizens in America's future."

"We have students from many different backgrounds...and we provide them with life skills, jobs skills, and work with them to develop goals for after graduation," said Chastise Bacon, YCA Hilo program coordinator. She adds that these cadets are 'at promise' rather than 'at risk' to avoid a negative connotation. "At promise gives them hope," said Bacon.

Cadets live and train at the Hilo YCA campus for a 22-week Residential Phase, and is paired

with a mentor for a year to provide guidance as needed.

PTA Operations Specialist Dan Cassel has been a registered YCA mentor since 2020. "I once was a very troubled youth so I can relate to the cadets," said Cassel. "I had a mentor when I was young so thought it would be a great opportunity to do the same." He believes that people should consider being a mentor "to help mold these young cadets and give them guidance, hope and determination to stay on track and not give up."

PTA Plans and Operations Specialist Staff Sgt. Kevin Antolin is a former YCA cadre, and a registered mentor. "I enjoy giving back to the organization because I believe in the program and what they do for the cadets," said Antolin. "I have seen firsthand how YCA provides cadets the skills and hope to make important decisions to better their lives such as going to college, finding careers and joining the military." He adds that some YCA graduates joined the Hawai'i Army National Guard and have been part of his unit.

PTA is grateful that the YCA will also participate in PTA's April 20 Open House – Experience PTA Day which is open to the public.

The Hawai'i National Guard Celebrates Women's History Month

State of Hawai'i, Department of Defense, Public Affairs Office | Story by Bernhard Lashleyleidner

Honolulu, Hawai'i – The Hawai'i National Guard leadership recognized the numerous accomplishments women have made, from shattering glass ceilings in the workplace to battling for equal rights, during the annual observation of Women's History month.

The goal of the month-long celebration is to increase public awareness of the historical achievements made by women, including those who have been political leaders, scientists, authors, artists, activists and served within the armed forces.

Col. Pamela Ellison, Federal Human Resources Officer, Hawai'i Army National Guard (HIARNG) said this observance is important because she has experienced first-hand how the Army has expanded the career opportunities accessible to women.

“While we are nowhere near where we ultimately need to be with advances in gender disparity within the military,” said Ellison, “I feel the Hawai'i National Guard has made significant gains when it comes to the number of women filling key positions and roles within our force.”

More than 230,000 women serve in the United States active-duty military, comprising 17% of all service members, while women also constitute 33% of DoD civilians.

We celebrate the accomplishments of women in the Department and their contributions to national security, like

Maj. Gen. Suzanne Puanani Vares-Lum, the first Native Hawaiian woman to obtain the rank of Major General and who commanded the 298th Regiment, Multifunction Training Brigade, HIARNG as a Colonel.

With each new opportunity, women have emerged as military leaders in combat operations and assumed vital command positions.

Every year in March, Women's History Month is observed to recognize the efforts and accomplishments of women throughout history. It is important to recognize the crucial role that women have played and continue to hold in influencing our world.

Lt. Col. Doreen Uehara, current Acting Commander, 298th Regiment, Multifunction Training Brigade, HIARNG said this observance is a monumental global celebration of women's achievements and must be remembered, recognized, and honored.

“I am grateful for many women who demonstrated strength, paved the way, and created opportunities I never thought I could achieve,” said Uehara. “Today, we see more women in leadership roles, making significant contributions and recognizing their value.”

Uehara said we still have a long way to go, but the observance brings awareness in changing the narrative and celebrating women's achievements.



CCM Zandra Fox, HIANG
Joined the Air National Guard in Feb 2000 and is currently serving as Command Senior Enlisted Leader, said her favorite thing about serving has been connecting with people that have become friends and mentors that have positively impacted her career.



Col. Regina Komine, HIANG
Joined the Air National Guard May 2000 and is currently serving as the Vice Wing Commander, 154th Wing.

On her time as a Captain 15 years ago: “I asked one of our few Lt. Col. female officers why there aren't more female senior leaders?” She said most women, when they obtain the rank of Major, start to make the hard decision to get out, so they can take care of their families. “I think the military has come a long way in recognizing some of the struggles that women have in trying to balance family and careers.”

