

Newsletter of the Hawaii Aloha Chapter, Affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America,

a nonpartisan, nonprofit veterans' association dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and ensuring our nation keeps its commitments to currently serving, retired, and former members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors.

Hawaii State Chapter — Chartered **23 July 1959**; Aloha Chapter — Chartered **27 January 2000**

Hawaii Aloha Chapter — Established **1 May 2015**

Both the national Military Officers Association of America and the Hawaii Aloha Chapter are non-partisan organizations

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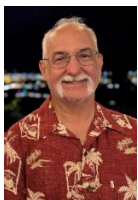
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President's Message



We're into April and the winter rains continue. I hope you're staying dry! Programs Chair, **Dave Perrine**, and Board Member, **Steve Tom**, coordinated a wonderful tour of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) Laboratory, on Hickam Field, followed by lunch at Mangiamo 604. We had a good crowd, and I believe everyone enjoyed both the tour and the lunch. Don't forget that our Annual General Membership Meeting, is scheduled for 6 November, and will include a visit by CAPT Frank Michael, USN (Ret), Senior Director, Affiliated Councils & Chapters, representing MOAA National. Put it on your calendar NOW. We'll provide a time and location as details firm up.

I hope you all make it to our next event, a special luncheon with our award-winning ROTC and JROTC cadets at Restaurant 604 at the Rainbow Marina (near the USS Arizona Pearl Harbor National Memorial) at 11:15 AM on **Friday, April 24, 2026**, AGAIN, NOT AT THE OVC!! See below for more info. RSVP suspense is 8 April. Unfortunately, Debby and I will be on the mainland, as I visit our Congressional delegation, representing Hawaii and the Chapter at MOAA's annual Advocacy in Action event, and visit family, as well. VP **Fred Brunson** will take the lead, in conjunction with **Dave Perrine** and **Toni Correia**, and I'm confident everyone will have a great time!

As always, your Hawaii Aloha Chapter, MOAA is constantly on the lookout for new members—active duty and retired officers and surviving spouse members. All are welcome and will enjoy the camaraderie of our chapter, and YOU can help! Make it your goal to recruit at least two new members this year. Print out the Membership Form near the bottom of this newsletter, or on our website (<http://www.moaa-hawaii.org/>), and carry it with you to be readily available whenever an opportunity for recruiting arises.

Finally, **Dave Perrine** and **Jenn Kishimori** have announced their intention to resign from their Programs and Membership Committee Chair positions, respectively, later this year. If anyone is interested in taking over those important duties for our chapter, please let me know.

- Mike

Our Previous Meeting



Our first tour in several years occurred on Friday, 27 February, at the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) Laboratory, on Hickam Field. Yasmine Muhammad, Community Relations Specialist for DPAA, led the tour. She provided an awesome opportunity for our members to thoroughly learn about the great work of DPAA, investigating, recovering, and identifying our fallen comrades. Thanks to **Dave Perrine** and Hawaii Aloha Chapter Board member, **Steve Tom** (former commander of DPAA) for setting this up. After the tour, we enjoyed a great lunch at **Mangiamo by 604** at the Navy Marine Golf Course.



April 2026 General Membership Event

Our next event will not be a typical general membership meeting. Instead, the Hawai'i Aloha Chapter, will host an ROTC/JROTC Scholarship Presentation event on **Friday, April 24, 2026, from 11:15 AM to 2:00 PM at Restaurant 604 at the Rainbow Marina (near the USS Arizona Pearl Harbor National Memorial)**. RAdm (Ret) Alma M. Grocki, former Senior Engineering Duty Officer (EDO) for the U.S. Navy Reserve, Director of Fleet Maintenance for the United States Pacific Fleet and Deputy Commander of Naval Sea Systems Command, will be the guest speaker. The event will feature a JROTC Presentation of Colors and a Drill Demonstration. Scholarships and a MOAA Coin will be awarded to cadets in recognition of their achievements. Cadets will be provided an opportunity to network and connect with MOAA members and donors in a casual setting.

Agenda:

1100-1115 Cadets, Guests and Chapter Members Arrive at Restaurant 604 at Rainbow Bay
1130-1145 Presentation of Colors-Kalaheo High School and Radford High School NAVY JROTC
1145-1230 Buffet Luncheon
1230-1245 Farrington High School JROTC Drill Demonstration

Program and Scholarship Presentations: Emcee- **Jason Seal**, COL, USMC (Ret).

