



Pau Hana Koa

Retired Warriors

The Retired Officers Association P.O. Box 1185 Kailua Hawaii 96734-1185

Volume 17 No 11

WEBSITE <http://www.troa-hawaii.net>

November 2002



About Hawaii Foodbank

A non-profit, 501 (c)(3) agency, the Hawaii Foodbank was founded in 1983 by John White. It began as a small warehouse on Sand Island. White, along with a single driver, started the distribution of food, totaling 500,000 pounds to 20 member agencies that year. All equipment was donated by local companies, including two refrigerated containers, a flatbed truck, and a three-ton forklift.

The Foodbank has grown immensely since then and now distributes food to 245 member agencies on Oahu representing 480 feeding programs, and to food banks on the Big Island, Kauai, and Maui.

It operates the Ohana Produce program which provides fresh fruits and vegetables to several agency-hosted sites and schools around Oahu.

Member agencies include:

Armed Services YMCA - Abuse Shelter
Armed Services YMCA - Barbers Point
Armed Services YMCA - Marine Corp Base Hawaii
Armed Services YMCA - Scholfield / Wheeler
Hospice Hawaii, Inc.
Navy League of the United States
U.S.O. of Hawaii

Member agencies represent homeless shelters, halfway houses, low-income child care facilities, senior centers, emergency pantries, soup kitchens, rehabilitation centers, and youth programs. Individuals helped include the homeless, the elderly, abused children, battered women, the working poor, the newly unemployed, the physically and mentally challenged, and families experiencing temporary emergencies.

In September of 1992 the Foodbank was instrumental in responding to the disaster on Kauai caused by Hurricane Iniki. More than two million pounds of food were immediately distributed to families suffering the aftermath of the storm. The Foodbank's contribution to the Iniki relief effort won it statewide recognition as an important disaster preparedness and response organization in our state.

For more information: Phone: 808-836-3600

E-mail: foodbank@hawaiiifoodbank.org Website: www.hawaiiifoodbank.org

HAWAII CHAPTER MAJOR PROJECT
FoodBank Roundup on Saturday, November 16, 2002
Complete information on page

November! Our Annual Business Meeting and Charity Drive for the Hawaii Foodbank. This scanned notice is hard to read, but the project is important to those less fortunate here in Hawaii. There is more detailed information later in this PHK so don't strain your eyes. Donations to the Hawaii Foodbank are Tax Deductible and you'll feel good too.

Besides the food is good, your friends will be there, and you get to elect some new Board Members to guide the Hawaii Chapter of TROA (or MOA) in 2003.

This PHK emphasizes Programs since we have so many this month. The issue will be mailed so you have it on November 1st.

Mission

The people of Hawaii are one "ohana." The Hawaii Foodbank provides food so that no one in our family goes hungry. We work to gather food and support from our communities. We distribute food through charitable agencies to those in need. Our mission is from the heart, and we will fulfill our mission with integrity, humanity and aloha.

COMING EVENTS FOR THE HI CHAPTER

NOVEMBER

6 Nov (Wed) Lunch Briefing on Patriot's Village, Luana Koa 11:00 (see page 6)
12 Nov (Tue) Kona Satellite Meeting at US Army Pohakuloa Training Camp 11:00
13 Nov (Wed) PAC Meeting, HAFB O-Club 11:00
15 Nov (Fri) LAVA Meeting 11:30 then the EXCOMM 12:30 HAFB O-Club
16 Nov (Sat) HI Chapter Annual Meeting and Food Drive, HAFB O-Club 10:30
16 Nov (Sat) Hilo Satellite Meeting at Café 100, Noon
30 Nov (Sat) Bridge 7:00 p.m. (see page 6)

DECEMBER

18 Dec (Wed) HI Chapter Christmas Party in the Waikiki Ball Room, Hale Koa Hotel 6:00 p.m.
20 Dec (Fri) LAVA Meeting HAFB O-Club 11:30 followed by EXCOMM Meeting HAFB O-Club 12:30
21 Dec (Sat) Hilo Satellite Meeting, Café 100 Noon
21 Dec (Sat) Bridge Group Potluck Christmas Party 6:00 p.m. Call Robbie Gee 255-4558 for information.