The Korean and Vietnam War Memorial falls under the purview of the Hawai'i State Veterans Cemetery (HSVC), which serves veterans, a spouse of a veteran, and in some cases their children at the time of need when an unfortunate occurrence within the family a member passes. Because we are an organization within the State of Hawai'i, Department of Defense, the oversight of our services and operation comes from the Office of Veterans Services, which is a branch of the DOD HING.

A continued partnership regarding support by way of consistent volunteer efforts would certainly lend to the perpetual kuleana we all as veterans have in honoring our fallen with respect and dignity. Thanks so much for spending your Sat morning cleaning the Korean and Vietnam War Memorials.



Cross began contacting refugee camps across Asia looking for me.”

As the years passed, Huynh said his mother was consumed by guilt and felt very depressed because his family wasn't together in refugee camp in Thailand, and because she didn't know where Huynh was or if he was okay.

“After four years of separation the American Red Cross Restoring Family Links program informed my Auntie, that they had located me in Malaysia and would start the process to transfer me to Hawai'i to be with her,” said Huynh. “In 1991, I arrived in Hawai'i and felt lost, because I didn't speak the language.”

His early years here were very hard, said Huynh, but as he learned the language and began making friends it became easier.

Huynh graduated from McKinley High School in 2003 and began



Continued - Journey

his journey into military service.

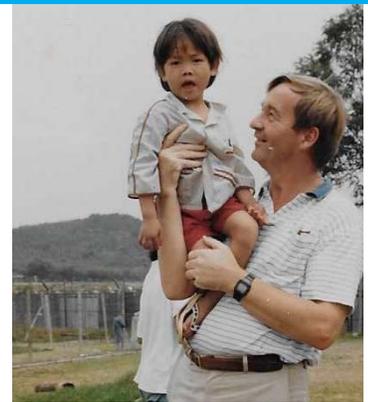
Huynh said his buddy talked him into going with him to talk to the Army National Guard recruiter in 2003, they joined the infantry.

Within a year of completing boot camp and the infantry training, his unit was mobilized and deployed to Iraq in 2005. A year later his unit returned from their tour in Iraq. Huynh was now 20 years old.

He said the first thing on his mind after returning from his deployment was locating his mother and sister.

“I went back to Vietnam to find my mother and sister after my deployment,” said Huynh. “It was the best feeling reuniting with my mother and sister after 13 years.”

Huynh said due to his sisters age, he couldn't make her his child dependent, because she was over the age of 21. His sister got



married, had a child and together with her husband started a restaurant in Vietnam. They now have three beauty salons.

Under the U.S. Family Reunification Program, a refugee can petition for their immediate family members parents, or unmarried children under the age of 21 years be resettled in the U.S. with them. All other family members including siblings, cousins and adult children are not eligible for the family reunion program.

“I was able to bring my mother to the U.S.,” said Huynh. “She immigrated here just before my second deployment in 2009 and is currently living on the island of Maui.”

Huynh said he has noticed that there are not a lot of Asian Americans represented in the military and that Asian American Pacific Heritage Month is a great

opportunity to highlight the different cultures and accomplishments of Asians Americans.

“I have made some really good friends since joining the HIARNG,” said Huynh. “Being a part of the Guard was one of the best things that could've happened to me.”

“I am one of the few Vietnamese Soldiers in the HIARNG,” said Huynh. “Asian and Hawaiian cultures, are very similar in the way they value and respect the elders and the love and compassion they show to others.”

He said he feels at home in Hawai'i and does his best to take care of the Soldiers that work for him.

“I wouldn't be where I am today, if I didn't get out of my comfort zone,” said Huynh.