1245-1315 Rear Admiral Alma Grocki, USN, Ret. Address to Scholarship Recipients
1315-1400 Scholarship Presentation (Scholarship Certificate, MOAA Check and Coin)
Note: Cadet and MOAA Donor will come forward from their table for award presentation
1400- Cadets, Guests and Chapter Members Depart

A reservation form is attached at the end of this newsletter. Please fill it out and mail it, along with a check for the appropriate amount, to arrive at our mailbox, by Wednesday, 8 April. **GET YOUR RSVP FORMS IN ON TIME! Please do not mail, email, text, or call your RSVP in to Mike Fricano or Dave Perrine.** Send them by mail to the chapter PO Box.

Future Events

All of our scheduled meetings and events for 2026 are listed in the Events Calendar, below. There have been some changes/additions since the last newsletter. Please block your calendars now to ensure you can attend.

Hawai'i Aloha Chapter MOAA Medal and Certificate Season is Here!

The ROTC/JROTC MOAA Medal is awarded to a cadet in their second-to-last year of the program. Recipients are chosen by the unit commander and must demonstrate exceptional leadership potential, high moral character, and loyalty to their unit, school, and country. Additionally, they must maintain good academic standing.

MOAA membership is required to present a medal and certificate to a deserving cadet selected by their Cadre.

Your support is greatly appreciated if you are able to assist. Witnessing the excitement on each cadet's face is truly rewarding. Presentations run at all high schools that have JROTC programs between 10 April and 22 May. See the schedule near the end of this newsletter.

If you'd like to participate, especially at a specific school, contact **Toni Correia** via email at tonihawaii@gmail.com or call (808) 721-0401. If no answer, feel free to leave a message.

NEW TRUSTEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Scholarship Committee is looking for new volunteers to serve as a Trustee. We meet 4x per year. The month of March is normally the most important of the 4 meetings as we review and endorse all ROTC and JOTC applications at that time. This is an important and rewarding position which requires minimal time on your part. If you are interested, please contact **Jason Seal**, 808-277-7536.

2026 Flag Day Massing of the Colors

On Flag Day, June 14, 2026, Veterans Service Organizations, youth groups, and patriotic partners will honor the enduring symbol of our freedom, unity, and resilience—the American flag. Held this year at the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center (PHVC), or the USS Arizona Visitor Center, at 10:00 AM, the highlight of the day will be the Massing of the Colors, an inspiring tradition where color guards from diverse military and civic organizations present their flags in a unified display of patriotism. Originating in 1922 and carried forward by the Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW) since 1929, the ceremony continues to celebrate the synergy between military service and the civilian community's dedication to national ideals.

All are invited. As a part of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, there will be 250 chairs and goal is to fill them. While Board Member, **Jim Boersema**, is planning on representing the Hawaii Aloha Chapter, MOAA, other members are encouraged to attend. Another Board Member, and our Secretary, **Toni Correia**, will coordinate the MOAA Flag pick-up from the OVC. While MOWW will take the lead, volunteers are needed to help with set-up and take-down.

Hawaiian Islands Honor Flight Hub

Chapter member, **Mike Golojuch**, reports that he had the privilege of going on an Honor Flight to Washington, DC in August 2023. When he went, it was considered a Lone Eagle Honor Flight because Hawaii didn't have a Hub. However, Hawaiian Islands Honor Flight recently established a new Hub, serving the Hawaiian Islands. Although they are focusing on WWII, Korean War, and Vietnam Era veterans, this expansion strengthens their commitment to ensuring that more of our heroes have the opportunity to visit, at no cost, the monuments and memorials built in their honor. They accept applications from all veterans. Those with serious health issues are usually selected to go on the Honor Flight. Hawaiian Islands Honor Flight encourages all to follow them on Facebook to receive updates, view photos from recent flights, learn about upcoming missions, and celebrate fellow veterans in our community. It's a wonderful way to stay engaged and share in the stories and memories that make our Honor Flight ohana so special. Search for Hawaiian Islands Honor Flight on Facebook (or go to <https://www.facebook.com/Honorflighthawaii>) and click "Follow."

