

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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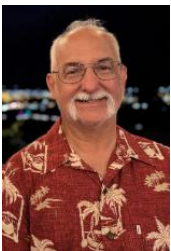
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President's Message



Aloha and welcome to summer! We've had a busy April-May-June springtime! In April, I participated in MOAA's Advocacy in Action (AiA) 2026 event, where chapter representatives from across the country gathered in Crystal City, VA to get smart on MOAA primary advocacy issues for the year. This year's issues were: H.R. 2102/S. 1032: Major Richard Star Act, H.R. 1732: GUARD VA Benefits Act, H.R. 6796: Military CARE Act, and S. 3168: Shutdown Fairness Act. Check out the MOAA website for more info. Then, we all went to Capitol Hill to lobby our Senators and Representatives to get their support for those issues. I met personally with Rep Tokuda and with staffers for Senators Hirono and Schatz (although I did run into Sen Schatz in the hall and got to talk with him for a few minutes). While I was not scheduled to meet with Rep Case, he came out of his office while I was dropping off some issue materials and

recognized me from previous visits. We also got a chance to talk for a few minutes. The most recent MOAA magazine has an article and pictures from the event (see if you can find my pictures!).



Because I was on the mainland, I missed our April JROTC awards luncheon at Restaurant 604 at the Rainbow Marina. By all accounts, it was a very successful event. Thanks to **Toni Correia**, **Dave Perrine**, and VP **Fred Brunson**. See the item below for more details and pictures.

Other chapter events included the Memorial Day ceremonies at both Punchbowl and the Hawaii State Veterans' Cemetery in Kaneohe, the various ROTC/JROTC awards ceremonies, and the Flag Day Massing of the Colors at the USS Arizona Visitor Center. See below for more info and pictures.

Programs Chair, **Dave Perrine**, has arranged our next event, a lunch/meeting, Friday, 17 July, 11:15 AM, at the Oahu Veterans Center (OVC). **This is a change in date, location, and speaker from previous announcements. Make sure you've got it correct in your calendar.** Don't forget that our Annual General Membership Meeting, is scheduled for 6 November, at the Tradewinds Club on Hickam Field, at 5:30 PM. It's Mongolian BBQ night, and will include a visit by CAPT Frank Michael, USN (Ret), Senior Director, Affiliated Councils & Chapters, representing MOAA National. We'll also hold elections at this meeting. Put it on your calendar NOW.

Check out the article below titled "VA Scam." They tried to get chapter member **Lou Crompton**, but he foiled them.

You might have noticed our chapter was mentioned in the most recent MOAA Magazine as being a recipient of a MOAA grant. Thanks to **Toni Correia** for wading through the application process and obtaining this \$1000 grant for support to next year's ROTC/JROTC awards and luncheon.

For those of you who are Basic or Premium members of MOAA, they will launch a July 4th Membership Campaign offering special savings on PREMIUM and LIFE membership. The campaign kicks off Monday, June 29, and will run throughout the week. You'll see the promotion featured on the MOAA website and amplified through MOAA's organic social media channels. Take this opportunity to upgrade your membership.

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, as reported in the last newsletter, **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

2026 Board of Directors Elections

Three Board members', **Mike Fricano**, **Wes Fong**, and **John Kim**, will have their terms of office expire this year. We will hold elections at the 6 November Annual General Membership meeting. We are forming a Nominating Committee to come up with a slate of candidates. Anyone who would like to run for office as a Board member should **let me know by 30 September**. We will notify the members of the slate of candidates in early- to mid-October.

Our Previous Meeting

Because of our special JROTC Awards ceremony and luncheon in April, we haven't held a general membership meeting since our February Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) Laboratory tour, followed by lunch at Mangiamo by 604. See below for our next meeting.

April 2026 JROTC Award Ceremony and Luncheon

On 24 April, the Chapter hosted a special luncheon to honor outstanding JROTC cadets from local high school and the University of Hawaii ROTC cadets and midshipman. Since 1993, the chapter has recognized students who demonstrate leadership, academic excellence, and service to their schools and communities. Along with scholarships, the Hawai'i Aloha MOAA chapter provides 27 Hawaii JROTC, 12 University of Hawaii ROTC, and 30 Pacific Islands medals annually.