U.S. Army Paratroopers with the 82nd Airborne Division and Royal Thai Army Soldiers conduct a Strategic Airborne Operation during Exercise Cobra Gold 2023, near Thanarat Drop Zone, Kingdom of Thailand, March 2, 2023. Cobra Gold, now in its 42nd year, is a Thai-U.S. co-sponsored training event that builds on the long-standing friendship between the two allied nations and brings together a robust multinational force to promote regional peace and security in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific. (U.S. Army Photo by Staff Sgt. Cayce Watson)

Wide-ranging Cobra Gold 23 builds bonds among allies and partners

U.S. Army Pacific Public Affairs Office | Story by Maj. Spencer Garrison and 2nd Lt. Duncan McClain and Spc. John Stauffer | Friday, March 10, 2023

RAYONG PROVINCE, Thailand – The 42nd iteration of Exercise Cobra Gold ran from Feb. 28 to March 10, 2023, in the Kingdom of Thailand, with multiple nations coming together to train and promote regional peace and security in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific.

The annual Thai-U.S. co-sponsored training event built on the long-standing friendship between the two allied nations and featured multinational training on joint military operations, humanitarian assistance and disaster response, as well as cultural exchanges and civic action programs, such as construction projects in local communities.

“Cobra Gold 23 strengthens our ability to plan and conduct combined, joint, high-end security and peacekeeping operations across all domains,” said U.S. Navy Adm. Chris Aquilino, commander of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command. “Through Cobra Gold, we demonstrate our resolve to respond together to future challenges, preserving a free and open Indo-Pacific where all nations can prosper.”

This year’s exercise was the largest in recent years, with more than 7,000 service members from seven full participating nations: the Kingdom of Thailand, United States,

Indonesia, Singapore, Japan, Malaysia and the Republic of Korea. More than 20 other nations also attended as observers, planners or limited participants in select events, such as humanitarian civic action programs, defensive cyber training and disaster response exercises.

Multinational, Multi-Domain Command and Control Exercises:

Members of participating nations not only worked together on a tactical level to carry out field training, but leaders and planners gathered to discuss and practice the planning stages of multinational operations across multiple domains – including space and cyber. This year’s staff exercises featured an operational preparation of the environment, a command and control exercise, a cyber exercise and a combined space forces coordination center.

At this year’s cyber exercise, participants broke into teams by country and prepared to defend cyber assets through the assessment of threats, the development and implementation of incident response plans and the sharing of knowledge between teams.

“This year, we have 116 participants from eight nations,” said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Jason Silves, cyber exercise director and member of

the Washington Air National Guard. “Opening the aperture to understand that there is more than just military networks, and that we may be called on to support our partners, helps to broaden our skill-set and gives us the opportunity to practice here in an exercise as opposed to learning to do that on the fly.”

This was the inaugural year integrating the space domain into Cobra Gold, with a space planning team of 18 personnel from four nations. This team successfully planned space capabilities to support the multinational force.

“The activities increased our shared understanding of what constitutes safe and responsible space activities and how to contribute to a more stable space environment by reducing the risk of miscalculation,” said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Chad Briggs, space exercise coordinator and commander of Hawai‘i Air National Guard Detachment 1.

Within the exercise environment, the team proposed space coordination mechanisms between the Space Operations Centers in Thailand, Japan, and the U.S.

Next year’s exercise will offer an opportunity to expand participation, Briggs said, further strengthening space cooperation with allies and partners.

only makes it hard to compete with them but is a big melting pot of information.

"The knowledge transfer is amazing from one soldier to another."

Hulse said that at a few junctures during the multiday competition, he struggled and "had to dig deep."

"I remembered that as an NCO, as a sergeant for my men, as a leader, they're expecting me to be physically harder and mentally tougher than my opponents," he said. "And if anything comes between me, my team, my family, or any of that — I will be physically harder and mentally tougher."

"That is what got me through."

Hulse said the hardest part was

facing questions from the board, comprised of sergeant majors, the highest NCO rank in the Army.

"I don't enjoy interviews very much," he said.

One element of the competition Hulse enjoyed was marksmanship, which he described as a "stress shoot."

"Your heart rate is anywhere from 150 to 170 (beats per minute) by the time you touch a weapon and you start engaging your targets," he said. "For the stress shoots, you'll do everything from a low crawl to a dead sprint to fireman's carries to sled drags."

"And you're expected to engage your targets with effective fire throughout the entire time."