Legislative Update

Legislative items provided by **Mike Golojuch**:

HB 2336, HD1 (HSCR92-26) Status RELATING TO FEDERAL MILITARY INSTALLATIONS

Authorizes the Department of Transportation to enter into agreements with the United States Department of Defense for the provision of services at federal military installations, under certain conditions. Authorizes charging an administrative fee. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

SB 3082, SD1, HD1 (HSCR1213-26) Status RELATING TO MILITARY FAMILIES

Authorizes an eligible employee to take family leave for a qualifying military exigency under state law. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1) PBS, LAB, FIN

HB 2343, HD1 (HSCR158-26) Status RELATING TO VETERANS

Repeals the specific deadline by which the Maui State Veterans Home must be assimilated into a state agency having a Maui affiliation. Requires the transfer of the Maui State Veterans Home to be completed as soon as practicable. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

HB1913, HD1

Establishes within the Office of Veterans' Services a mental health coordinator position at Tripler Army Medical Center. Provides that the mental health coordinator is appointed by and reports directly to the Director of the Office of Veterans' Services. Appropriates moneys. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

SB 3240, SD1 (SSCR2397) Status & Testimony RELATING TO THE MILITARY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICE

Appropriates funds to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism through the Military and Community Relations Office to strengthen intergovernmental coordination for military and defense activities. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

SB 2545, SD1 (SSCR2302) Status & Testimony RELATING TO VETERANS

Repeals the 6/30/27 deadline by which the Maui State Veterans Home must be assimilated into a state agency having a Maui affiliation. Requires the transfer of the Maui State Veterans Home to be completed as soon as practicable. (SD1)

HB 2343, HD1 (HSCR532-26) Status RELATING TO VETERANS

Repeals the specific deadline by which the Maui State Veterans Home must be assimilated into a state agency having a Maui affiliation. Requires the transfer of the Maui State Veterans Home to be completed as soon as practicable. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

SB 2138 (SSCR2858) Status RELATING TO THE HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD STATE TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Authorizes the Adjutant General to expand the Hawaii National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program to include graduate degrees at the University of Hawaii for qualified enlisted personnel in the Hawaii National Guard. PBS, HED, FIN

SB 3110, SD1, HD1 (HSCR1212-26) Status RELATING TO THE HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD

Clarifies that employees of the Hawaii National Guard youth and adult educational programs are excluded from collective bargaining. Renames the "Hawaii National Guard Youth Challenge Program" to the "Hawaii National Guard Civil-Military Program" and codifies its Hawaiian name, "Na Kula Alaka'i". Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1) PBS, LAB, FIN

SB 608, SD2 (SSCR2925) Status RELATING TO VETERANS' RIGHTS AND BENEFITS

Regulates persons receiving compensation for providing advice or assistance regarding veterans' benefits. Effective 7/1/2077. (SD2)

SB 3156, SD1, HD1 (HSCR1228-26) Status RELATING TO FEDERAL MILITARY INSTALLATIONS

Authorizes the Department of Transportation to enter into agreements with the United States Department of Defense for the provision of services at federal military installations, under certain conditions. Authorizes charging an administrative fee. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1) TRN, PBS, FIN

SB 2614, HD1 (HSCR1293-26) RELATING TO EDUCATION

Authorizes the Department of Education to award a high school diploma to qualified persons who did not receive a high school diploma as a result of compulsory or voluntary induction into the Armed Services of the United States or whose high school education was interrupted due to wartime practices during World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1), EDN, PBS, FIN

SCR 25 / SR 22 Status & Testimony / Status & Testimony OPPOSING CONDEMNATION OR THREATS OF CONDEMNATION BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO TAKE CONTROL OF POHAKULOA AND ANY STATE LAND. PSM/EIG, JDC

SCR 79 / SR 81 Status & Testimony / Status & Testimony ENCOURAGING THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ERADICATION OF OCTOCORAL AND OTHER INVASIVE SPECIES FROM THE WATERS OF PEARL HARBOR, INCLUDING WEST LOCH, MIDDLE LOCH, AND EAST LOCH. PSM/EIG

SCR 28 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A STATE OF HAWAII COMMEMORATIVE VIETNAM VETERANS MEDAL

Oahu Veterans' Center Calendar

Check out <https://www.theovc.org/veterans-events-calendar> to view the OVC's Veteran's Events Calendar, and add them to your Google calendar.

MOAA-Backed Caregiver Bill Takes Major Step Forward in House

February 17, 2026

By: René Campos

Bipartisan legislation that would provide much-needed support to veteran caregivers took a significant step toward becoming law last week, advancing out of the [House Veterans' Affairs Committee](#) alongside other important [MOAA-supported bills](#).

The progress of the Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement (3R) Act (H.R. 2148) highlights growing bipartisan commitment to strengthening support for caregivers, families, and some of the most severely wounded, injured, and disabled veterans in the country.