Thanks to generous donations from chapter members, scholarships were awarded to deserving cadets to support their post-secondary education. Each college-bound JROTC cadet received a \$750 scholarship, while ROTC cadets and midshipman were awarded a \$1,000 scholarship each. For the first time, each recipient in the presence of a parent or supporter received their scholarship and a commemorative MOAA coin, presented by a MOAA mentors at a MOAA hosted luncheon.

The event featured a Presentation of the Colors by Radford and Kalaheo High School JROTC units, and an impressive armed exhibition drill by W. R. Farrington High School JROTC. Rear Admiral (retired) Alma Grocki, the guest speaker, inspired the cadets with remarks about their roles as future leaders. The scholarship recipients personally received their earned scholarships from a chapter member, and, thanks to an \$800 donation from the Hickam Officers' Spouses Club, cadets and family members or a Mentor were treated to a free lunch.



BG R John Ma



Col R Ed Gayagas



**Lt Col Michael Golojuch
Rear Adm R Alma Grocki**



Col R Wesley Fong



Col R Jason Seal



Col R James Noa



Col R Robert Harter

**2026 Scholarship
Recipients
16 JROTC
3 UH ROTC**



CDR R Fred Brunson



MG R Stephen Tom



MG R Kelley Lau



Chaplin Fred Staedel



Maj R Theresa Noa



Col R David Perrine



LTC R Lesley Bise

MOAA members and guests enjoyed the ceremony, which highlighted the chapter's ongoing commitment to supporting youth and fostering leadership in our community. To see more about this memorable event, watch the KHON TV news coverage: https://youtu.be/iRUX1_xkxxM?si=9IWVrnuUZF2SawQ9E, along with these pictures from the event.

The Hawai'i Aloha Chapter, MOAA, continues to invest in the next generation, helping local cadets achieve their educational and leadership goals.

[July 2026 General Membership Meeting](#)

The next Chapter general membership meeting will occur on **Friday, 17 July 2026, 11:15 AM** at the Oahu Veterans' Center (OVC) in Salt Lake. A Catered Experience will provide the food. Unfortunately, RIMPAC bumped us out of the Navy Lodge, and our scheduled guest speaker had to cancel due to a serious medical condition. Program Chair, **Dave Perrine**, recovered quickly and found us a new date, location, and speaker. Luckily, our newest chapter member, COL (Ret) **Bob Harter**, retired Emergency Management Staff Officer of the City and County of Honolulu, Department of Emergency Management (DEM), agreed to speak. He'll talk about "Preparing Your Ohana for Emergencies - 2 Weeks Ready". Bob worked at DEM for 10 years and retired earlier this year. Before that, Bob retired with 30 years of service in the US Army prior to working for the city. We'll try to get our original speaker, Jim Blackwell, Korean War B-29 gunner, to speak at a future meeting. A reservation form is attached at the end of this newsletter. Please fill it out and mail it, to arrive at our mailbox, by Friday, 10 July. **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.

[ROTC/JROTC Awards Ceremonies](#)

Our Chapter has once again demonstrated its commitment to Hawaii's JROTC and ROTC programs. We continued our generous financial and motivational support to deserving JROTC and ROTC cadets/midshipmen, presenting MOAA Leadership medals and certificates to 27 Hawaii JROTC programs and 12 to University of Hawaii ROTC cadets/midshipmen. Additionally, we sent a total of 32 MOAA leadership medals to JROTC programs in the Pacific, including Guam, Japan, Korea, Samoa, and other smaller Pacific islands. Thanks to your generous support, a total of 16 JROTC and 3 ROTC scholarships were awarded totaling \$1500 this year and a total of \$225,584 since 2006.

Pictures are worth a thousand words!



Memorial Day Ceremonies

On 25 May, **Steve Tom**, **Wes Fong**, and **Mike Golojuch** represented the Chapter at the Mayor's Memorial Day Ceremonies at Punchbowl, and the Governor's Memorial Day Ceremony at the Hawaii State Veterans' Cemetery in Kaneohe, which included the Parade of Flags and Presentation of Floral Leis.



2026 Flag Day Massing of the Colors

On Flag Day, June 14, 2026, Veterans Service Organizations, youth groups, and patriotic partners honored 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, the ceremony included 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.

Board Member, **Jim Boersema**, represented the Chapter and escorted our flag forward. Other members, **Wes Fong**, **Mike Golojuch**, and **Debby** and **Mike Fricano**, also attended. **Toni Correia** and **Les Bise** served in volunteer roles at the ceremony.



