

# Hawaii State Veteran's Benefits

August 2020



The state of Hawaii provides several benefits for veteran. This section offers a brief description of each of the following:

- Housing
- Financial
- Education
- Employment
- Recreation
- Other State Veteran Benefits

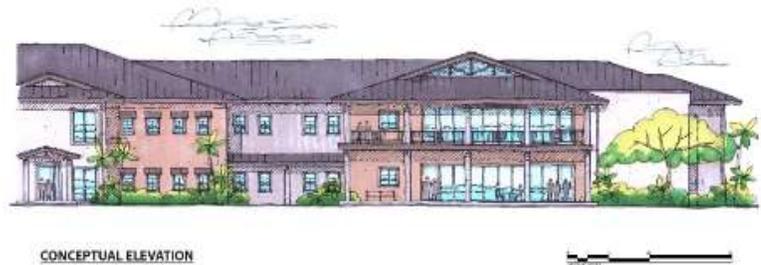
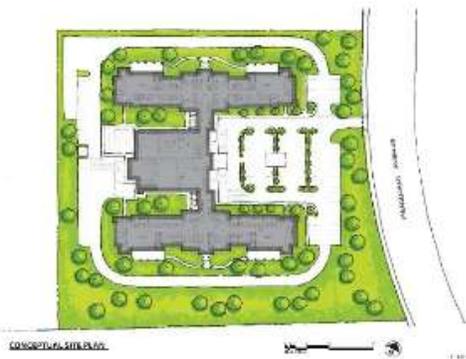
## **Veteran Housing Programs**

### **State Veterans Home**

Hawaii has one established state veteran home on the island of Hilo and is proposing a new home on the island of Oahu for which the state already has 44.7 Million in Federal funding. But the Hawaii Legislature needs to approve 26 Million in its Supplemental Budget for this project to move forward. Last year, the Legislature failed to include these funds in the State Budget. If the Legislature fails to approve the funds this year, the State will be forced to return 44.7 Million to the US Government, and the Veterans Home on Oahu will have little if any chance of being built. It is not anticipated that VA funding of the magnitude needed will be available again for another 5-10 years. Governor Ige's Supplemental Budget proposal released on 16 Dec 19 recommends adds of ~\$30M (~\$26M State Funds & ~\$4M Federal Funds) for the Veterans Administration Long-Term Care Facility project on Oahu.

### **State Veterans Home Oahu (Proposed)**

- To be located on approximately 7-acres of a 26-acre HHFDC parcel in Kapolei.
- 120 bed facility, with single occupancy rooms.
- Approximately 7 acres; 130,000 square feet.
- Parking for visitors and employees.
- Support facilities that include rehabilitation rooms, therapy rooms, kitchen, dining, laundry, and administrative offices.
- The building will be two stories high, lower than the 65-ft site height limit.
- Types of services: Skilled Nursing Care, Rehabilitation Therapies, Hospice Care, Long-Term Care, Geriatric Mental Health, Alzheimer's Care, Dementia, Adult Day Health and Respite Care.
- Veterans from the other counties be able to live in the new facility as this is a state wide facility for Hawaii's Veterans.



### **State Veterans Home Hilo**

The Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home in Hilo, Hawaii's only current State Veterans Home, provides high quality nursing and personal care, applied with courtesy and compassion. The home has been entrusted to the management of Avalon Care Center and its dedicated staff to provide care with a reverence for life emphasizes the sacred individuality of every person. The home is a VA and Medicare/Medicaid certified health care community, striving to honor veterans through dedicated and compassionate care. The Home is located at 1180 Waiianuenue Avenue, below Hilo Medical Center. The home offers large private rooms with showers and spacious semi-private suites (95 beds in total) and inviting, home-like, and colorful open air interiors. Also Family dining is available for special occasions. Services provided include:

- Skilled Nursing Care
- Rehabilitation Therapies
- Long Term Care
- Hospice Care
- Geriatric Mental Health
- Alzheimer's Care
- Dementia
- Adult Day Health
- Respite Care



The Hawaii Health Systems Corporation is designated as the responsible agency for the management and operation of the State Veterans Home. Hawaii Health Systems Corporation through coordination with the State of Hawaii Office of Veterans Services and Governor’s Advisory Council developed conditions and standards for admission for veterans to Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home – Hilo. Admission shall be in accordance with the policies and procedures as established at the time application for admission is presented; provided however, that Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home – Hilo may admit veterans who qualify for care and treatment under Title 38, U.S.C., Section 101 (19), and may adopt appropriate rules consistent with accepted medical considerations to carry out this function. To be eligible for care the veteran must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- The applicant must be recognized as an “eligible veteran” by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).
- The applicant must require skilled or long-term nursing home care as defined by the VA, Medicaid, or Medicare as certified by a physician.
- The applicant must be at least 55 years of age. Admission of persons under age 55 is considered on an individual basis by the admissions team with consideration given to the ability of the Home to meet the needs of the Veterans population.
- The applicant must be honorably discharged.
- The applicant must have resided in Hawaii prior to induction in the military or a resident of Hawaii for one full year at time of application for admission.
- The Applicant must be able to pay the resident’s portion of the cost of care (if not covered by other payer sources such as VA, Medicare, Medicaid, pensions, etc.).
- On a space available basis, the home will accept spouses and Gold Star Parent statutory limits.
- For wait listed applicants, the admissions team will utilize the following priority order for admissions:
  1. VA Priority Grouping
  2. Veterans who service included at least one day in wartime period.

Go to <http://corp.hhsc.org/easthi/svh/documents/AvalonAdmissionApplication.doc> to obtain the Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home Inquiry & Admission Application. Applicants for the State Veterans Home will be checked against the Sex Offender Registry and a background check for active felony status. No one

found to be on the Sex Offender Registry or in a fugitive felon, status shall be considered for admission. For more information go to <http://corp.hhsc.org/easthi/svh/home.shtml> or call (808) 961-1500 or

### **Special Housing for Disabled Veterans**

Payment by the State of up to \$5,000 to each qualified, totally disabled veteran for the purpose of purchasing or remodeling a home to improve handicapped accessibility.

## **Financial**

### **Income Tax**

Retired pay and SBP payments are tax-free.

### **Hawaii National Guard and Reserve drill pay are tax-free.**

Up to the amount that an E-5 with eight years of service receives for forty-eight drills (equivalent of twelve weekends) and fifteen days of annual training duty is exempt.

### **Property Tax Exemptions**

Real property owned and occupied as a home by a totally disabled veteran or their surviving spouse is exempt from all property taxes. For more information go to the below links:

- City and County of Honolulu:  
[City and County of Honolulu Real Property Info](#)
- Hawaii County:  
[Hawaii County Real Property Tax Office](#)
- Maui County:  
[Maui County Real Property Assessment Division](#)
- Kauai:  
[Kauai Real Property Assessment](#)

### **Vehicles**

- *Vehicle Registration Fee Waiver* -- Permanently disabled veterans can get a \$45.00 discount on the state registration fee. To be eligible, you must be have a service connected 100% VA disability rating, be a Hawaii resident and have an other than dishonorable discharge.
- *Weight Tax Exemption for Non-Resident Military Service Members* -- Active duty members stationed in Hawaii who are residents of another state are exempt from payment of Hawaii's motor vehicle weight taxes for one vehicle registered in their name.

## **Education**

The Hawaii Army National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program (STAP) offers tuition waivers for eligible members who have completed Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training. The

waiver covers 100% of your tuition if you are a community college student, and 50% of your tuition if you are a four-year university student. In order to be eligible for STAP, you must:

- Be pursuing an undergraduate degree
- Be enrolled in courses pertaining to that undergraduate degree
- Be a satisfactory performer in your assigned Hawaii National Guard unit

STAP can also be used in conjunction with your G.I. Bill and Federal Tuition Assistan

## **Employment**

### **Hawaii State Employment Veterans Preference**

Non-disabled veterans receive 5 preference points, disabled veterans receive 10 points. Preference points are added to examination scores completed by applicants for open competitive state employment positions.

### **Employment and Re-Employment**

Preference is given to veterans, Vietnam-era veterans, service-connected, disabled veterans and their widow(er)s for civil service positions, training programs, job counseling and referrals to civilian jobs by the Workforce Development Division, Department of Labor & Industrial Relations. Re-employment rights for veterans, Reservists or National Guard members who leave a position within State or County government for training or active military service.

## **Veteran Recreation Benefits**

### **Hunting Licenses**

Active duty military personnel and their dependents stationed in Hawaii are considered to be residents for the purposes of obtaining a hunting license.