The legislation represents a major step forward for the caregivers who form the backbone of veterans' long-term care. By expanding access to education, easing reemployment barriers, and enhancing retirement planning resources, the bill helps ensure caregivers have the tools they need to maintain stability while supporting those who served.

Without targeted reforms like [those in the 3R Act](#), caregivers could be left to rely on public assistance, shifting costs between government agencies rather than reducing them.

MOAA is grateful to every member and veteran advocate who contacted their lawmakers urging action on this critical measure. Your engagement made a real difference. Now that the bill has passed out of both the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees, it is more important than ever to keep the pressure on this priority. We encourage you to [continue urging your elected officials](#) to bring H.R. 2148 and S. 879 to the floor in both chambers and ensure it becomes law before the end of this year.

The legislation will be a key part of [MOAA's upcoming testimony before a joint Feb. 24 hearing](#) of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees. That testimony will cover a range of veterans' priorities, such as protecting veterans from [unaccredited "claim sharks"](#) via the Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding (GUARD) VA Benefits Act and [ending the "wounded veteran tax"](#) faced by tens of thousands of combat-injured veterans via the Major Richard Star Act.

More Bills Move Forward

Along with the 3R act, House Veterans Affairs Committee members advanced other MOAA-supported legislation in their Feb. 12 hearing:

- The **Fisher House Availability Act** (H.R. 3726), which would allow TRICARE beneficiaries, including active-duty families, to stay in VA Fisher Houses on a space-available basis. This change would expand access to lodging for families traveling for specialty or emergency care, reducing financial strain and ensuring they can remain close to their loved ones during treatment.
- The **Sharri Briley and Eric Edmundson Veterans Benefits Expansion Act** (H.R. 6047), which would increase the rate of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) to provide additional financial support for survivors and increase the rate of Special Monthly Compensation (SMC) to boost financial support for catastrophically service-connected disabled veterans. The bill is named for Sharri Briley, widow of an Army Black Hawk pilot killed in Somalia in 1993, and for Eric Edmundson, a former Army sergeant who suffered shrapnel wounds, a heart attack, and a brain injury after his Humvee struck a roadside bomb in Iraq in 2005.

Your Advocacy Remains Essential

The hearing delivered meaningful momentum, but much work remains to get MOAA's legislative priorities across the finish line. MOAA urges all members and supporters to continue contacting their lawmakers to ensure these bills move swiftly to the floor and are enacted into law. Add your voice to our cause [via our Legislative Action Center](#).

MOAA will continue to monitor developments closely and keep you informed as these important measures progress.

VA Fully Rescinds Disability Ratings Rule ... Here's What Should Happen Next

February 27, 2026

By: Kevin Lilley

After feedback from veterans, advocacy groups, lawmakers, and other stakeholders – about 20,000 of whom provided comments [via the Federal Register](#) – the VA [fully rescinded an interim final rule](#) that may have punished veterans for receiving medical treatment.

VA Secretary Doug Collins announced Feb. 19, two days after the new rule was published, that it would not be enforced. The official rescission echoes Collins' Feb. 19 statement, which said the rule served to clarify existing policy, but notes the department "recognizes that many commenters construed the interim final rule as something that could result in adverse consequences."

MOAA was among those commenters, noting that the rule "fails to account for treatment burdens, creates harmful incentives, destabilizes access to benefits, and was promulgated without adequate public input." While the VA's Feb. 27 move to rescind the rule represents a first step toward rebuilding trust with the veteran community, three other key recommendations from MOAA's public comment should come next:

End the Legal Fight

The VA's short-lived rule change came after the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims ruled against the department in *Ingram v. Collins*, stating that the VA should issue disability ratings based on the severity of a veteran's condition, following precedent "requiring the discounting of beneficial effects of medication."

In the rule, the VA said the court "erred" in its determination, and noted the case and other recent judicial rulings as grounds for rapid passage of the clarifying regulation. MOAA and other stakeholders disagree with this interpretation, and so long as the VA proceeds with appealing *Ingram* and similar cases, veterans' benefits would remain under threat.

"Continued pursuit of an appeal is in direct opposition to the halted enforcement of the [interim final rule]," MOAA wrote in its public comment.

Clarify the Ratings Process

The rescinded rule had been meant to "reaffirm the proper understanding of VA policy," according to the rule text. And while the rule is going away, such reaffirmation is still sorely needed.

The department should state clearly that a disability rating will not be reduced based on the effects of treatment, and that a veteran's ability to address chronic injury or disease with medication should not be confused with "medical improvement."