See the Hawaii News Now report at <https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/video/2026/06/15/some-oahu-celebrate-flag-day-others-call-it-somber-reminder/?outputType=amp>

Future Events

All of our scheduled meetings and events for 2026 are listed in the Events Calendar, below. Details have firmed up for the Annual General Membership Meeting on 6 November, 5:30 PM, and our Christmas Brunch on 6 December, 10:00 AM, both at the Tradewinds Club on Hickam Field. Please block your calendars now to ensure you can attend.

[HAMOAA Golf Club News](#)

On April 20, our Golf Club recorded its first hole-in-one. CSM Paul Guillermo, on hole number 14 at Barbers Point GC, recorded his eagle on the Par 3. What's more amazing, he is now 96 years old! KK Chinn, Ed Gayagas, and Chris Kelley were witnesses and attested to Paul's "Ace".

See the Calendar of Events, later in this newsletter, for upcoming club play.

Please contact **Les Bise** at bisel001@hawaii.rr.com should you have the itch to take on the golf challenge with our club.

[VA Scam](#)

Lou Crompton reported that he was nearly the victim of a scam from someone purporting to be from the VA:

"On Friday 5/15 I rec'd via USPS an envelope with return address area of VA US Department of Veterans Affairs. No other street or PO address. Stamp was regular stamp, but not canceled so I could not determine city where it was initially processed. Addressee is Current Resident with my address.

Single letter inside has VA US Department of Veterans Affairs across the top, and addressed to current resident... starts with "Hello !"

Then it goes on to say the Dept of Vet Affairs wants to survey folks to learn the needs of veterans... join up to take their survey... will earn \$25 for survey!

Then it gives website of ipsosvets.com to sign in and take survey

I simply thought this looked too strange to be a real letter from the VA... too many things I noted above. So, I called the VA in Wash DC... SURPRISE - lady I talked to plus another lady referred... they both said they have no knowledge of VA doing this survey - they have a list of surveys actually being done by VA - but this is NOT one. Plus, they have a list of all companies they use within VA to assist their work, incl helping on some surveys... this ipsosvets is NOT a company the VA does business with. One lady congratulated me for calling VA to make them aware of this and they will send thru the chain of command to make all aware of this scam - she's sorry that probably a bunch of recipients will contact the IPSOS and hand over personal info to take their survey. They suggested I notify other vets or maybe also USPS, local police or FBI to make them aware of this apparent scam in the mail.

I talked with USPS delivery person today - she said she remembers having delivered several of these envelopes Friday - she thought envelope looked strange - not usual appearance for Fed Govt letter. She took photo of letter plus my comments & will notify higher ups in USPS

hate to think this 'VA' survey letter is going out to our military retirees... someone or ones might reply to be helpful... VA HQ in DC says this is a SCAM..."

Great job by Lou to avoid this scam, and providing us with this heads-up message!

[How can I prepare for the loss of my military spouse?](#)

From the Expert: As one of MOAA's two finance and benefit counselors, I frequently field questions from members on survivor issues. Members will often ask us: "What will my spouse receive when I pass away?" Even more frequently, we hear from surviving spouses who have no idea what benefits they are entitled to receive.

The MOAA publication [Preparing for the Loss of a Military Spouse](#) seeks to address these concerns. The publication serves both to assist military families to get their affairs in order and to help guide survivors through the next steps they need to take after a loved one's death.

Financial Benefits

The first section of the booklet deals with potential financial and military benefits that survivors might receive. Many veterans are surprised to discover that entitlement to retired pay stops at midnight on the date of the servicemember's death.

If a servicemember signed up for the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), then upon death, their beneficiary could receive an annuity that provides 55% of a “base amount” of retired pay. The base amount was selected at the time of retirement and cannot be changed.

A veteran’s disability payments from the VA also stop upon the death of the servicemember. However, if the VA determines a veteran’s death is attributable to a disease or injury incurred or aggravated during active service, or if the veteran had a total service-connected disability rating, the surviving spouse might be eligible for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC).

Military Benefits

When a sponsor dies, surviving spouses (and dependent family members) continue to remain eligible for all benefits for which they were previously authorized.

