

The Office of Veterans Services (OVS)

Many veterans confuse the Department of Veterans Affairs (the Federal agency) with the Office of Veterans Services (a State agency that is part of the State Department of Defense.) The following is a brief summary of the Office of Veterans Services.

The Mission. The Office of Veterans Services (OVS) is the principal state office responsible for the development and management of policies and programs related to veterans, their dependents, and/or survivors. The OVS acts as a liaison between the Governor and veterans' organizations and also between the Department of Veterans Affairs and individual veterans. Our objectives are to assist veterans in obtaining State and federal entitlements, to supply the latest information on veterans' issues and to provide advice and support to veterans making the transition back into civilian life.

OVS is the State's primary advocate for veterans applying for and receiving benefits and services. The OVS may take action on behalf of veterans, their families and survivors to secure appropriate rights, benefits and services.

The OVS serves all eligible veterans, Reservists, National Guard members, active-duty military personnel and their dependents (including stepchildren). (*See List of Services at end*).

State Provided Benefits. The following is a short summary of benefits provided by the State of Hawaii.

<i>Special Housing for Disabled Veterans</i>	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 after exhausting authorized Veterans Affairs resourcing
<i>Burials</i>	Burials for qualified veterans (including U.S. war allies) and their dependents in Veterans Cemeteries on Oahu, Hawaii, Kauai, Maui, Molokai, or Lanai
<i>Vital Statistics</i>	Free certified copies of vital statistics forms when needed for veterans' claims
<i>License Plates</i>	For the same cost as regular license plates, qualified veterans can acquire distinctive veterans' license plates for their car or motorcycle Currently available are: "Veteran," "Combat," "Combat Wounded," "Pearl Harbor Survivor," "Former POW," "World War II Veteran" "Korean War Veteran," and "Vietnam Veteran."
<i>Tax Exemptions</i>	Applies to real property that is owned and occupied as a home by a totally disabled veteran or their widow(er). Also applies to passenger cars when they are owned by totally disabled veterans and subsidized by the Department of Veterans Affairs

<i>Employment and Re-employment</i>	<p>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</p> <p>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</p>
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We encourage you contact your nearest Office of Veterans Services to have your questions answered. Walk-ins will be taken for emergent issues (i.e. Veteran death, emergent hospitalization) but appointments with our counselor corps are highly recommended. Home, worksite and hospital visits are available if necessary, as are Group presentations.

List of services for veterans, active military, spouses and dependents:

- Assist in preparation of VA claims
- Help individuals file VA Appeals
- Represent veterans at VA hearings
- Assist with burial
- Provide notary when tied to claims submissions
- Assist indigents
- Maintain DD214s
- Refer individuals not qualified for VA benefits to other agencies
- Assist with Legal name change paperwork
- Review active service record;
- Assist active medical boards
- Hawaii Veterans Newsletter
- Hawaii Veterans Website
- Governor's Liaison to veterans
- Legislative Advocate for veterans – State and Federal
- Yukio Okutsu Hilo Veterans Home – support the core mission for this facility
- Support the 2nd State Veterans Home slated for Kapolei, Oahu
- State Veterans cemeteries statewide – grants & expansion
- Grant-in-Aid for all veteran related items – veterans' cemeteries, Memorials, Veterans Centers statewide, etc.
- Tri-annual report for State Monuments

- Coordinate with Veterans organizations to clean the Korean & Vietnam Memorials on Capitol grounds
- Coordinate Memorial & Veterans Day ceremonies annually at Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery
- Assist with Memorial & Veterans Day ceremonies at National Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl)
- Staff and participate with the Advisory Board on Veterans Services
- Hawaii Veterans Memorial Fund
- Maintain presence on neighbor islands
- Validate Military Service for Employee Retirement System

Office of Veterans Service Offices.

Oahu:

Location: Office of Veterans Services
Tripler Army Medical Center E-Wing

Mailing Address: 459 Patterson Road
E-Wing, Room 1-A103
Honolulu HI 96819-1522

Telephone: (808) 433-0420 Fax: (808) 433-0385

Email: OVS@ovs.hawaii.gov

Hours: Monday - Friday: 7:45 am - 3:45 pm (VA doors close)
Closed for Lunch: 12:00 pm- 1:00 pm

Diamond Head:

Location: On the corner of 22nd Ave. and Diamond Head Road
(Ruger Gym Offices)

Mailing Address: 459 Patterson Road
E-Wing, Room 1-A103
Honolulu HI 96819-1522

Telephone: (808) 433-0420 Fax: (808) 433-0385

Email: OVS@ovs.hawaii.gov

Hours: Monday - Friday: 7:45 am - 4:30 pm
Closed for Lunch: 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
Walk-ins are not available at this location

Maui, Molokai and Lanai:

Location: Office of Veterans Services

Mailing Address: 333 Dairy Road, Suite 203
Kahului HI 96732

Telephone: (808) 369-3541 Fax: (808) 873-3147

Email: MOVS@ovs.hawaii.gov
Hours: Monday - Friday 7:45 am - 4:30 pm
Closed for Lunch: 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Kauai:

Location: Office of Veterans Services
Mailing Address: 3215 Kauai Veterans Mem Hwy., #2
Lihue HI 96766
Telephone: (808) 369-3535. Fax: (808) 241-3818
Email: KOVS@ovs.hawaii.gov
Hours: Monday - Friday 7:45 am - 4:30 pm
Closed for Lunch: 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Hawai'i (Hilo):

Location: Office of Veterans Services
1304 Kekuanaoa Street, Suite L102
Hilo, HI 96720
Mailing Address: Post Office Box 5384
Hilo, HI 96720
Telephone: (808) 369-3538
Fax: (808) 933-0317
Email: HOVS@ovs.hawaii.gov
Hours: Monday - Friday: 7:45 am - 4:30 pm
Closed for Lunch: 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Hawai'i (Kailua-Kona):

Location: Office of Veterans Services
c/o Hawai'i Army National Guard
81-1032 Nani Kupuna Place
Kealahakua, HI 96750
Mailing Address: Office of Veterans Services
c/o Hawai'i Army National Guard
81-1032 Nani Kupuna Place
Kealahakua, HI 96750
Telephone: (808) 844-6664
Email: HOVS@ovs.hawaii.gov
Hours: Monday - Friday: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm
Closed for Lunch: 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm