



# THE WEEKLY MO'OLELO

Wednesday, September 3, 2025



Keep up with the latest news from across Navy Region Hawaii.  
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## Upcoming Events

**Extended Drinking Water Monitoring Booths:** Sept. 9, JBPHH Newcomers Fair, Hickam Chapel, 180 Kuntz Ave., from 1 – 1:30 p.m.\*; Sept. 18, Navy Exchange Mall, 4725 Bougainville Drive, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

\*Base Access Required



## USS Arizona Preservation Work Begins This Week

To preserve the USS Arizona Memorial, Navy Region Hawaii, through Task Force Arizona (TF Arizona) and in partnership with the Pearl Harbor National Memorial and Naval History and Heritage Command, began operations this week to remove two mooring platforms attached to the battleship's hull. TF Arizona has held regular engagements with local, state, and federal stakeholders and subject matter experts focused on obtaining proper environmental permits and complying with all applicable laws and regulations.



## WWII Vets Honored at 80th End of War Commemoration

Eight decades after they stood witness to history, eight living crewmembers of the USS Missouri (BB-63) reunited aboard the Mighty Mo on Tuesday for the 80th Commemoration of the End of World War II. The men, now in their late 90s and early 100s, served on the battleship during the signing of the Japanese Instrument of Surrender in Tokyo Bay on Sept. 2, 1945, formalizing Japan's unconditional surrender to the Allied Powers and effectively ending World War II.



## Fast Growing NROTC Program Maintains Enrollment Momentum

The nation's newest Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) program is racking up milestones: it graduated the first three Marines this past May, it increased the number of enrolled cadets by more than 400%, and the program's first graduate, Ensign Mahinalani Vongsy, who was commissioned in 2023, is training to become a surface warfare officer. The University of Hawaii NROTC program was established in 2021 and Vongsy was among 22 cadets in the inaugural cohort.





## Volunteers Remove 90 Bags of Trash from Kaumuali'i Highway on Kauai

Volunteers from Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) on Kauai teamed up with their neighbors at Corteva to remove trash from a three-mile stretch of Kaumuali'i Highway last week. Fifty volunteers collected about 90 bags of trash from the side of the highway and an additional 100+ pounds of larger debris including an A/C unit, car parts, metal pipes and construction materials. The clean-up was part of the Hawaii Department of Transportation's Adopt-a-Highway program.



## MCBH Volunteers, Community Gather for Workday at Nu'upia Fishponds

Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH) personnel and Ola Nu'upia Hui members recently took part in a community and environmental stewardship workday at the Nu'upia Ponds Wildlife Management Area. Volunteers helped restabilize the ecological and cultural integrity of the fishpond as part of ongoing efforts to preserve traditional Hawaiian aquaculture systems and enhance environmental resilience. The Nu'upia Ponds are part of the Mōkapu Peninsula Fishpond Complex at MCBH.



## This Week in History: September 7, 1836

In September 1825, *USS Peacock* sailed to the Hawaiian Islands as part of the U.S. Exploration Expedition. Between July 24, 1826 and January 6, 1827, the expedition explored the Pacific Ocean, sending numerous reports back to the Secretary of the Navy regarding the whaling industry, the fur trade of the northern Pacific, and American trade in the southern Pacific. Photo: *USS Peacock* in the Antarctic, January 1840, during U.S. exploring expedition.



Laulima Navy underscores our responsibility to the community and the ways we work alongside partners to help and support our neighbors. Service to others and a commitment to the greater good are values we hold in high regard. It is a privilege for all of us to call Hawaii home and we seek every opportunity we can to show how much we treasure this place. Scan the QR code to learn more about Laulima Navy.



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