Competitors fired three different military-grade weapons: the M4, a gas-powered, magazine-fed 5.56 mm carbine rifle; the M249, a 5.56 mm squad automatic weapon known as the SAW, essentially a light machine gun; and the M17, a 9 mm semi-automatic pistol.

"The most fun to shoot is the SAW, the automatic weapon. My expertise, though, is with the M17,

the handgun," Hulse said.

Hulse was honored Friday by a proclamation from Mayor Mitch Roth, who declared it "Sgt. Cooper Hulse Day."

"I was completely surprised. I wasn't expecting this at all," Hulse said. "I was just told, 'You've got an interview, something to do with the competition, so be sure to dress up nice and show up on time.'"

Asked about the national competition next month, Hulse said, "I'll show up prepared and make it tough for the competition."

Hulse's Army classification is as a cavalry scout.

"We specialize in reconnaissance and forward observation," he said. "We have a saying, 'We're not the tip of the spear, we're ahead of it.' Because we need to tell the spear where it's going."

"We basically find the bad guys. We're the eyes and ears of the battlefield for our commanders."

Maj. Keoki Leong, executive officer of the 1st Squadron,

Continued - Best Warrior

described Hulse as "the total embodiment of the non-commissioned officer."

"A leader and mentor, he is professional, dependable, and highly capable of executing duties above his rank," Leong said. "He also brings forth the aloha spirit and warrior ethos of both the American soldier and the Kanekoa."

Hulse described himself as "single with a dog." And while he enjoys being at home with family, the beach and other Hawai'i perks, he has embraced the Army and its warrior lifestyle.

"What prompts me to stay in and continue to serve my community and serve my country is my leadership. They've shown me what it means to have honor, to have respect, to have strength, teamwork, esprit de corps. And they're the ones who planted the seed in me by telling me, 'Hey, you have the potential to be a great leader. We need you to stay.'"

"We need you to teach the next generation."



Three Hawai'i Air National Guard members, Staff Sgt. Rob Shikina, Sr. Airman Katarina Kossen, Master Sgt. Neil Fujinaga of the 154th Combat Communications Squadron, were activated and mobilized to Guam assist with first responder communication efforts after Typhoon Mawar struck the island nation.



Hawai'i Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to 297th Engineer Firefighting Team, 103rd Troop Command participate in a joint exercise with Air Force Reserves, 624th Civil Engineer Squadron and the Marines Corps, at Marines Corps Air Station Bay, Hawai'i, Feb. 11, 2023. This joint exercise provided training for fire-prevention and protection, aircraft-crash and rescue, natural cover-fire and hazardous material responses within theater operations. (U.S. Army National Guard Photo by Sgt. Randall E. Corpuz)

Hawai'i Army National Guard, Air Force Reserve and Marine Corps Firefighters conduct a joint training exercise at Kāne'ōhe Marine Air Station.

117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment (Hawaii) | Story by Sgt. Randall Corpuz | Saturday, February 11, 2023

MARINE CORPS BASE Hawai'i, Hawai'i Firefighters of the Hawai'i Army National Guard 297th Engineer Detachment, 103rd Brigade joined together with the Air National Guard 624th Civil Engineer Squadron and the active-duty Marine Corps stationed at Marine Corps Air Station, Kāne'ōhe Bay on Feb 11, 2023, to conduct Aircraft Rescue Firefighting Rescue, Tech, and Rope Rescue Training.

Today's training was a familiarization for the Engineer Fire and Emergency Services Team (297th ENG-Det) to be acquainted with firefighting operations during an integration between the Marine Corps, Air Force and Army ensemble. An annual live fire training should

be conducted annually per regulations set by the National Fire Protection Association.

"This is the first joint firefighting exercise between the Army, Air Force, and the Marine Corps Firefighting forces," said Sgt. John Segawa from the 297th ENG-Det.

The training simulated a small frame, C-26 aircraft, blazing on fire. The fire was a controlled propane burn maintained by a team of senior firefighters. Temperatures in the aircraft reached upwards to 300 degrees, and firefighters were taught different techniques to put out the blaze.

