



THE WEEKLY MO'OLELO

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It's a Wrap!

In October, Navy Region Hawaii wrapped up Laulima Navy, a year-long campaign to celebrate the Navy's 250th birthday by highlighting 250 acts of volunteerism performed by Navy personnel on Oahu and Kauai. The initiative reinforced the Navy's longstanding and unwavering commitment to Hawaii. Over the course of the year, Sailors, civilians and family members worked alongside community members to perform 292 good deeds. Laulima Navy, which means "many hands working together," more than lived up to its name. In this issue, we recap a few volunteer stories.



Navy Volunteers Participate in Biannual Pearl Harbor Bike Path Cleanup

Navy volunteers joined community members in April to pick up and bag trash along the Pearl Harbor Historic Trail & Bike Path as part of the City and County of Honolulu's biannual cleanup and beautification initiative. The cleanup is one of the largest on Oahu with anywhere from five to 12 tons of trash collected each time. The bike path stretches 18.6 miles from Halawa Landing to Nanakuli, linking Leeward neighborhoods, historic sites, recreational areas, regional attractions, and nature.



All Paws on Deck

For Karina Wise-Estrada, guiding distinguished visitors throughout Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility is only part of her life. Away from the shipyard, the community relations specialist teams up with Sir Newton, her three-and-a-half-year-old Labradoodle as part of the Hawaiian Humane Society Pet Visitation Program, which aims to provide comfort to people. The duo regularly visits Kaiser Permanente Medical Center and the Veterans Affairs Pacific Islands Health Care System to spend time with patients family members, and staff.



PMRF Partners with Community for Fish Pond Work Day

Members of Pacific Missile Range Facility on Kauai joined Mālama Hulē'ia at the 600-year-old Alakoko Fishpond near Līhue in February for a community work day. The fishpond has been described as "one of the finest examples in the entire archipelago of prehistoric stonework and fishpond construction." Mālama Hulē'ia leads community efforts to remove invasive mangrove along Hulē'ia River, re-establish native wetland ecosystems, manage Alakoko Fishpond, and engage the community through environmental stewardship programs that honor Hawaiian culture and values.



Navy Volunteers Support Keehi Lagoon Beach Park Safety Effort

Navy volunteers in March joined Scouts from Troop 75 to repaint “No Parking” curbs and cover up graffiti at Keehi Lagoon Beach Park. The effort was part of an Eagle Service Project organized by Casey Kobayashi, a Moanalua High School sophomore, who is working to become an Eagle Scout, the highest rank achievable in Scouting America. Kobayashi’s project improved the park’s appearance and enhanced safety by alerting drivers to avoid parking in certain areas.



JBPHH Volunteers Help Salt Lake Community Make Genki Balls

More than 40 Sailors, Airmen, civilians and family members joined Salt Lake community members last November to clean up Likini Park and make 1,000 genki balls, microbial mudballs that introduce living organisms to waterways. Genki balls are an environmentally friendly means of removing pollutants from soil and water without negatively impacting or altering the natural ecosystem. “Genki” comes from the Japanese word for healthy, vital, or energetic.



NAVFAC Hawaii, Shipyard Employees Mentor Students Competing in Robotics

Volunteers from Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii and Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Facility served as mentors and coaches for high school teams competing in the Hawaii Regional FIRST Robotics competition at Saint Louis High School. Volunteers helped students build industrial-sized robots for the competition and shared their expertise, emphasizing the importance of problem-solving, creativity, and collaboration in addressing real-world environmental challenges - principles that were central to the competition’s theme.



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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