Many veterans suffer a reduced quality of life from effective treatments – anything from moderate to severe side effects to medication and treatment needs that disrupt life's regular rhythms. They should not worry about losing earned benefits while they deal with these second-order effects.

Keep Veterans Healthy

By weighing medication as part of a VA disability rating (and subsequent benefits), the department inadvertently created an incentive for veterans to skip treatments prior to an evaluation, or otherwise mask any treatment-related improvements.

The VA can address this concern moving forward by releasing guidance that would "explicitly prohibit adverse rating consequences tied to treatment compliance, ensuring veterans are not discouraged from following prescribed care," MOAA wrote in its public comment.

The Next Step

MOAA and fellow veterans service organizations will continue to engage with the VA on this issue; the lack of engagement with such groups has been cited by many as contributing to the confusion caused by the recent rule, which was passed without a traditional feedback period.

No veteran should feel that undergoing treatment for an illness or injury could lead to unexpected downgrades in their service-earned benefits. Keep up with this issue and other MOAA priorities [via our news page](#).

Would You Recommend Service to a Family Member?

By: Stephanie Rose
February 25, 2026

Only 37% of active-duty family members responding to a recent survey said they would recommend military service to a young family member – a figure that points to persistent and unresolved quality-of-life issues facing those in uniform.

The findings from the [2025 Military Family Lifestyle Survey](#) published by Blue Star Families (BSF) show a slight uptick from 2024, when 32% of respondents said they'd recommend service. That figure was 55% in the 2016 survey and hasn't topped 47% since.

The military community has long been considered a "family business." A [2013 Pentagon report](#) found that 77% to 86% of military recruits had a family member who had served, situating family connection to service as a strong factor in recruitment.

While there are many factors to consider when increasing the number of recruits, one thing is certain: The military cannot afford to lose its promoters – military families recommending service to their friends, loved ones, and personal networks.

Why Is the Military Losing Its Promoters?

Many quality-of-life issues highlighted by the survey have been part of ongoing advocacy efforts by MOAA and other stakeholders ... but they remain unresolved, year over year:

Military spouse employment has remained the top concern for active duty spouse respondents to the BSF survey for the last six years. This year's survey reports a 23% unemployment rate and an underemployment rate of 70%.

This sustained signal that military spouses need adequate employment for financial security is reinforced by the Harris Poll's [Income Paradox Survey](#), which highlights the financial distress of families earning a low six-figure income. Most military families earn less than six figures, leaving military spouse employment a critical necessity to military life.

Child care affordability and access can worsen spousal employment conditions: [Last year's deep dive by the BSF survey into child care issues](#) found that child care costs were a barrier to employment for 64% of spouses, and access issues were a barrier to 43% of spouses.

This year's survey revealed 41% of families spend 20% or more of their monthly income on child care, and half of survey respondents spend 30% or more of their income on housing. When 50% of household income goes toward just two basic needs, having a family becomes all but unaffordable.

Food insecurity remains a pressing issue, especially for enlisted families – 40% of enlisted survey respondents reported low or very low food security. Among all respondents, 30% said they could not always afford to eat balanced meals.

These quality-of-life issues are strong indicators as to why the number of military promoters has significantly dropped over the last 10 years. Military family budgets are stretched thin, leading many to wonder if they can afford to serve.

Elevating Solutions

MOAA is working on legislation to directly address the spouse unemployment issue. MOAA and BSF have been working with congressional offices to ask for their support of the Improve and Enhance the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) Act (H.R. 6231 | S. 3265). This bill would add military spouses as a target group to the WOTC program, which gives employers a financial incentive to hire members from groups with ongoing employment challenges. We hope that financially incentivizing employers to hire military spouses will aid in the reduction of their 23% unemployment rate.

Additionally, MOAA has been working with Cultural Care Au Pair to include au pairs in the [Child Care in your Home \(CCYH\)](#) pilot program. Au pair costs are often within the reimbursement allotments for this program, and au pairs can help meet child care needs brought on by the nontraditional schedules of military families.

Finally, MOAA supports the Military Dependents School Meal Eligibility Act of 2026 (H.R. 7259), which would eliminate the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) from the calculation of military income when going through the qualification process for the National School Lunch Program.

Learn more about MOAA's efforts on behalf of military families, as well as other key advocacy priorities, by registering at our [Legislative Action Center](#).

Stop VA Claim Sharks: Why MOAA Backs the GUARD VA Benefits Act

By: Jen Goodale

February 10, 2026

Veterans and survivors face a growing threat from predatory companies that siphon earned disability benefits under the guise of “help.”