"We've shared different tactics and techniques with our Air Force

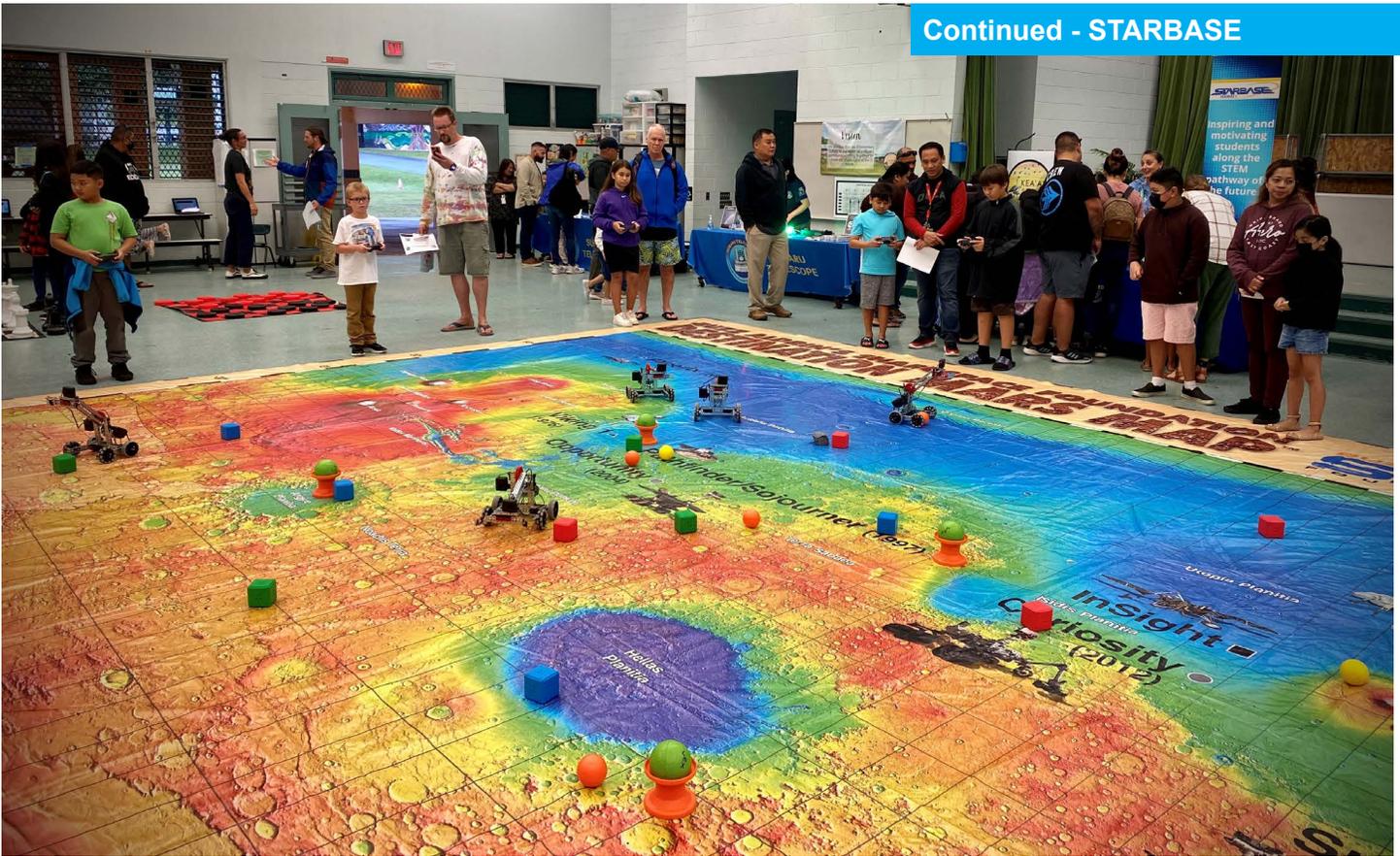
and Marine Corp counterparts, while following the same NFPA guidelines and standards. Marines preferred to use the "Z" nozzle technique, while the Army used the "O" technique when cooling down an aircraft (as MET-TC dictates)," said Segawa.