Executive Committee**Elected Officers**

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

ALOHA. I'm actually back and writing this in Hawaii. It's great to be back to the land of clean air and warm weather.

Joan and I had a good time at Oktoberfest, it was a fun event. Thanks Judith. Thanks to everyone who served as an Officer or in any committee or appointment in 2002. YOU make this Chapter work, and we appreciate it.

We have several events in November and you'll find them listed in this PHK. First is a FREE luncheon and presentation about the retirement community project in Kapolei. Please plan to attend and learn the status of this project which has been supported by HI Ch TROA from the start. See info on page 6, or call Regina Kirchner 808 395-6545 for details.

Our major event in Nov is both an all member meeting and an annual drive for the Hawaii Food Bank. Our election will be held at the meeting and the food will be good as always at the Hickam AFB O-Club. Please plan to attend and bring a food donation. (see Page 7)

Our Forum for the Governor candidates will have been held in Oct and I hope you were able to attend. Far more important though is your VOTE on Nov 5th. No matter which party you support, your Vote makes a difference. People who understand the issues and care MUST vote to overcome those who merely vote as they are told. Or worse, if those not eligible to vote are allowed to sway the election outcome because not enough real voters made the effort. We can not continue to live with election fraud and bad government. VOTE!

Carita and Jack Miller continue to run splendid programs for us, and the Christmas Party in December is no exception. It really will be a PARTY. No swearing in, no boring speeches. Plan to come and celebrate Christmas with your friends in the Hawaii Chapter of TROA.

Since I have been traveling for over two months, I have not read the magazines (5 tubs of Mail) or the several thousand Email, but I heard that the majority went along with a name change for our organization. It will be hard to stop using TROA (if that report is true), but I guess we can live with it. As a NAVY Officer, I'll find it hard to be in a "Military" Officer Assoc, but we'll continue as before. See you at the meeting. John

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SOCIAL EVENTS

November 6th – Wednesday 11:00 a.m.

Yes, there is such a thing as a free lunch!! Our Chapter task force committee is sponsoring a presentation and lunch to provide the status of the life care retirement community plans for Luana Koa at Kapolei. For reservations call Regina Kirchner at 395-6645.

November 16th – Saturday 10:30 a.m.

Howdy Partners! Join in the Foodbank Round-up, the major Community project of our Chapter. Send in your reservations today! The Foodbank needs our help as their stock is low - so start saving now! Last year, we collected over 1200 pounds in food and nearly \$1000 cash. Let's do it again! Lunch cost: \$12.00.

December 18th – Wednesday 6:00 p.m.

Hawaii Chapter Goes Broadway!! This will be a musical night with no speeches or ceremonies – just good fun! You will see some sparkling talent performed and the rehearsals have already started. Circle this date on your calendar and plan to join the fun in the Waikiki Ballroom at the Hale Koa Hotel. Cost for the Dinner show- \$30.00.

The January 2003 event is a Sunday Brunch at the newly remodeled, and reopened, Officer's Club at Marine Base Kaneohe. We have a splendid and exciting speaker planned for this event that you won't want to miss.

Jack and Carita Miller want your ideas, and deserve our thanks for their great programs.

COMING EVENTS

FOODBANK ROUNDUP

November 16, 2002

Door Prizes

Silent Auction, Nice Items

Wheel of Fortune, \$5 per Spin

ALL Money Goes to the Hawaii FoodBank

Full Details on Page 7



Clip and Mail the response form for the Hawaii Chapter Christmas Party. Why not save postage and mail your 2003 dues and a donation for Charity and ROTC at the same time. We will award a check to Air Force MWR at the Christmas Party. Different service each yr.

MOST WANTED ITEMS

FOOD BANK

- 1) CANNED FRUITS & VEGETABLES
- 2) CANNED CHILI, SPAGHETTI&BEEF HASH
- 3) CANNED SOUPS
- 4) CANNED BEANS & PORK AND BEANS
- 5) TUNA & CANNED MEATS

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Subscription price included opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily Hawaii Chapter Policy
 Hawaii Chapter policy.