This includes medical care, commissary, exchange, etc. Other programs, such as access to educational benefits, will depend on specific eligibility criteria.

Non-Military Benefits

A host of non-military benefits and tax breaks might be available to surviving spouses and even, under certain circumstances, surviving divorced spouses. Widows and widowers can typically get up to 100% of the worker’s Social Security benefit at full retirement age.

Surviving spouses might also be able to take advantage of the step-up in basis rule. This resets the cost basis of an inherited asset from its purchase price to the asset’s market value on the date of the owner’s death.

Estate Planning

The second part of the publication focuses on getting affairs in order. Everyone, regardless of age or income level, should have an estate plan, and that plan needs to be periodically monitored and updated.

A thorough estate plan goes beyond a simple will and can also include advance care planning, trusts, and a letter of instruction that can help guide the person settling an estate through the process. It’s helpful to include a list of assets.

Other Guidance

The booklet comes with a checklist to help guide survivors in the immediate days after their loss. There is also a resource list that includes organizations that focus on supporting surviving military families.

It’s important to not only create an estate plan but also to include your spouse and loved ones in the conversation. It’s a difficult discussion to have, but it will save your family stress in the long run.

Legislative Update

Legislative items provided by **Mike Golojuch**:

SB3082 – Act 013

Authorizes an eligible employee to take family leave for a qualifying military exigency under state law. (CD1)

- Signed into law by the Governor

HB2343 (also SB2545) – Act 018

Maui State Veterans Home; Repeals the 6/30/2027 deadline by which the Maui State Veterans Home must be assimilated into a state agency having a Maui affiliation and instead requires the assimilation to be completed as soon as practicable.

- Signed into law by the Governor

SB2138

Authorizes the Adjutant General to expand the Hawai’i National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program to include graduate degrees at the University of Hawai’i for qualified enlisted personnel in the Hawai’i National Guard. (CD1)

- Sent to the Governor to sign or veto

SB3110

Clarifies that employees of the Hawai'i National Guard youth and adult educational programs are excluded from collective bargaining. Renames the "Hawai'i National Guard Youth Challenge Program" to the "Hawai'i National Guard Civil-Military Program" and codifies its Hawaiian name, "Na Kula Alaka'i". Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)

- Died in Committee or Conference Committee

SB3240

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)

- Deferred by House Committee on Public Safety – Dead

HB1913

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)

- The House Finance Committee didn't schedule a hearing so the bill died

[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 Stresses Need for Clear Veterans Strategy in Senate Testimony](#)

By: Kevin Lilley

A clear definition of "veteran success" will help lawmakers and the VA align efforts to get veterans the care, benefits, and support they've earned through service, MOAA told Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee members during April 29 testimony on Capitol Hill.

A National Veterans Strategy "can provide a durable, bipartisan framework that strengthens support for the entire veteran community," Jen Goodale, MOAA's director of Government Relations for Veterans and Retired Affairs, told legislators in a session addressing more than two dozen veterans-related bills under consideration by the committee.

One of those bills – the bipartisan [National Veterans Strategy Act](#) (S. 3726) – would create guidance similar to the [National Security Strategy](#) to "articulate national objectives, define shared outcomes, and coordinate efforts across agencies responsible for supporting the veteran community," according to [MOAA's written testimony](#). Identifying families, caregivers, and survivors as key stakeholders and building metrics to evaluate government systems and provide for long-term planning would be critical to a successful strategy, Goodale told lawmakers.

The two-part hearing included testimony from VA officials followed by remarks from representatives of MOAA, AMVETS, and Wounded Warrior Project.

"Improving the lives of those who have served is not a partisan issue, but a shared mission that involves every member of this committee," said Sen. Jerry Moran (R-Kan.), the committee chairman. "Whether we are addressing health care, resources, or the efficiency of benefits claim processing, our focus remains on those who served and sacrificed for their nation.

Along with establishing a National Veterans Strategy, MOAA expressed support for other legislation under consideration, such as:

- The [Mammography Access for Veterans Act](#) (S. 3395), which would increase access to mammography services, especially in rural or underserved communities, by making permanent the VA's tele-mammography pilot initiative. "For women veterans, it's not that they don't want to get screenings," Goodale told the committee in response to a question from Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), the panel's ranking member. "It's that it is difficult to make the appointments. It's difficult to find the place that will support them. [The act] will enhance opportunities ... to get those screenings as necessary."