The Hawai'i Army National Guard are a special entity where part-time soldiers are normally looked at as having half the training, the firefighters of the 297th ENG-Det are also fight fires for their full-time jobs. Being able to do this on a full-time basis gives them opportunities to maintain their certifications and remain proficient.

Segawa states, "Most of our firefighters also serve in the

city and county and Federal firefighting departments. Their knowledge and certifications from their civilian careers, further enables the proficiencies within the Army National Guard Firefighting team."

Sgt. Segawa recently reclassified from a 35F, Intel Analyst, to pursue his dreams of being a firefighter and follow his family's legacy of firefighters. He states that being with the team and training as a firefighter is much more rewarding than sitting at a desk. "The cohesiveness and collaborative atmosphere felt is unmatched once we suite up and perform fire emergency services training with the team," said Segawa.



Islander (NHPI) individuals to move out of state.

In an article from *The Review of Higher Education* by John Hopkins University press, two researchers cite that less than ten percent of Native Hawaiian students choose STEM fields for study. This can lead to chronic underrepresentation of indigenous cultural knowledge, practice, and contribution in STEM fields for NHPI. Programs like STARBASE, which aims to serve underrepresented groups in all aspects of STEM at an early age, assists keiki whose “experiences echo those of their parents beginning with achievement disparities starting at very young ages and persisting through post-secondary education” (Cintina & Kanaiaupuni, 2019). NHPI children are the second highest category of students served during the current STARBASE cycle.

STARBASE also ensures that the local community and family members are included in their program’s efforts. The Hawai‘i Museum of Science and Technology hosts a monthly “Science Night” once per month at rotating elementary schools. In January, more than 400 Kea‘au Elementary students and family members attended, driving eight

of STARBASE’s VEX EXP Clawbots around a map of Mars, donated to the museum by the Buzz Aldrin Foundation.

The emphasis on efforts to include family and community members in a keiki’s education diverts from the typical Western method of self-sufficiency, and instead embraces interdependency, which has long been a trait of Pacific cultures (Baker, et al., 2021). When it comes to Family Engagement Planning, “expanding the reach of engagement to include families and communities, policies and practice meet the full diversity of all involved” (Baker, et al., 2021), and creates an environment where success in more challenging careers, like those in STEM fields, could be easier to achieve than in past generations.

“The big thing is community involvement. We’ve got these resources here, and we want to share them with as many people as we can and get them excited about it,” says Smith. The STARBASE director also says that he hopes the program can reduce some of the stigma around STEM and showcase all the different aspects. “If you’re not into math, maybe it’s physics. Maybe it’s chemistry. Maybe it’s computer-aided design. That’s the new language

of building; we have a whole curriculum based on computer-aided design, where kids are actually building stuff.”

Smith is looking forward to welcoming new students through its school program and summer courses. “We’re here to serve,” he says. “We’re here to work with the community and grow. If there are other programs out there, we want to be part of it. If people want to come and talk to the students, we want to hear from you guys. We’d love to hear how you can help serve the community with us.”

To learn more about STARBASE Hawai‘i, please visit <https://dod.hawaii.gov/starbase/>.

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Total force Airmen from the 154th and 15th Aircraft Maintenance Groups arrive at the Pacific Missile Range Facility on March 7, 2023, at Barking Sands, Hawaii. Aircraft armament systems crews were transited to Kauai on a C-17 Globemaster III to help receive, rearm, and launch fighter aircraft within a condensed time window. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. John Linzmeier)

“Landing conditions were challenging due to the short runway, strong crosswinds, and inclement weather,” said detachment commander Lt. Col. Curtis Yoshimoto, “Our supervisory personnel on the ground are in constant communication with pilots to pass critical information, enabling pilots to adjust and overcome such circumstances.” By servicing fighter aircraft at the PMRF, TFI Airmen could simulate the conditions of a remote and austere environment.

Maj. Nicholas Danielson, 154 WG mission planner, stated the complex training plan was made possible because of the longstanding partnership between the 154th and 15th Wings. He added that JBRE 23-1 validated the JBPB-H Airmen's capability to rapidly meet emerging requirements.