**Dr. Marvin Baum, L/C, USAF Ret
 Optometrist**

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Legislative Affairs Veterans Affairs (LAVA) Captain George Sullivan USN



It's Recess Time Again

The House has recessed for the November 5th elections. The **Concurrent Receipt** legislation, contained in the Defense Authorization Bill, is on hold. The Speaker of the House, Rep. Hastert (R-IL) had the problem of

a potential White House veto had he allowed the Bill to come to a full House vote. We will have to wait until the House returns on November 12th, and then see what maneuvering takes place.

Congressman Does End-Around

Rep. James Walsh (R-NY) amended the VA-HUD Appropriations Bill to bar current and future retired service members from filing new disability claims if Congress authorizes an end to the disability offset to military retired pay (**Concurrent Receipt**). Subsequently the full Appropriations Committee approved the language. Essentially this places the active duty military against the retired community. This is one of 12 Appropriation Bills yet to be passed by Congress and must go through several more votes before going to the President. There is time for the Military Coalition in Washington to work to remove this language, but calls and letters to Congress are also needed by members to overcome this latest obstacle.

Both Houses Pass Defense Appropriations

The FY2003 Defense Appropriations has been sent to the President for signature and will probably be signed into law by the time you read this. (All other departments of the government are operating on a "Continuing Resolution".) It provides most of the money the President requested to run the DOD including a well deserved 4.1% pay raise for the troops. As mentioned above, the Defense Authorization Bill, which normally passes first, is still pending, and therefore, new entitlements and programs cannot begin until this bill is passed. Furthermore, there is no money in the Appropriations Bill for **Concurrent Receipt** if and when it passes. A supplemental Appropriations Bill would have to provide the money to implement the program.

COLA To Be 1.4%

Effective January 2, 2003 social security, retired pay, and other programs will be increased by 1.4%. This will first appear in checks received in February 2003.

Medicare Physicians Payment Fairness Act

At a press conference hosted by The American Medical Association (AMA), TROA's Deputy Director for Government Relations Dr. Sue Schwartz urged Congress to act now to roll back cuts in Medicare provider reimbursements. Those cuts, which also impact TRICARE reimbursement rates, put beneficiaries at risk for access to care. Said Dr. Schwartz, "Congress must ensure that Medicare and TRICARE beneficiaries don't lose their health coverage because the government won't pay doctors reasonable rates."

Dr. Donald Palmisano, AMA's president-elect, agreed.

"Physicians want to serve America's seniors, but they simply cannot afford to accept an unlimited number of Medicare patients into their practices while facing continued payment cuts. Medicare's foundation is crumbling."

A recent AMA survey found that 24% of physicians have already either placed limits on the number of Medicare patients they treat or plan to start limiting such patients soon if fees are not increased quickly. Earlier this year, Medicare provider payments were cut by 5.4 percent. On November 1st, Medicare will announce additional cuts of 12 percent over the next three years, beginning with a 4.4 percent cut on January 1, 2003. These decreases, on top of increasing overhead costs and rapidly rising medical liability expenses, seriously jeopardize providers' participation in TRICARE and Medicare.

TROA and other associations have been pressing Congress to reverse the cuts. The House passed a bill to do that in June (H.R.4954), but the Senate has yet to act. With the number of items on the agenda for the lame duck session, it's getting very iffy whether Congress can agree on a Medicare payments bill this year. You can help by asking your senators to make this legislation a priority.

House Passes Modified Military Tax Break Bill

The House passed a modified version of pending legislation which provides extra tax breaks to military personnel. Introduced by House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Bill Thomas (CA.), the Armed Forces Tax Fairness Act of 2002 in its new form (H.R. 5557) includes language that would exempt military personnel from requirements that apply to capital gains tax exemptions on the sale of principal residences. It also includes provisions increasing the death gratuity payment exemption to \$6,000; excluding monies received under the Military Housing Assistance Program from taxation and expanding combat zone filing rules to include contingency operations.

