

Department of Hawaii  
C of A Meeting 0910  
September 13, 2025 Oahu Veterans Center



## Meeting Minutes

0900: Commander opened meeting in form.

There were no guests

Past Department Commanders and Past and Present National CM, and Past National officers were recognized.

### Roll of Officers

MEMBER POSITION	MEMBER NAMES	VOTING STATUS	PRESENT	NOTES
Commander	Jason Seal	OK	PRESENT	-
Senior Vice Commander	Lynn Mariano	OK	PRESENT	
Junior Vice Commander	Rodney Boucher	OK	PRESENT	
Quartermaster	Norbert K Enos	OK	PRESENT	
Adjutant	George Barlett	OK	PRESENT	
Judge Advocate	Patsy Takemura	OK	PRESENT	
Surgeon	Lynn Gernert	OK	PRESENT	
Chaplain	Stanley Y Fernandez	OK	PRESENT	
Chief of Staff	Randy Grant	OK	PRESENT	<a href="#">ZOOM</a>
Inspector	Randy Grant		PRESENT	<u>Also COS</u>
Immediate Past Department CMDR	Ben Fuata		PRESENT	ZOOM
Past Department Commander 1	Schaedel, Bragg.		Schaedel	(2) required
	Lewis, Ho'omanawanui		Bragg.	
Past Department Commander 2	Martin, Grant, Chang			
	Fernandez, Antonio, Barlett, Arakaki			

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	Chapman, Haake, Enos			
Post 94 Commander	Leslie Gloston	OK	PRESENT	
General Frederick Fundson Post	Vincent Hall			
	Richard Marsh			
Post 110 Commander	Adriel Lam	OK	PRESENT	ZOOM
Military Intelligence Service	Jason C. Seal			
Veterans of Hawaii Post	Jake Kiyohiro			
Post 352 Commander	Deana Garay	OK	ABSENT	
Mililani Post	Jason Jones			QM
	Wendall Hall			
Post 849 Commander	Heinrich (Steve)Moses	OK	PRESENT	
Leeward (Waianae) Post	Liam Fowler			
	Gregorio Guerrero			
Post 970 Commander	Phil A. Branch	OK	PRESENT	
Col. Horace Hickam Post	Calvin Yonamine			
	Admnadth Hamilton			
Post 1540 Commander	Sherman Willis	OK	PRESENT	
Honolulu (Kaimuki) Post	Arron X. Pulliam			
	John Ichikawa			
Post 1572 Commander	Marcial Tumacder	OK	PRESENT	ZOOM
1st Filipino Infantry Regt Post	Christopher Canales			QM
	David Vaughn			
Post 2875 Commander	Shon Antolin	OK	PRESENT	
Pfc Herbert K Pillaau/Sgt Leroy A.	Lynn Gernert			
Mendonca (Pearl Harbor)	Robert Correa			
Post 3292 Commander	Charles Tibbetts	OK	PRESENT	
Francis Wai (Aiea) Post	Jason Nguyen			
	Pahlo Easley-Correa			
Post 3391 Commander	Malologa Lagai	OK	PRESENT	ZOOM
American Samoa Post	Faamasino Galoia			QM
	Christabel Joyner			
Post 3830 Commander	Alan Hiraoka	OK	ABSENT	

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Lance Corporal Hayward Kimo Hamili	Chelsea Mack			
Peleiholani (Pahoa) Post	Lance Dolera			
Post 3850 Commander	Raul Paiz	OK	ABSENT	
Wilbert Wah Hu Tom (Maui) Post	Michael Molina			
	Sandra Barnes-Steen			
Post 3855 Commander	Kimberly J. Blaum	OK	ABSENT	
Cordoba-De Fries Kauai Post	Janet Downey			
	Lee Contrades			
Post 3870 Commander	Tiana Levi	OK	ABSENT	In Arrears
Kenneth A. Misaki (Molokai) Post	Henry Luuloo			
	Lonnie Kaai			
Post 3875 Commander	Rankin Gossert	OK	ABSENT	
Orr/Onizuka Post	Debra Lewis			
	Donna Shimuzu			
Post 8616 Commander	Lynn B. Mariano	OK	PRESENT	Also Sr. Vice
Diamond Head (Waikiki) Post	John Camuso			
	John H. Chilcott			
Post 10154 Commander	Alfredo Garcia	OK	ABSENT	
Windward Post	Michael Steinhilber			QM
	Susan Lim			
Post 10276 Commander	Peter Mottas	OK	PRESENT	ZOOM
Fort Shafter Post	Kerry Yen			
	Harold Kwon			
Post 12122 Commander	Gerard Kalani	OK	ABSENT	
Lance Corporal Christopher Camera	Lawerence Kniffin			
(Kailua Kona) Post	Christopher W. Cusick			
Post 12138 Commander	Gregory S. Agonoy	OK	PRESENT	
Ewa Beach Post	David Morris			
	Lee Collins			