In addition to executing multiple ACE concepts, the training also served to further the interoperability between U.S. Air Force units and U.S. Navy personnel at the PMRF.

“Our capability to rearm jets at austere locations projects combat airpower, validating the wings' effectiveness to deploy expeditiously anywhere, anytime,” said Danielson. “The TFI training accomplished during this JBRE has proved vital to the 15th and 154th Wing's readiness and preparation to execute ACE operations in any theater.”





Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) monument. Pending construction funding, the first monument would be built at the Hawai'i State Veterans' Cemetery in Kāne'ohe, and replica monuments would subsequently be built at each of the state Neighbor Island Veterans' Cemeteries.

5. SENATE RESOLUTION 39 & SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 44. Resolution Adopted

- This resolution urges HIEMA to provide Sign Language Interpreters for all live and recorded EAS (Emergency Alert Systems) broadcasts which will help increase information sharing for those with disabilities.

6. HOUSE RESOLUTION 85. Resolution Adopted

- This resolution designated Hawaii's Coral Reefs as critical natural infrastructure and supported solutions for coral reef restoration.

7. CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 40. Resolution Adopted

- This resolution requests that HIEMA establish a multi-year Task Force (TF) to address findings validated by the 2022 Resiliency Assessment Report of the Hawai'i Maritime Transportation Regional Resiliency Assessment Program, and plan for resiliency enhancements with HIEMA's Administrator serving as the TF chair.

8. SB1163 (Civil Air Patrol - HIEMA) Awaiting Gov's signature

- Purpose/Description: This bill appropriates funds for civilian auxiliary aviation services of the type performed by the civil air patrol (CAP).
- The CAP is instrumental in the helping the state respond to and recover from disasters. They serve a vital role in providing disaster warnings to remote areas and damage assessments post disaster.

BILLS AFFECTING THE DEPARTMENT THAT DID NOT PASS:

1. HB147 / SB1046 (Vehicle Weight Taxes exemption for Veterans). Did not pass

- Unfortunately, this bill did not pass... Our department continues to support this measure. One of the primary things this measure would do is amend the current law by extend the vehicle weight tax exemption for non-commercial vehicles to Hawai'i Veterans.

2. HB902 / SB1161 (State Active Duty Military Pay) Did not pass

- The primary amendment of this bill would require the State to pay military

Continued - Bills

personnel called to state active duty at the same rate as their active duty counterparts including entitlements such as basic housing allowance. While this seems like a positive action on the surface, the department already pays it's SM on SAD at the same rate in accordance with federal regulations.

- Provisions in this bill would have potentially created a pay parity issue between HING SMs on SAD and Federal Orders, and would have also created delays in pay to SMs on SAD.

3. SENATE RESOLUTION 14 / SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 16 Did not pass

- This resolution requested that all branches of the US Military display the Hawaiian Flag on all US military reservations and training facilities in the state.

4. SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 12 / SENATE RESOLUTION 10 Did not pass

- This resolution urged the US Congress to raise the minimum age for military combat service to 21 years of age.

5. SB620 Prohibition of DLNR to Approve any Land Disposition to the US Military. Did not pass

- This bill prohibited the Department of Land and Natural Resources from approving any land disposition to the United States military that allows for or facilitates any military training activities on the subject lands.

- Requires that any lease or lease extension between the State and the US Department of Defense or branches of the US military include certain provisions, including an acknowledgement that the State retains authority over all environmental matters within its jurisdiction.

- Provides that violation of state or federal environmental law, or any law, rule, or order on a matter affecting the health and safety of the State's residents, shall be grounds for terminating the lease. Prohibits the State from leasing public lands to or extending the lease of the US Department of Defense or any branch of the US military if the department or branch is noncompliant with any environmental order, consent decree, or memoranda of agreement, or any law, rule, or order on a matter affecting residents' health and safety.

- Requires Department of Land and Natural Resources to request that the military agree to remediation of existing leased lands prior to the end of the lease term.

Memorial Day