VOTE on Tuesday November 5

Our Oct program was another winner with our own George Montague showing us how to track, analyze and hopefully, make some money with stocks {:-)

USB

Many of the latest printers, scanners and cameras can be hooked up to computers through ultra-fast USB-2 connections, but not many computers have them. (USB-2 is the new standard for the "Universal Serial Bus," used by both Windows and Macintosh computers. It is 40 times faster than USB-1.) There are several makers that provide devices to remedy this, for example, here are three that just came out from Belkin, one for laptops and two for desktops.

This is great for anyone editing video or music or handling lots of graphics, but even fairly new computers often have the older and slower USB-1 ports. Belkin's "USB-2 CardBus" solves this problem for laptop owners by combining the circuitry and USB ports into one card that plugs into the standard card slot on a Windows laptop. The slight downside to using this is that it requires its own external power supply, which of course adds to the weight of carrying around the laptop.

For desktop computers with no USB-2 port, there is the "4-Port Drive Bay Hub." This slides into a drive bay. Presuming, of course, you have a bay that's not occupied!

Drive Bay Hub gives you USB-2 if you don't have it. And, the connection ports end up on the front of the computer; you can plug and unplug USB cables without having to fumble around at the back. (At least I find it hard to get to the sockets back there.) Finally, a small (cigarette pack size) 4-port "USB-2 Pocket Hub" from Belkin works with either laptop or desktop computers, but has to be plugged into an already existing USB-2 port. In short, this will not make a USB-2 port out of nothing; its purpose is simply to expand the number of USB-2 ports available. It also has an external power supply. All of these USB-2 port expanders will also accept USB-1 connectors.

Who needs all these USB ports? Are you kidding? We use USB expansion hubs all the time. New computers simply don't come with enough USB ports for attaching the peripherals we use with PCs. I have full, 4 port hubs on both my computers as well as the 2 that come on the computer...in the back of course!

Dirty Secrets

A survey of computer repair technicians conducted by Falcon, a maker of cleaning supplies, found that 20 percent of problems are caused simply by dirty systems. Technicians reported finding heavy dust, screwdrivers, insects, and even litters of mice and other rodents inside the cases for computers and printers. YUK!

“Stealth” Home Page Changes

There are some programs on the Internet that will change the home page in your browser. But a freeware program can block that.

The program is StartPage Guard 2.0, which is free. A simple installation will keep your setting secure.

StartPage Guard works in Windows 98, ME, NT and 2000. Piotr J. Walczak, the author of the program, says he has not tested StartPage Guard on Windows XP, which he apparently doesn't like. However, I tried it on XP and it did not cause any problems.

The program is at: <http://www.pjwalczak.com/spguard/>

XP Academic Pricing

In a little publicized move, Microsoft Office XP is being sold for \$149 to students and teachers under the company's "academic pricing" policy. Some discount chain stores, like "Staples" and "Costco," are selling it for \$110-\$130 with rebate. This is the full version of Office XP and identical to the version sold for around \$500 at full retail.

Academic pricing has been around for a long time and for many products, but seldom in a deal as good as this. Such pricing is extremely hard to police, of course, and the Microsoft guidelines allow the \$149 price for students and teachers in any school grade. Technically, even kindergarten students are eligible for the discount. Parents who have a student at home are also eligible. You are supposed to show a student or faculty I.D. to get the discount, though few stores ask for them.

The Windows XP Media Center

This latest innovation from Microsoft, which promises to turn the PC into a home entertainment center, has been distributed to Hewlett-Packard Co. and Samsung Electronics. The Windows XP Media Center Edition, a product formerly known as "Freestyle," offers a separate interface via remote control to let users access multimedia tools -- from a personal video recorder (PVR) to digital music, videos and photos. Microsoft is working with the manufacturers to load the media hub onto the PC, with a remote control to make it work in a similar fashion to a TV or stereo. It said the XP Media Center could be used to combine the computer, TV and DVD players. It is also fitted with a PVR, a digital-music center, a digital photo album, a video collection and a DVD player.

"Every digital media enthusiast, every college student, every teenager, every apartment dweller, will love this technology," said Jim Allchin, group VP of the Platforms Products Group at Microsoft. "Windows XP Media Center Edition takes the great photo, music and video experiences introduced last fall with Windows XP to the next level and adds a new TV experience that only the power of the PC can deliver," he added.