- The [FRAUD in VA Disability Exams Act](#) (S. 3000), which would require the VA to proactively target fraud in veterans' disability benefit questionnaires (DBQs). This legislation supports MOAA's long-standing goal of protecting veterans from predatory actors seeking to collect payment in exchange for manipulating the VA claims process – a practice also targeted by the [MOAA-supported GUARD VA Benefits Act](#).
- The [Justice for ALS Veterans Act](#) (S. 749), which would extend increased compensation to surviving spouses of veterans who died of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS or Lou Gehrig's Disease) no matter how long they had the disease, removing eligibility requirements that fail to consider the short life expectancy of those diagnosed with ALS.
- The [Carlton H. Ingram Veterans' Benefits Protection Act](#) (S. 4140), which makes clear VA disability ratings should discount the effects of medication and treatment if a baseline condition can be determined. This law comes after the VA's passage, and rescission, of a [disability ratings rule](#) that may have punished veterans for treating an illness or injury.
- The [Stuck On Hold Act](#) (S. 3170), which would require the VA to establish a call-back system for its customer service lines, allowing veterans to avoid long wait times.
- The Maternal Health for Veterans Act, draft legislation which would improve funding and expand reporting requirements for VA maternity care.

MOAA offered conditional support for other legislation, including bills that would create a rolling five-year staffing plan for the VA and improve VA care and benefits connected to toxic exposure. Goodale pledged to work with the committee to ensure these bills address concerns from MOAA and the wider veterans community as they move through the legislative process.

The pieces of legislation under committee consideration may “differ in scope, but share a common principle: Veterans deserve systems that are fair, modern, transparent, and worthy of their service,” Goodale told lawmakers. “MOAA appreciates the committee's bipartisan leadership and stands ready to help advance these proposals.

[Pharmacy Access, Enrollment Issues, Overseas Support: Advocates Outline Concerns With TRICARE Contract Plans](#)

By: Kevin Lilley

Future TRICARE contracts could weaken overseas programs, complicate enrollment processes for military families, and continue long-standing challenges with pharmacy access, according to a recent letter to the head of the Defense Health Agency (DHA).

The April 24 letter from [The Military Coalition \(TMC\)](#), a group of military and veterans organizations including MOAA with more than 5.5 million combined members, addresses issues with upcoming TRICARE Overseas Program, TRICARE Dental Program, and TRICARE Pharmacy Program preparations, outlining “significant concerns” in each instance.

These concerns are at the heart of MOAA's efforts to preserve service-earned benefits; we will continue our work alongside fellow TMC members and independently on these fronts and others to address access-to-care issues.

Among the items raised in the letter to DHA Director Vice Adm. Darin K. Via, USN:

Overseas Care: Plans “to rely on artificial intelligence, third-party agents, and telehealth” as part of 2028 TRICARE Overseas Program contract preparations raised red flags for the coalition, which also took issue with a lack of protections for existing specialized services and resources.

The program is used by more than half a million beneficiaries, including retirees living abroad and servicemembers and families stationed overseas.

Dental Care: The voluntary TRICARE Dental Program (TDP) covers more than 1.7 million beneficiaries, including active-duty family members as well as reserve component members and their families. Plans for [the upcoming TDP contract](#) could make navigating this process more difficult:

- Decentralization: The TDP contract procurement documents ask potential carriers about handling their own administrative tasks, which could lead to the creation of individual websites with plan information instead of a single, easy-to-use web portal.
- Auto-enrollment: The new contract could automatically enroll beneficiaries who do not select a specific plan – an approach designed to limit unintended disenrollments that could serve to lock beneficiaries into unwanted coverage.
- Open season changes: The new contract could establish an enrollment period outside the traditional November-December TRICARE open season, “creating confusion and an additional deadline for military families who already deal with significant stressors unique to military life,” according to the letter.

TRICARE Pharmacy: Requirements for the next pharmacy contract, known as TPharm6, do not restore the brick-and-mortar pharmacy network, which shrank from 55,000 to 42,000 after a restructuring that included about 15,000 community pharmacies [leaving the network](#).

While the network remains above the 35,000-pharmacy threshold set by the TPharm5 contract, The Military Coalition recommends restoring a 50,000-pharmacy minimum to “reverse the cut in network pharmacy access and prevent even further pharmacy network erosion in the future.”

Keep up with the latest in MOAA advocacy, and find out how to reach out to your lawmakers on access-to-care issues and other legislative priorities, by registering at [MOAA's Legislative Action Center](#).

[From MOAA's President: Our Commitment to Community Support](#)

By: Brian T. Kelly

On a national scale, many know MOAA because of our daily work in Washington, D.C., on behalf of the uniformed services community — protecting earned benefits and ensuring the voices of servicemembers, retirees, and veterans and their families and survivors are heard.

But on the local level, when someone recognizes the MOAA name, it is because they have seen firsthand the impact of a local council or chapter — neighbors helping neighbors, veterans supporting veterans, and communities strengthened through service. This local engagement is essential to fulfilling MOAA's broader mission of advocacy, education, and philanthropy, and I'm pleased to share national MOAA is providing support at record levels.

MOAA Charities' [Community Outreach Grants](#) provide awards of up to \$5,000 to chapters covering a wide range of critical family needs, including housing, food assistance, family support, transportation, legal assistance, and crisis relief.

This year marks a milestone: We received the highest number of applications in the program's history and are awarding the largest number of grants — and the greatest total funding — ever.

It is a clear signal that the need is growing, but so is the commitment of our members to meet it.

What makes these efforts especially powerful is their focus on prevention. Rather than reacting to crises after they occur, our chapters and partners are working to connect servicemembers, veterans, and families with support before challenges escalate. Whether addressing housing instability, financial hardship, or mental health concerns, these coordinated efforts can stabilize lives and strengthen communities.

Coordinated local efforts can truly bolster military families and save veterans' lives, advocates shared last year at our [TotalForce+ conference](#).

The VA reports veteran homelessness numbers are dropping, and we can point to MOAA's own efforts in support of the mission in places like Flagstaff, Ariz., and Monterey, Calif.

I often say MOAA is an association of officers but never only about officers. Our commitment extends to all ranks, all services, and all who have served and continue to serve. The work we do — at the national level and in communities across the country — demonstrates this responsibility.

And it is why, together, we will always answer the call to serve.

What's Next for a Key Caregiver Support Bill

By: René Campos

Bipartisan legislation that would strengthen long-term stability for military and veteran caregivers has one more hurdle to clear before it can be put before the full House of Representatives for a vote.

The MOAA-supported Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement (3R) Act (H.R. 2148) already has moved through both the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees — a significant milestone reflecting broad recognition of caregivers' role as the backbone of veterans' long-term care. But the bill must receive approval from one more committee, the House Ways and Means Committee, before the House can vote on it.

On May 21, a coalition of leading veterans and caregiver organizations including MOAA, the Quality of Life Foundation, Elizabeth Dole Foundation, Wounded Warrior Project, Code of Support Foundation, The Independence Fund, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Veteran Caregiver, and Veteran Warriors sent a letter to the Ways and Means Committee urging members waive consideration over H.R. 2148 so that this bipartisan legislation may proceed forward to the full House floor for a vote.

"These caregivers stepped forward to care for our nation's most severely wounded veterans, saving the federal government substantial resources in the process," the letter reads. "They should not, as a result of that service, face financial insecurity in their own retirement."

Addressing a Critical Financial Gap

Veteran caregivers often leave the workforce for years to care for wounded, ill, injured, or aging veterans. However, stipends provided under the VA's caregiver program are not classified as earned income, which prevents caregivers from building retirement credits or contributing to savings.

As a result, many face long-term financial insecurity after their caregiving role ends.

The 3R Act takes an important step to close this gap by expanding:

Reemployment and transition support

Education and training opportunities

Retirement planning resources and policy solutions

National Spotlight Reinforces the Need

Momentum behind caregiver policy is being amplified at the national level, most recently at the Elizabeth Dole Foundation's [11th Annual National Convening on Military and Veteran Caregiving](#), held May 19 in Washington, D.C.

The convening brought together senior federal leaders, bipartisan lawmakers, advocates, and caregivers — including VA Secretary Doug Collins, former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and Sen. Jerry Moran (R-Kan.), chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. These high-profile attendees highlight the progress that's been made, despite the work still ahead

At the event, the foundation launched its [National Blueprint for Action](#), a roadmap to strengthen support for the 14.3 million Americans caring for wounded, ill, or injured servicemembers and veterans. Developed with input from across government, industry, and the nonprofit sector (including organizations like MOAA and other veterans groups), the blueprint emphasizes emotional and mental wellness, economic mobility, caregiving youth and families, and supportive care ecosystems.

