



The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii

Voice of Business

May 2008

The Chamber's 23rd Annual Hawaii Military Appreciation Month



Join us as we celebrate!

It's the month of May, and time for Hawaii's business community to share aloha with our military ohana for continuing to contribute immeasurably towards the well-being of Hawaii.





23rd Annual Hawaii Military Appreciation Month

**Charlie Ota, Vice President for Military Affairs
The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii**

It's the month of May, and time for Hawaii's business community to celebrate the 23rd Annual Hawaii Military Appreciation Month. It is time to share aloha with our military ohana for continuing to contribute immeasurably towards the well-being of Hawaii.

We see it daily in business relations with small retailers to large defense contractors. We welcome service members volunteering to improve our schools and the education received by our children. We benefit from their generous support of the Great Aloha Run, Aloha United Way, Big Brothers and Sisters and other local charities.

The military community is comprised of some 37,000 active duty US Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard personnel, more than 8,000 residents who are members of the Hawaii Army and Air National Guards and reserve units for each of the service branches, and 18,000 residents employed by the US Department of Defense and its non-appropriated fund activities. It also includes nearly 100,000 family members of the above mentioned groups. Finally, Hawaii is also home to more than 120,000 military retirees and veterans, many of whom receive monthly checks from the federal government.

Hawaii's defense industry remains a stable source of revenues for businesses and jobs for residents. Annual defense expenditures are approaching \$6.0 billion, making it the second major source of revenues to the state next to tourism. Factoring in direct and indirect impacts, these defense expenditures account for generating \$9.0 billion in revenues

to Hawaii's economy and creating employment for more than 100,000 residents.

A priority concern of residents and the military is the quality of education provided by our public schools. The military shares this concern and has taken action.

The Joint Venture Education Forum (JVEF), a unique partnership between the military and state Department of Education (DOE), has pumped more than \$41 million in federal monies over the past 7 years to improve school facilities, services, and programs. This is in addition to the \$48-\$50 million in federal impact aid funds received annually by DOE for every military child enrolled in our public schools.

Military units have formed volunteer partnerships with nearly 170 schools and provided manpower and materials to improve school facilities, donate books and other supplies, and provide mentoring services to students. This includes many schools, such as Kalihi Elementary School, that do not have any military children.

Defense contracting for construction, supplies/equipment, and services has consistently topped \$2.0 billion annually since 2005. These expenditures are significant for local small businesses. We expect continued growth in the coming years as the U.S. shifts its national security focus from Europe to the Asia Pacific, with Hawaii continuing to serve as the strategic headquarters for the region.

Pictured: The Joint Venture Education Forum (JVEF) brings together military, the State Department of Education (DOE) and leaders from government, the community and business to improve school facilities, donate books, provide manpower and mentoring services, and more. *Pictured below, fourth from the left:* Charlie Ota, Chamber Vice President of Military Affairs was recognized by receiving the "Outstanding Civilian Contributor" Award.



Moreover, the U.S. and Japan will be spending more than \$14 billion over the next 6 years to build the military infrastructure on Guam to accommodate the transfer of some 9,000 U.S. Marines and 14,000 family members from Okinawa. Hawaii's businesses will be called upon to enable the completion of this massive multi-billion dollar project.

The military's privatization initiative in family housing has been a major boost to Hawaii's businesses. The initial phases of the project involve some \$3.0 billion to renovate, construct, and maintain some 18,000 homes on all bases. The privatization contract covers a 50-year period over which the contractor continues to be responsible for maintaining, repairing, and replacing these family units as well as managing the properties. The total value of this effort is estimated at \$10 billion, but we expect far more will result over the 50-year period.

The military will be privatizing more of the military's base support functions such as grounds maintenance and utilities.

Defense agencies also offer excellent career opportunities for residents in professional and technical skill areas. The Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard is a prime example. It employs some 4,500 residents, which includes more than 300 electrical engineers and hundreds of jobs in high tech skills. The shipyard also hires 125 apprentices annually and recruits as many engineers as the University of Hawaii can graduate.

As portrayed above, we all have good reason to be grateful for the military being in Hawaii. Please show your appreciation by treating them as our special heroes through military appreciation month. 🇺🇸

The Chamber's Military Affairs Department

Serves as the liaison for the state in matters relating to the military in Hawaii, and strives to establish and maintain strong bonds between the military, business, and civilian communities. In doing so, it provides vital oversight for Hawaii's growing defense industry.

The work of the department is handled primarily through the Military Affairs Council (MAC) and Armed Services Committee (ASC). The MAC meets regularly with the Commander of the U.S. Pacific Command and the Commanders for the U.S. Pacific Fleet, Pacific Air Forces, U.S. Army Pacific, Marine Forces Pacific, and the 14th Coast Guard District. The ASC is a subcommittee of the MAC and meets with installations commanders and officials to provide assistance to military personnel and their families and maintain positive base-community relations.

QUESTIONS on how you can support Hawaii Military Appreciation Month or for more information on the Chamber's Military Affairs Department, Call 545-4300 or visit www.cochawaii.org 🇺🇸



Hawaii Military Appreciation Month Events



2008 Events

For more information on these events, visit www.cochawaii.org

April 24: Hawaii Military Appreciation Month Opening Ceremonies, Battleship Missouri (Invitation Only)

May 16: Combined Military Band Concert, Blaisdell Concert Hall

May 17: Living History Day, Hawaii Army Museum at Fort DeRussy

May 22: Military Recognition Luncheon, Hilton Hawaiian Village Beach Resort & Spa

June 28: USO Military Day at the Honolulu Zoo

**Join us as we honor
Hawaii's Military!**

23rd Annual
Military Recognition Luncheon
May 22, 2008
11:30-1:30pm
Hilton Hawaiian Village
Call 545-4300 ext 317
Or visit www.cochawaii.org

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Provides consultant and referral services to military members and their families in all types of support services ranging from financial assistance to child care to spousal employment.
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Provides rest, snacks, and assistance to military personnel and families traveling via military flights, and troops deploying and redeploying to and from Iraq and Afghanistan.
www.usohawaii.org