The new computer from HP is expected to retail in the range of \$1,700 to \$2,000.

I haven't seen one yet, but I read a review by Walter Mossberg in the Wall Street Journal who was very impressed with it, except for the quality of the TV picture! That's it for this month...until next time, Happy Computing. Come see us at one of our next meetings and find out what you've been missing with your computer! Go to www.the_tug.homestead.com for details and maps.

THE USERS GROUP (TUG)

"Bits and pieces" I think you may find interesting and hopefully, useful. COL LOU TORRACA USAF, ret

LUANA KOA at KAPOLEI

A message from Captain Ralph Niesz, USCG (Chairman TROA taskforce working on establishing a retirement community for military retirees in Hawaii)

On Wednesday, November 6, 2002, our committee is sponsoring a free luncheon and presentation on the current status of Luana Koa at Kapolei. This invitation is specifically to members of TROA and other military retirees in Hawaii. Our committee believes that the only comprehensive long term care insurance policy is that of residing in a lifecare/continuing care retirement community. We are making real progress toward providing for an affordable campus style project of this nature on 40 acres in the urban center of Oahu's second city of Kapolei. The luncheon is to be held in the Campbell Estate Building/Laulima Room in Kapolei at 11:00 a.m. There is ample free parking on the street fronting the building.

Luana Koa will be a 100% refundable entrance fee program with a special affinity for military retirees. I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity. For reservations, call Regina Kirchner at (808) 395-6545.

Directions: Follow the H1 freeway toward Waianae. Take the Makakilo/Kapolei exit. Turn left at the stop sign and proceed to the first stoplight. Turn right on Farrington Highway/Kamokila Boulevard and proceed approximately ½ mile to the corner of Manawai Street. Turn left on Manawai Street. The Campbell Estate Building is immediately on the right. Entrance to the Laulima Room is in the front facing Manawai Street and faces the park. Allow 25 minutes from downtown Honolulu and 15 minutes from Pearl Harbor.

THE BRIDGE CORNER by ROBBIE GEE

GO BOWS!! was the apparent theme of the September TROA Bridge Group judging by the number of missing die-hard members/fans. The result was a rare two (almost) tables co-hosted by Judith Breitwieser at her home and Pennie Penterman. In addition to living up to her reputation as "Hostess with the Mostest" Judith claimed first prize, while Les Ihara settled for second. Also joining in the fun were: Shirley Ihara, Jack and Carita Miller, and Judith's supportive substitute neighbor.

Remember to call Robbie Gee at 255-4558 not later than the weekend beforehand to reserve your seat at the bridge table. Nonsmoking players of all abilities are welcome with or without a partner. The group usually meets on the last Saturday of the month at 7pm at various locations around the island on a rotation basis. Watch your Pau Hana Koa each month for the dates.

THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

WHEN: Wednesday, December 18, 2002 at 6:00 p.m.

WHERE: Waikiki Ballroom, Hale Koa Hotel

WHAT: A festive meal followed by a show written and directed by Monnette Forte with surprise Chapter talent to entertain you.

COST: \$30.00 per person. You may organize now, a table of 8, just send in the names with your check to reserve the seats.

******* Please clip and mail in your RSVP by December 9, 2002 *******

Please make checks made payable to: Hawaii Chapter, TROA and mail to:

Hawaii Chapter, TROA, Box 1185, Kailua, HI 96734-1185. Please indicate meal choice between:

Fish (Chef's choice based on market availability) Filet Mignon Vegetarian

Name Tags to read:

Meal Choice

Amount enclosed : _____ persons @ \$30.00 each _____

Donation to ROTC/Chapter Charity _____

TOTAL

Mahalo and I will see you there. Call Jack Miller 261-4100 on any questions.

FOODBANK ROUNDUP HAWAII CHAPTER MAJOR PROJECT



HOWDY PARDNERS!
FILL YOUR BUCKBOARD WITH
DONATIONS FOR THE
HAWAII FOODBANK.