Broader [national findings](#) show caregivers provide an estimated \$119 billion in annual care while many households face significant financial strain tied to lost income and long-term economic insecurity. Discussions held at the event, along with the blueprint's priorities, reinforce a clear conclusion that support requires not just recognition, but targeted policy solutions like the Caregiver 3R bill that address the emotional well-being, financial stability, and retirement security needs within the military and veteran community.

Time to Finish the Job

As we close out the Month of the Military Caregiver, the message is clear: It's time to move the Caregiver 3R bill toward the finish line. Support MOAA's caregiver advocacy efforts by reaching out to your lawmakers [via our Legislative Action Center](#).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

17 Jul 26	1115	General Membership Meeting (Friday)	OVC, Bob Harter, Retired Emergency Management Staff Officer of the Honolulu Department of Emergency Management, "Preparing Your Ohana for Emergencies – 2 Weeks Ready"
20 Jul 26	0900	Golf Outing, Barbers Point GC, (Monday)	92-2219 Franklin D. Roosevelt Ave, Kapolei
21 Aug 26	0900	Golf Outing, Klipper GC, (Friday)	Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station
19 Sep 26	TBD	POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony Representation/Presentation (Saturday)	Punchbowl Cemetery
21 Sep 26	0900	Golf Outing, Mamala Bay GC (Monday)	Hickam Field
25 Sep 26	1115	General Membership Meeting (Friday)	Navy Lodge, Ford Island, LTC (R) Adriel Lam, Hawaii Lions Zone Chair, America 250, HI Welcomes New US Citizens
23 Oct 26	0900	Golf Outing, Barbers Point GC, (Friday)	92-2219 Franklin D. Roosevelt Ave, Kapolei
6 Nov 26	1730	Annual General Membership Meeting and dinner (Mongolian BBQ) (Friday)	Tradewinds, Hickam Field, CAPT (R) Frank Michael, USN, MOAA National
11 Nov 26	TBD	Veterans Day Ceremonies Representation/ Presentations (Wednesday)	Punchbowl & Kaneohe Veterans Cemeteries
23 Nov 26	1000	Golf Outing, Klipper GC, (Monday)	Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station
6 Dec 26	1000	Christmas Brunch, (Sunday)	Tradewinds, Hickam Field
21 Dec 26	0900	Golf Outing, Leilehua GC, (Monday)	99 Leilehua Golf Course Road, Wahiawa

MOAA SIGNATURE GROUPS

Join MOAA Leadership and your fellow MOAA members on these hosted cruises and land tours.

July 12-21, 2026	Highlights of Eastern Europe River Cruise	9-nights from \$3,999
October 1-10, 2026	Western Europe Yacht Cruise	9-nights from \$4,999
April 25-May 2, 2027	Castles Along the Rhine River Cruise	7-nights from \$4,199
July 19-27, 2027	France & Spain Yacht Cruise	8-nights from \$5,799
September 14-25, 2027	Circle Iceland Yacht Cruise	11-nights from \$8,999
Sept. 25-Oct. 4, 2027	Battlefields of WWI & WWII Tour	10 days from \$6,495

GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICES from The Official Travel Agency of MOAA