## **Other State Veteran Benefits**

### **State Veterans' Cemeteries**

Burials can be obtained for qualified veterans (including U.S. war allies) and their dependents in Veterans Cemeteries on Oahu, Hawaii, Kauai, Maui, Molokai, or Lanai. There may be a small fee charged for burial. Cemetery locations and contact info are as follows:

- **HAWAII STATE VETERANS CEMETERY**, 45-349 Kamehameha Highway, Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744 (Island of Oahu). Operations Manager: Willie Hirokane, Phone: 808-369-357 FAX: 808-233-3633
  - [GENERAL INFORMATION: RULES AND REGULATIONS 7.20.15](#)
  - [Arranging For Burial at the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery](#)
  - [Installation of Flower Vases 3.25.14](#)



Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery Kaneohe

- **EAST HAWAII VETERANS CEMETERY- NO. I** (Closed) - County of Hawaii (Island of Hawaii) Mailing address: 101 Pauahi St., Suite 6, Hilo, Hawaii Location: 150 Kapiolani St., Hilo, HI 96720 Director Charmaine L. Kamaka, Dept. of Parks & Recreation. No permanent staff at site.



- **EAST HAWAII VETERANS CEMETERY-NO. II** - County of Hawaii (Island of Hawaii). Mailing address: (See East Hawaii Vet Cem I) Location: 110 Laimana Ave, Hilo, HI. Director: Charmaine L. Kamaka, Dept. of Parks & Recreation. No permanent staff at site.



- **WEST HAWAII VETERANS CEMETERY-NO. II** - County of Hawaii (Island of Hawaii). For mailing address: (See East Hawaii). Location: 72-3245 Queen Kaahumanu Hwy. Kailua-Kona, HI 96740 Director: Charmaine L. Kamaka, Dept. of Parks & Recreation. No permanent staff at site.



- KAUAI VETERANS CEMETERY** - County of Kauai (Island of Kauai). Mailing address: 4444 Rice Street, Room 150, Lihue, Hawaii 96766-1340. For more information call Tony Elliott (808) 241-3348 Location: 4331 Lele Road Hanapepe, HI 96716. Director: Leonard A Rapozo, Dept. for Parks & Rec. No permanent staff at site.



- MAUI VETERANS CEMETERY** - County of Maui (Island of Maui). Mailing address: P.O. Box 117 Makawao, Hawaii 96768. Location: 1295 Makawao Ave., Makawao, HI 96786 Patrick Medeiros Dept. of Public Works. No permanent staff at site.



- MOLOKAI VETERANS CEMETERY** - County of Maui (Island of Molokai) .Mailing address: P.O. Box 526, Kauna Kakai, Hawaii 96748 Location: 2725 Lihi Pali Avenue Hoolehua, HI 96748. David Goode Dept. of Public Works. No permanent staff at site.



- **LANAI VETERANS CEMETERY** - Maui County (Island of Lanai). Mailing address: P.O. Box 630359, Lanai City, Hawaii 96763 Location: Lanido Road Lanai City, HI 96763 David Goode Dept. of Public Works. No permanent staff at site.

**Burial Markers**

Only the government standard flat granite markers for ground burial and bronze niche markers for columbarium interment are allowed in the Hawaii State Veteran Cemetery. Examples of both are shown below:



Flat granite marker for ground burial. The flat granite grave marker is 24 inches long, 12 inches wide, and 4 inches thick. Weight is approximately 130 pounds.



Marker used for columbarium interment. This niche marker is 8-1/2 inches long, 5-1/2 inches wide, with 7/16 inch rise. Weight is approximately 3 pounds; mounting bolts and washers are furnished with the marker.

**Vital Statistics**

Free certified copies of vital statistics forms when needed for veterans' claims.

**License Plates**

For the same cost as a regular license plate Veterans can choose, if qualified, a Veteran, Combat or Combat Wounded, Pearl Harbor Survivor, Former POW, World War II Veteran, Korea Veteran, Vietnam Veteran, Persian Gulf Veteran, or Gold Star Family license plate. These plates are also available for motorcycles. The below shows some of the license plate examples that are available.



Military plate availability, fees, and application processes may vary from county to county. Check with your local Hawaii motor vehicle licensing office (<http://www.dmv.org/hi-hawaii/dmv-office-finder.php>) for details. For more information go to the below links:

- City and County of Honolulu:  
[City and County of Honolulu License Plates Info](#)  
[Veteran License Plate Form for Honolulu](#)
- Hawaii County:  
[Hawaii County Vehicle Registration General Info](#)  
[Veteran License Plate Form for Hawaii County](#)
- Maui County:  
[Maui County Motor Vehicle Licensing](#)
- Kauai:  
[Kauai Vehicle Licensing Information](#)

### Vet Centers

- **OAHU (Tripler Army Medical Center)**  
 Office of Veterans' Services  
 Mailing Address: 459 Patterson Road, E-Wing, Room 1-A103, Honolulu, HI 96819-1522  
 PH: (808) 433-0420 FAX: (808) 433-0385 TTD/Relay Service: 1-711  
[OVS@hawaii.gov](mailto:OVS@hawaii.gov)  
<http://dod.hawaii.gov/ovs>  
 Monday – Friday 7:45am – 4:00pm. Closed for lunch from 12:00pm – 1:00pm.  
 Ronald P. Han Jr., Director  
 John Condello, Veterans' Services Coordinator  
 Glen Marumoto, Veterans' Services Counselor  
 Carolina Medina-Dupaix, Veterans' Services Counselor  
 Nancy Schubert Yurow, Veterans' Services Counselor

- **OAHU (Diamond Head)**  
 Office of Veterans' Services (On the corner of 22nd Ave. and Diamond Head Road)  
 Mailing Address: 459 Patterson Road, E-Wing, Room 1-A103, Honolulu, HI 96819-1522  
 PH: (808) 433-0420  
[OVS@hawaii.gov](mailto:OVS@hawaii.gov)  
 Monday – Friday 7:45am – 4:30pm. Closed for lunch from 12:00pm – 1:00pm.  
 Rock Orozco, Veterans' Services Counselor  
 Terri Pule, Veterans' Services Counselor  
 \*Walk-Ins are not available at this location.
- **OAHU (Kapolei Veterans Center)**  
 Office of Veterans' Services (885 Kamokila Blvd., Suite 105, Kapolei, HI 96707 )  
 Mailing Address: 459 Patterson Road, E-Wing, Room 1-A103, Honolulu, HI 96819-1522  
 PH: (808) 433-0420 FAX: (808) 674-2534  
[OVS@hawaii.gov](mailto:OVS@hawaii.gov)  
 Monday – Friday 7:45am – 4:30pm. Closed for lunch from 12:00pm – 1:00pm.  
 Valinda Hayes-Martinez, Veterans' Services Counselor  
 \* The Veterans' Services Counselor is co-located at the Kapolei Vet Center, however, her office hours are not reflective of Kapolei Vet Center's hours. Kapolei Vet Center is a separate organization with its own hours of operation.
- **KAUAI**  
 Office of Veterans' Services  
 3215 Kauai Veterans Memorial Hwy., Suite #2, Lihue, HI 96766  
 PH: (808) 369-3535 FAX: (808) 241-3818  
[KOV@hawaii.gov](mailto:KOV@hawaii.gov)  
 Monday – Friday 7:45am – 4:30pm. Closed for lunch from 12:00pm – 1:00pm.  
 Kelle Raitz, Veterans' Services Counselor
- **HAWAII (Hilo)**  
 Office of Veterans' Services  
 1304 Kekuanaoa St. #L-102, Hilo, HI 96720-4568  
 PH: (808) 369-3538  
 FAX: (808) 933-0317  
[HOVS@hawaii.gov](mailto:HOVS@hawaii.gov)  
 Monday – Friday 7:45am – 4:30pm. Closed for lunch from 12:00pm – 1:00pm.  
 Roddy Sueoka, Veterans' Services Counselor  
 Kelcie Kohara, Veterans' Services Counselor
- **HAWAII (Kailua-Kona)**  
 Office of Veterans' Services  
 Mailing Address: 1304 Kekuanaoa St. #L-102 Hilo, HI 96720-4568  
 PH: (808) 844-6664

[HOVS@hawaii.gov](mailto:HOVS@hawaii.gov)

Monday – Friday 7:45am – 4:30pm. \* Closed for lunch from 12:00pm – 1:00pm.

Diane Ramsay, Veterans' Services Counselor

- **MAUI, MOLOKAI AND LANAI**

Office of Veterans' Services

333 Dairy Rd., Suite 203, Kahului, HI 96732

PH: (808) 369-3541 FAX: (808) 873-3147

[MOVS@hawaii.gov](mailto:MOVS@hawaii.gov)

Monday – Friday 7:45am – 4:30pm. Closed for lunch from 12:00pm – 1:00pm.

Cherie Gnehm-Wright, Veterans' Services Counselor

Darren Eugenio, Veterans' Services Counselor

Visit the Hawaii Office of Veterans Services website <http://hawaii.gov/dod/ovs> for additional information and benefits assistance.

[Source: <http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/hawaii-state-veterans-benefits.html> |

August 2020 ++]