

THE WEEKLY MO'OLELO

Wednesday, March 18, 2026



Keep up with the latest news from across Navy Region Hawaii. Click on any story to read the full version online. Some networks do not allow access to embedded links. For those readers, right click the PDF and open in your internet browser.

Hawaii Navy Week Highlights

Service, history and community connection were on full display last week during Hawaii's inaugural Navy Week, which was led by Rear Adm. Ryan Mahelona, a Kaneohe native and Deputy Commander of the U.S. Tenth Fleet.

More than 70 Sailors – many of them from Hawaii – connected with residents in Hilo and Honolulu through performances, educational events and community service projects. Hawaii Navy Week is the second of 12 Navy Weeks taking place this year as part of the Navy Office of Community Outreach's "Road Trip to 250," a nationwide effort supporting America's 250th birthday, Freedom 250.



(Top Left) Sailors from the Virginia-class fast-attack submarine USS Hawaii (SSN 776) clear mud buildup at Lili'uokalani Gardens in Hilo.



(Middle Left) Information Systems Technician Seaman Nyree Harmoh from Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station, Pacific, discusses reading chapter-based books at the Waikiki-Kapahulu Public Library with 4th graders from Waikiki Elementary School.



(Bottom Left) Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Holly Cox helps a patron with groceries at The Pantry by Feeding Hawaii Together, a grocery store-style food bank on Oahu.

(Below) Brig. Gen. Phillip Mallory, Hawaii Deputy Adjutant General, presents Rear Adm. Ryan Mahelona with a Navy Week in Hawaii proclamation during a ceremony at the USS Bowfin Submarine Museum & Park. Adm. Mahelona also delivered the oath of enlistment to 12 future Sailors, including two future officers.

(Bottom) Chief Musician Matthew Kinnaman, a member of the U.S. Pacific Fleet Band, fist bumps an audience member after a performance at Ala Moana Center.





USS Hawaii Holds Change of Command Ceremony

Cmdr. David Taweel relieved Cmdr. Daniel Jones as commanding officer of the Virginia-class fast-attack submarine USS Hawaii (SSN 776) during a change of command ceremony last week at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Hawaii is assigned to Submarine Squadron 1 and is capable of supporting various missions including anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface ship warfare, strike warfare, and special operations forces support. Held during Hawaii's first-ever Navy Week, the ceremony highlighted the deep connection between the Navy and local communities.



Honoring Military Working Dogs on K9 Veterans Day

Every year on March 13, the Defense Department observes K9 Veterans Day to honor the service and sacrifice of military working dogs. The observance started in 1942 when the U.S. Army's War Dog "K9 Corps" was launched to contribute to the World War II war effort. At the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Kennel, working dogs are trained in a wide range of specialized tasks including explosives and drug detection, tracking and apprehension, and patrol and protection.



This Week in History March 20, 1838

On March 20, 1838, Commander Charles Wilkes was assigned to head the U.S. Exploration Expedition, the most ambitious naval expedition ever conducted by the United States. The mission of the "U.S. Ex Ex" was to gain scientific knowledge, primarily of Antarctica, but also to produce charts of the larger Pacific Ocean region. Wilkes and his team arrived in Oahu in September of 1840 and conducted the first American survey of Pearl Harbor.



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.



FOR ACCESS TO NEWS, VIDEOS, AND PHOTOS FROM NAVY REGION HAWAII AND OTHER SERVICES, VISIT DEFENSE VISUAL INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION SERVICE (DVIDS), THE CNRH WEBSITE, OR FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA.



/NavyRegionHawaii/
/JBPHH
/PacificMissileRangeFacility



Commander-navy-region-hawaii



/C-NRH /JBPHH
/PMRF /NCTF-RH



/jointbasephh



/JointBasePHH
/NavRegHawaii



cnrh.cnic.navy.mil/
navyclosuretaskforce.navy.mil/