Toll-Free Telephone: **1-800-211-5107**

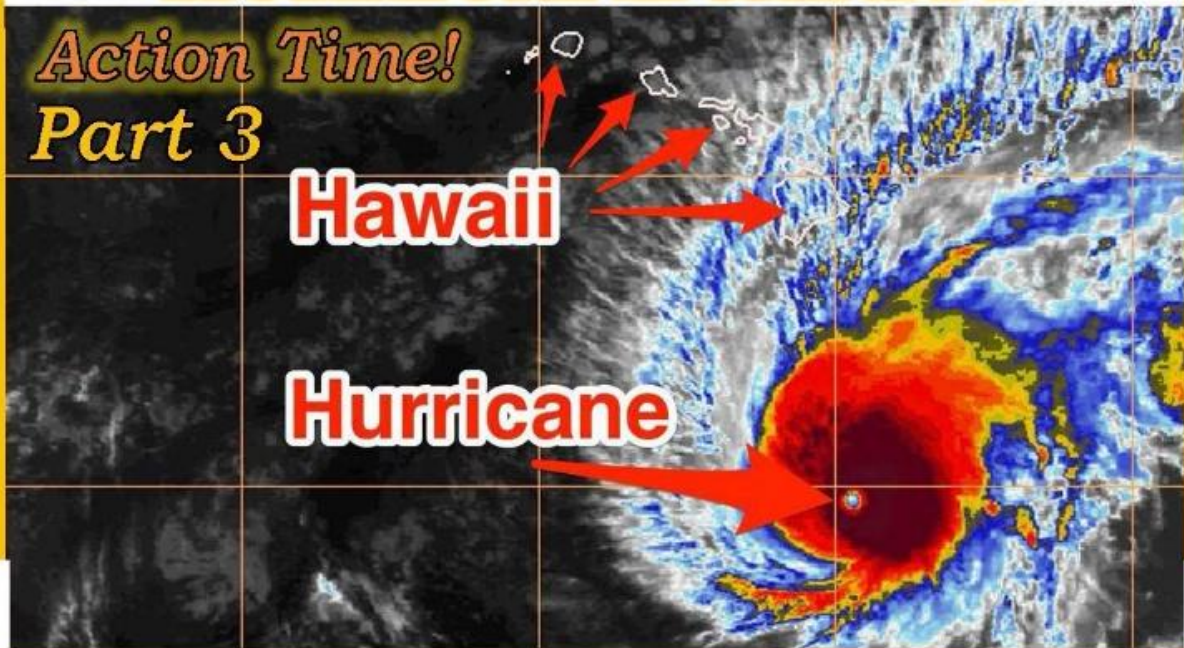
Email Address: **mail@MOAAvac.com**



For complete details, including detailed day-by-day itinerary, please visit us online

HURRICANE SAFETY

Action Time!
Part 3



SAFETY BULLETIN

SAFETY BULLETIN

Aloha! Now it's time to stay safe during a hurricane threat. You've planned, you've prepared, and now it's about knowing what to do when a hurricane is on its way.

What you need to know:

- If a Hurricane Watch is issued –
 - ✓ Review your plan and confirm your evacuation route and meeting place.
 - ✓ Fill up gas tanks because fuel may be limited.
 - ✓ Fully charge devices, phones, power banks, etc.
 - ✓ Bring pets indoors and ensure they have food and water.
- If a Hurricane Warning is issued –
 - ✓ Evacuate if ordered. Don't hesitate! Follow instructions from local authorities.
 - ✓ Secure your home by boarding up windows and bringing in all remaining outdoor items.
 - ✓ Turn off utilities (if instructed). Follow guidance from your local utility companies.
 - ✓ Stay indoors and find a safe room, away from windows.
 - ✓ Stay informed by listening to your radio or check official online sources for updates.
- Storm Surge -
 - ✓ The most dangerous threat during a hurricane! If a storm surge threatens your area, evacuate immediately if directed, especially if you live in low-lying coastal zones.

After the Storm:

- Stay indoors until officially declared safe. Downed powerlines and debris can be hazardous.
- Report damages to your insurance company and local authorities.
- Check on neighbors, especially those who may need assistance.



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



Hawaii Aloha Chapter, MOAA

RESERVATION FORM

Luncheon Meeting

Catered Buffet Luncheon

1115, Friday, 17 July 2026

OAHU VETERANS' CENTER

1298 Kukila Street, Foster Village, Honolulu, HI 96818

Lunch: Boneless BBQ Teriyaki Chicken, Breaded Fish with Tartar Sauce, Meat Jun with Sauce, White Rice, Potato Macaroni Salad, Tossed Salad with Italian Dressing, and Cake

Guest Speaker: Bob Harter, Retired Emergency Management Staff Officer of the City and County of Honolulu, Department of Emergency Management

"Preparing Your Ohana for Emergencies - 2 Weeks Ready"

Member: _____ Spouse: _____

Guest(s): _____

Cost = \$15.00 per person _____ x \$15.00 = \$ _____ +

Donation to your Chapter's General Fund for Sustaining Operations: \$ _____

Total = \$ _____ Payable in Advance. A firm head count is required.

Please send in your reservation **ASAP** to arrive **NLT Friday, 10 July 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**