BRONCOBUSTERS, COWGIRLS, AND FRIENDLY NEIGHBORS ARE WELCOME!
BRING SOME SPENDING MONEY AND TAKE SOME CHANCES!

HICKAM OFFICER'S CLUB

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2002

WESTERN or ALOHA ATTIRE.....

WIN THE PRIZE FOR THE BEST WESTERN OUTFIT.

10:30 A.M. SOCIAL, 11:45 A.M. LUNCH



ROUNDUP BUFFET



HOME ON THE RANGE BEEF
LONESOME TRAIL POTATOES
RANGE RIDER CORN
CHUCKWAGON BAKED BEANS
PONY EXPRESS RICE
ROLL, BUTTER

BAD LANDS CORN BREAD
BUNKHOUSE COLESLAW
SUNDAY WALDORF SALAD
RODEO MIXED GREENS SALAD
COMPANY FRUIT SALAD
COFFEE, TEA, LEMONADE

SHINDIG WILL HAVE ENTERTAINMENT, PRIZES, SURPRISES, ELECTION,
PRETTY WOMEN, HANDSOME MEN, AND NO HOST SALOON.

FOODBANK ROUND UP IS \$12.00 PER MEMBER AND EACH GUEST.

CLIP AND MAIL

HAWAII CHAPTER HAS THE LARGEST HEART IN THE TROA TERRITORY.
I/ WE AIM TO HELP PROVE IT AT THE FOODBANK ROUNDUP!

NAME TAG: _____

NAME TAG: _____

Please make checks payable to: "Hawaii Chapter TROA"RSVP not later than November 8, 2002.

Mail to: Hawaii Chapter TROA, P.O. Box 1185, Kailua, HI 96734

This is our Annual Meeting and Election as well as a Charity Food Drive. Please try to attend
If you are an Annual Member, please also send in your Dues for 2003. Check your Address Label.



Hawaii Chapter TROA
P.O. Box 1185
Kailua, Hawaii 96734-1185



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for
“TROA Excellent Chapter –2000 Award”**

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Chapter E-Mail Address
info@troa-hawaii.net
Social Program

Chapter Members — are your dues paid up
Check the date on address label below.

Membership Application for the Hawaii Chapter of The Retired Officers Association

Check all that apply. Application for: New member Renewal Regular member Auxiliary member Date _____

Name: _____ Male Female
Last First MI

Please fill in the next three lines with information on the applicant. If you checked auxiliary member above, please provide this information on your spouse.

1: Service ____ **Rank** _____ **Active Duty** **Rotation Date (If active duty)** _____ **Retired** ____ **Year Retired** ____

2: Former Officer **Reserve** **National Guard** **National TROA Membership No.** _____

3. If application is for auxiliary membership, is your spouse deceased? **Yes** **No**

Applicant's Birth Date ____/____/____ SSN ____/____/____

Address: _____
Number and Street City State ZIP Code

Mailing Address (If different) _____ Phone Number _____

If married, spouse's first name: _____ Last name, if different _____

Office Phone Number _____ Fax Number _____ E-Mail Address _____

Indicate interest in any of the following Chapter activities or Committees:

Personal Affairs Legislative Affairs/Veterans Affairs Public Affairs Program/Social Newsletter Membership Finance

ROTC Scholarship & Awards Fund Raising Community Service TUG(Computers) Party Bridge Golf Tennis

Photography Suggestions for other Programs/Activities: _____

Dues Schedule: Regular membership: \$15.00 per year; 5 years for \$60.00
 Life membership: Age 50 and under \$300.00; 51-60 \$250.00; 61-70 \$200.00; 71-89 \$100.00; 90 + free.
Auxiliary Membership: \$9.00 per year; 5 years for \$36.00
 Life membership: Age 50 and under \$150.00; 51-60 \$125.00; 61-70 \$100.00; 71-89 \$50.00; 90 + free

Dues enclosed \$ _____ Optional donation \$ _____ Used for ROTC Scholarship \$ _____ Other, e.g. (PHK).
Make Check Payable to Hawaii Chapter TROA P.O. Box 1185, Kailua, HI 96734 —1185

Detach and Mail with Dues Renewal or give to prospective Member _____