At the center of MOAA’s work to combat this threat is the Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding (GUARD) VA Benefits Act ([H.R. 1732](#)), a bipartisan bill which would restore long-overdue accountability to the VA disability claims process.

A System Built on Trust ... and a Dangerous Gap

[Federal law](#) is clear: Only VA-accredited attorneys, claims agents, and veterans service organizations (VSOs) may assist veterans with disability claims in exchange for compensation, and no veteran can be charged when filing an initial claim, even by an accredited agent. The law clearly states that accreditation requires training, ethical compliance, continuing education, and fee oversight.

But in 2006, Congress repealed criminal penalties for unaccredited individuals who illegally charge veterans for claims assistance. That decision created a regulatory gap, one that predatory companies have spent nearly two decades exploiting.

VA’s only enforcement tool against these actors is a [cease-and-desist letter](#), a measure that has proven to be largely ineffective. Over the past decade, the VA has issued more than 40 such letters, yet most of the companies that received warnings continue operating, advertising, and charging veterans thousands of dollars in unauthorized fees.

A Perfect Storm for Exploitation

VA disability claims are complex and slow, leaving frustrated veterans searching for help. The passage of the MOAA-supported Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act, a critical expansion of benefits for toxic-exposed veterans, dramatically increased the number of new and reopened claims, creating a larger pool of newly eligible veterans vulnerable to exploitation.

More than 40 unaccredited companies now actively market themselves as “consultants” or “coaches,” claiming they can maximize ratings or speed decisions. Some charge contingency-style fees totaling tens of thousands of dollars. A veteran awarded a 100% rating can be charged **nearly \$20,000** for assistance that is legally available for free through accredited VSOs. Other companies charge flat fees for consultations with medical examiners, nexus letters, and other supporting documentation.

These companies are not subject to VA oversight, ethical standards, or fee limits. Veterans report aggressive data-targeted marketing, misleading contracts, and long-term payment obligations tied to future benefit increases ... even when the company does no additional work.

One retired Navy petty officer and longtime volunteer advocate described veterans being contacted almost immediately after filing claims by companies falsely implying VA affiliation and armed with detailed, sensitive claim information. This erosion of trust underscores the urgent need for accountability.

Enforcement Works — When It Exists

States have begun stepping in where federal enforcement is lacking. Most recently, the Texas Attorney General [successfully prosecuted](#) Vet Claims Insiders, affirming that these practices harm veterans and violate consumer protection laws. But veterans should not have to rely on a patchwork of state actions to protect their federal benefits.

Congress created this enforcement gap, and Congress must work to close it.

What the GUARD VA Benefits Act Does

The GUARD VA Benefits Act restores the enforcement authority Congress originally intended by reinstating criminal penalties for unaccredited individuals who charge unauthorized fees. The bill does not limit veterans’ choices or access to help. Instead, it ensures assistance comes from qualified, accountable, and regulated professionals.

MOAA urges lawmakers to advance this legislation to protect service-earned benefits for veterans and survivors, and to restore integrity to the VA claims system.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

20 Apr 26	0900	Golf Outing, Barbers Point GC, (Monday)	92-2219 Franklin D. Roosevelt Ave, Kapolei
24 Apr 26	1115	ROTC/JROTC Award Luncheon (Friday)	Restaurant 604, Rainbow Marina
22 May 26	0900	Golf Outing, Leilehua GC, (Friday)	99 Leilehua Golf Course Road, Wahiawa
25 May 26	TBD	Memorial Day Ceremonies Representation/ Presentations (Monday)	Punchbowl & Kaneohe Veterans Cemeteries
15 Jun 26	0900	Golf Outing, Mamala Bay GC (Monday)	Hickam Field
20 Jul 26	0900	Golf Outing, Barbers Point GC, (Monday)	92-2219 Franklin D. Roosevelt Ave, Kapolei
24 Jul 26	1115	General Membership Meeting (Friday)	Navy Lodge, Ford Island, Author James Blackwell, "GUNNERS! B-29 Machine Gunners in the Korean War"
			Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station
			Punchbowl Cemetery
21 Aug 26	0900	Golf Outing, Klipper GC, (Friday)	Hickam Field
19 Sep 26	TBD	POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony Representation/Presentation (Saturday)	Navy Lodge, Ford Island, LTC (R) Adriel Lam, Hawaii Lions Zone Chair, America 250, HI Welcomes New US Citizens
21 Sep 26	0900	Golf Outing, Mamala Bay GC (Monday)	92-2219 Franklin D. Roosevelt Ave, Kapolei
25 Sep 26	1115	General Membership Meeting (Friday)	Location TBD, CAPT (R) Frank Michael, USN, MOAA National
			Punchbowl & Kaneohe Veterans Cemeteries
23 Oct 26	0900	Golf Outing, Barbers Point GC, (Friday)	
6 Nov 26	TBD	Annual General Membership Meeting (Friday)	
11 Nov 26	TBD	Veterans Day Ceremonies Representation/ Presentations (Wednesday)	
23 Nov 26	1000	Golf Outing, Klipper GC, (Monday)	Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station
6 Dec 26	TBD	Christmas Brunch, (Sunday)	TBD
21 Dec 26	0900	Golf Outing, Leilehua GC, (Monday)	99 Leilehua Golf Course Road, Wahiawa

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2026 Hawaii Aloha Chapter Leadership

Board of Directors

(Term Expires Year Indicated)

Jim Boersma, COL, USA (2027)
808-479-9013

Fred W. Brunson, CDR, USN (2028)
808-234-8431

Toni Correia, LTC, USA (2027)
808-721-0401

Kathy Ebey, Surviving Spouse (2027)
808-271-2826

Wesley F. Fong, COL, USA (2026)
808-595-6127 & 808-220-5266

Mike Fricano, Col, USAF (2026)
808-386-8575

John S. S. Kim, Lt Col, USAF (2026)
808-780-5901

Jason C. Seal, Col, USMC (2028)
808-277-7536

Steve Tom, MG, USA (2028)
808-225-8127

Officers & Committee Chairs

President: Mike Fricano, Col, USAF
808-386-8575

Vice President: Fred W. Brunson, CDR, USN
808-234-8431

Secretary: Toni Correia, LTC, USA
808-721-0401

Treasurer: John Kim, Lt Col, USAF
808-780-5901

Surviving Spouses: Kathy Ebey,
808-271-2826

Chaplain: Debby Fricano,
808-386-8577

Community Affairs: John Ma, BG, USA
808-486-4805

Membership: Jenn Kishimori, COL, USA
808-679-5401

Membership Deputy: Kathy Ebey, Surviving Spouse
808-271-2826

Committee Chairs & Other Activities

JROTC/ROTC Awards: Toni Correia, LTC, USA 808-721-0401

Legislative Liaison: Mike Golojuch, Lt Col, USAF 808-779-9087

Personal Affairs: Lou Crompton, Lt Col, USAF 808-526-3022

Programs: Dave Perrine, COL, USA 808-679-5401

Publications: Vacant

Veterans Affairs: Vacant

Golf: Leslie Bise, LTC, USA 808-625-1010

Webmaster: Bob Rinaldo 203-758-1898

Scholarship Fund Trustees

Chairman: Jason Seal, Col, USMC 808-277-7536

Hawaii Aloha Chapter, MOAA, Membership/Application Form

Revised: August 2024. All prior forms obsolete. Check All Applicable Boxes

Enroll me as a Regular Member: Each year of membership = \$20 ____ = No. of Years Five Years = \$90

Enroll me as a Spouse Member: (i.e., spouse of a Chapter Regular member, or Surviving Spouse of a deceased officer)

Each year of membership = \$15 Five Years = \$60 NOTE Include Regular Member/deceased officer RANK Below

PLUS Partial Year Membership: APR - JUN = \$15; JUL - SEP = \$10 OCT-DEC = \$5 = Total

Active Duty/current Guard/Reserve or 90 Years and Older = FREE

Current/Retired/Last Rank held: _____

Name Last, First Middle/Initial(s) (PLEASE PRINT) **DOB** MM/DD/YYYY

Address

City, State Zip

Spouse's Name

H _____ C _____

Telephone Numbers H=Home/C=Cell

E-mail

Applicant's Signature / Date

Recruiter/Sponsor's Name

*Mail Application Form and
Membership Dues Check to
Hawaii Aloha Chapter, MOAA
P. O Box 201441
Honolulu, HI 96820*

CHECK APPLICABLE BOXES

<u>STATUS</u>	<u>SERVICE</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Active	<input type="checkbox"/> US Army
<input type="checkbox"/> Reserve	<input type="checkbox"/> USAF
<input type="checkbox"/> National Guard	<input type="checkbox"/> US Navy
<input type="checkbox"/> Retired from AD	<input type="checkbox"/> USCG
<input type="checkbox"/> Retired from Res.	<input type="checkbox"/> USMC
<input type="checkbox"/> Former Officer	<input type="checkbox"/> USPHS
<input type="checkbox"/> Surviving Spouse	<input type="checkbox"/> NOAA
(indicate Rank above and check Service of Spouse)	
<input type="checkbox"/> National MOAA Member:	

MOAA No. _____

ACTIVE DUTY WAR VETERAN

KOREA 06/27/50 - 01/31/55
 VIETNAM 02/28/61 - 05/07/75
 OIF/OEF 08/02/90 - TBD

2026 JROTC Awards Schedule

		Date	Time	Location
Kaiser	Air Force	4/10/26	6:00 PM	School Cafeteria
Radford	Navy	4/18/26	4:30 PM	School Room 117
Hilo	Army	4/19/26	4:00 PM	School Cafeteria
Baldwin	Army	4/23/26	5:00 PM	School Auditorium
Kaimuki	Army	4/23/26	6:00 PM	School Auditorium
Waipahu	Army	4/24/26	6:00 PM	School Library
Kalani	Coast Guard	4/29/26	5:30 PM	School Cafeteria
Kahuku	Army	4/29/26	6:00 PM	School Cafeteria
Kalaheo	Navy	4/29/26	6:00 PM	School Gymnasium
Saint Louis	Army	4/29/26	7:00 PM	St. Louis Alumni Clubhouse
Leilehua	Army	4/30/26	6:00 PM	School Gymnasium
Aiea	Air Force	5/1/26	5:00 PM	School Cafeteria
Kapolei	Marine Corps	5/2/26	10:00 AM	Bldg. J (JROTC Building)
Roosevelt	Army	5/2/26	1:00 PM	School Auditorium
Kapaa	Army	5/2/26	5:30 PM	Kauai Veterans Center
Kealakehe	Army	5/6/26	4:00 PM	School Cafeteria
Konawaena	Army	5/6/26	5:30 PM	School Cafeteria
Waianae	Army	5/7/26	6:00 PM	School Cafeteria
Kailua	Air Force	5/8/26	3:00 PM	School Cafeteria
Farrington	Army	5/8/26	5:00 PM	School Auditorium
Nanakuli	Army	5/8/26	5:00 PM	School Cafeteria
Punahou	Army	5/8/26	5:30 PM	Thurston Chapel
Waimea	Army	5/8/26	6:00 PM	School Cafeteria
Campbell	Navy	5/13/26	4:00 PM	Saber Hall Lawn
Moanalua	Air Force	5/13/26	6:00 PM	School Cafeteria
McKinley	Army	5/14/26	4:00 PM	School Auditorium
Mililani	Army	5/22/26	5:30 PM	School Cafeteria



RESERVATION FORM

**Catered Buffet Luncheon honoring UH Manoa ROTC/Oahu High Schools JROTC
Cadet MOAA Scholarship Recipients
Kalaheo High School and Radford High School JROTC Color Guard Presentation
Farrington High School JROTC Exhibition Drill Team Demonstration**

**Guest Speaker: Rear Admiral (Ret) Alma M. Grocki
Former Senior Engineering Duty Officer (EDO) for the U.S. Navy Reserve,
Director of Fleet Maintenance for the United States Pacific Fleet and
Deputy Commander of Naval Sea Systems Command**

1115, Friday, 24 April 2026

**Restaurant 604 at Rainbow Bay
57 Arizona Memorial Dr, #108, Honolulu, HI 96818**

**Lunch: Kalua Pork, Furikake Catch, Chicken Katsu, White Rice, Oven Roasted
Vegetables, Vegetable Yakisoba, Macaroni Salad, House Salad, Hot Coffee**

Member: _____ Spouse: _____

Guest(s): _____

Cost = \$35.00 per person _____ x \$35.00 = \$ _____

Donation to your Chapter's General Fund for Sustaining Operations: \$ _____
YOUR GENEROUS DONATION DEFRAYS CADET COST FOR THIS EVENT

Total = \$ _____ Payable in Advance. A firm head count is required.
Please send in your reservation **ASAP** to arrive **NLT Wednesday, 8 April 2026**

For more information, contact Dave Perrine at 808-679-5401

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: HAWAII ALOHA CHAPTER, MOAA

**PLEASE SEND RSVP/CHECK BY MAIL TO: HAWAII ALOHA CHAPTER, MOAA
P.O. BOX 201441, HONOLULU, HI 96820**