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Quorum Totals	No member may vote twice	33	33	
	Members Holding 2 positions	2	2	
	Positions Vacated	0		
	Posts in Arrears	1	1	
	Total	32	30	
	Quorum/ two thirds	17 / 22	16/20	
Missing Items that will cause a Post to be Arrears				
Missing Election Report, Officers Not bonded, Missing Trustee Reports				

**Adjutant: We have a quorum.**

**The minutes of the Council of Administration (COA) held on February 8, 2025 and June 14, 2025 meetings have been distributed and are on the Department Website. The minutes were accepted as distribute**

**Quartermaster's Report**

- 1. Quartermaster delivers Report**
- 2. A motion to accept the Quartermaster's report was seconded and passed.**

**Correspondence: None.**

**Comrade/Family member of a Comrade in Distress.  
Post 10276 Robert Fernandez passed.**

**Service Officer's Report**

**DSO R. Loo: Delivers report.**

**DSO presented a service officer report highlighting the economic benefits provided to veterans, with over \$75 million in benefits awarded for the fiscal year. The report also noted that the VFW's work extends beyond financial assistance to include healthcare benefits for veterans.**

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The VFW office will be closed from September 22-29 for training in Annapolis, and new VSO appointments are currently scheduled 4 weeks in advance for early October. Rodney Belcher has been hired as a new VSO and will attend basic skills training in September, while a potential fourth VSO candidate, a female Navy veteran, is being considered. The VA is experiencing faster prescription claim processing times, with the backlog reduced from 250,000 to one month's worth of claims. The Finance Committee is conducting due diligence on financial statements and seeking volunteers to assist with checks and balances, while also beginning to plan next year's budget.

### Officers & Committee Reports:

Finance Committee, Sr Vice Cmdr Lynn Mariano

Sr Vice Mariano: Delivers Report. (Sub-committees Audit, Budget, Investment, Ways and Means)

#### Department Audit Schedule:

Conduct due diligence on financial books and statements

Review investment company performance and consider alternatives

Begin planning for next year's budget

Department Inspector: COS Randy Grant

Adjutant: Delivers Report

Department Inspector: Randy Grant State Inspector Post 3292. The goal of the Inspection team is to conduct initial Post Inspections for all Posts by December 31, 2025. Post inspections take place just before or after the Post meeting and include attendance at the meeting. Post inspections are mandated by the National Bylaws and are on-site interviews where the Inspection team member reviews Post operations to ensure the Post is operating pursuant to the provisions of the VFW Bylaws and the Post is operating for the purposes defined in our congressional charter. Posts should be ready for an inspection at all time. The inspection will cover the last 12 months of operation. Before the inspection, the Inspector will review documents including the Post Trustee Quarterly Audits, bank statements, tax records, and election reports. During the inspection, the inspector collects data, assesses operations, and offers best

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practices. After the inspection, the findings and recommendations are sent to the Post and Department leadership in order to create a standard for the Post and ensure a strong foundation for the future.

#### POST INSPECTION SCHEDULE

Post	Meeting Day, Time, and Place	Inspection Date	Inspector
94	1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday 0900 OVC	September 6	Barlett
110	Last Thursday 1200 OVC	July 31	Barlett
352	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday 1800 First Baptist Church Wahiawa	September 11	Grant
849	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday 1800 Pililaau Recreation Center	September 10	Grant
970	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday 1900 OVC	October 9	Barlett
1540	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday 1830 Sacred Hearts Academy	September 3	Barlett
1572	1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday 1000 Hawaii Plantation Village	October 4	Barlett
2875	Last Saturday 0930 OVC	Completed	Barlett
3292	1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday 0900 OVC	August 2	Barlett
3391	3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday 1000 American Samoa Veteran Center	April	Barlett
3830	2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday 1100 VFW Post 3830 Clubhouse	September 13	Grant
3850	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday 1300 Post 3850 Clubhouse	September 28	Grant
3855	4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday 1730 Kauai Veterans Center	October 22	Barlett
3870	2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday 1000 Molokai Veterans Center	TBD	TBD
3875	3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday 0900 Kamana Senior Center	October 18	Grant
8616	1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday 0945 Waikiki Elks Lodge	November 1	Barlett
10154	2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday 1000 MCBH Klipper Club	Completed	Grant
10276	3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday 1000 OVC	September 20	Grant

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12122	2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday 1130 Kailua-Kona Post Home	November 8	Grant
12138	Last Saturday 1000 Barbers Point Bowling Center	August 23	Grant

### National Programs Committee, COS Randy Grant

Adjutant: Delivers Report (Sub-committees: Youth Activities, Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, Teachers Award, Scouting, Student Military Programs, JROTC, ROTC, CAP, Veterans and Military Support)

VOD/PP deadline for submission to Department is December 1, 2025. All Posts are required to send the name of the VOD/PP chairman so we can activate their Scholars App position. After we get the names, we will hold training. Posts will need to use Scholar's app to conduct judging and advance entries to the Department level.

### Bylaw and Resolutions Committee COS Randy Grant

Adjutant: Delivers Report.

Members were reminded that the latest National Bylaws change the name of the Post Service officer to Benefits Advisor. The duties remain the same. Post may hold off this change to their bylaws until the next time they are updated, as National Bylaws supersedes Post and Department Bylaws as National Bylaws supersede Department and Post Bylaws where is a conflict.

### Strategic Planning COS Randy Grant

Adjutant Delivers Report

A Planning Survey will soon be distributed to evaluate options in planning for 1,2,5,10 years in the future.

### Community Activities State, Adjutant George Barlett

State Adjutant George Barlett delivers report. (Sub-committees: Community Service, Citizenship Education, Loyalty Day, Student Veterans, POW/MIA, Buddy Poppy, Safety) Post Adjutants are reminded to use the Programs dashboard. If training is needed, please contact State Adjutant.

### Conventions Comrade Jame' Schaedel

Comrade Jame; Schaedel delivers report.

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**Comrade J. Schaedel moved to “hold the 88<sup>th</sup> VFW State Convention at the Ala Moana Hotel June 18 through 21 2026.” Motion was seconded and passed.**

**J. Schaedel discussed plans for the 2026 convention to be held at the Ala Moana Hotel in Honolulu from June 18-21, with rooms about \$200 per night and free Wi-Fi. The committee decided to consolidate awards and banquets by removing the Friday dinner, aiming to reduce convention fees.**

#### **Legislative Committee: Comrade Jame’ Schaedel**

##### **Comrade Jame’ Schaedel delivers Report**

**Comrade Schaedel reported on recent advocacy efforts in Washington, DC, including work on VA community care improvements, informed consent requirements for PTSD treatments, and support for various legislative initiatives. The conversation ended with updates on state-level legislation, including Senate Bill 608 regarding trade practices, which remains under consideration for the 2026 legislative session.**

#### **Membership Committee, State QM Norbert Enos**

##### **State QM Norbert Enos delivers report**

**Don’t Roll a doughnut. Get out and recruit. If you have questions contact QM Enos or Frank Bragg. Wear VFW Bling. There was a review of the All-State program for donations required.**

**The meeting focused on membership recruitment and retention strategies for the VFW. The discussion highlighted the importance of legacy memberships, which provide ongoing financial benefits to the organization after a member's death. The current recruitment rate was noted to be below the department's goal of 101%, with only 97% expected if current levels continue. The group also discussed using digital payment systems like Zeffy for annual payments and the availability of fundraising tools through Zeppe for nonprofit organizations.**

#### **Commander: Social Media Committee, Comrade Joshua Tauau**

##### **Adjutant: delivers report**

- Commander, Comrade Josh Tauau Post 12138 Ewa Beach. Commanders/Reps, please continue to use our State Website for all your needed resources: [www.vfwhi.org](http://www.vfwhi.org)**
- The Programs Tab: Patriot Pen, VOD, Teacher’s award**
- The Resources Tab; Forms link: Bonding information (Due September)**
- The Resources Tab; Forms link: “Quartermaster Report of Receipts”**



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**Also in Forms: Retention of Document Policy.**

**These are the documents you will need for your Post Inspection.**

**-Our Department Website will not be able to play videos, only “still pictures” can be added to the gallery.**

**Email me pictures for the gallery: [vfwhawaiiitech66@gmail.com](mailto:vfwhawaiiitech66@gmail.com)**

**-All “Lava Ledger” event submissions will go to Chelsea Mack  
[chelsea.mack@gmail.com](mailto:chelsea.mack@gmail.com)**

**-Zeffy is a Free nonprofit payment platform that National recommends, Free for Post to collect donations, buddy poppy donations, and “fundraiser/donations”.**

**-Send me an email: [vfwhawaiiitech66@gmail.com](mailto:vfwhawaiiitech66@gmail.com) . I’ll help you set up your Campaigns/donations. Requirements are needed for set up Zeffy; bank information, EIN, Licenses.**

**Mahalo for your time Commander.**

**Lava Ledger is now bi-monthly**

**National Home Report Jr Vice Commander Rodney Boucher.**

**Jr Vice Boucher delivers report.**

**The meeting discussed the VFW National Home funding requirements, which have increased from \$4,000 to \$8,000 annually. The department approved maintaining the Hawaii House for \$8,000 per year, with sponsorship funds coming from various sources including donations and department contributions. While some members expressed concerns about the rising costs and lack of justification, the motion to approve the contract was passed. The discussion also touched on potential collaborations with other states to offset some of the costs and the possibility of creating a dedicated fund for the National Home.**

**New contract signed now \$8,000 per year. They are also requesting we maintain a minimum balance of \$25,000.**

**JVC Boucher made a motion to: “approve acceptance of the contract to maintain Hawaii House for \$8,000 per year.” Motion was seconded and passed.**

**National Councilmember Report, NCM Ron Schaedel**

**NCM Ron Schaedel delivers report.**

**NCM Schaedel emphasized the VFW’s position that sexual harassment and discrimination have NO place in our organization.**

**Chaplain Stan Fernandez**

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The meeting discussed the new Chaplain's Corner section on the department website, which provides training resources and links to national chaplain programs. Assistant Chaplain Correa announced the start of district-level chaplain training and the availability of greeting cards for chaplains.

**Chaplain delivered the Divine Blessing upon our National Home.**

#### **Unfinished Business:**

**Adjutant: Bonding** Post Commanders are reminded that Post officer bonds and Canteen Bonds are due to the Department by September 15, 2025. Any Post Officer responsible for funds need to be bonded. If you are a signatory on the account you need to be bonded. The Department has conducted training on the bonding procedures. Forms are on the website.

#### **New Business:**

**Adjutant: Department Training 0915** October 11, 2025 at the OVC and Zoom.

**Certificates of Insurance** are available for Post VFW Information tables. Contact QM Enos with information (additional insured).

**Posts** should get a signed Release of Liability for all participants at events. Contact JA Takemura for examples.

**Comrade Jame' Schaedel** made a motion to: "Transfer \$1000 from Legislative Budget to State Convention budget." Motion was seconded and passed.

#### **Post fundraising requests:**

**Post 2875** Golf tournament and Zippy's fundraiser Spring 2026

**Post 3292** Nex Commissary Nov 8/9 2025

**Post 8616** Golf tournament February 2026

**Post 10276** Cookie fundraiser October and November 2025

**Post 849/12138** Bowling tournament November 16, 2025 at Barbers Point Bowling Alley

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**Commander approved all requests.**

**A request for definition of Areas of responsibilities was requested.**

**Good of the Order: Announcements:**

**R. Boucher The meeting covered several updates and announcements for the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) organization. VFW members discussed the availability of veterans' support pins and the importance of preparedness for natural disasters.**

**Stick around for half and half.**

**SVC Mariano discussed a partnership with Home Depot that will provide equipment and funding for VFW posts through a grant program. Posts can receive up to \$500 in tools and equipment for fundraisers, and Home Depot will provide a storage locker at their store for post equipment. The program also includes a nationwide initiative where Home Depot veterans will help build ramps for wheelchair access, with a minimum commitment of \$5,000 per project. VFW requested post commanders provide their contact information to participate in the program.**

**Awards: None**

**1024: Commander's Moment: POW/MIA, Ceremonies/Carol's visit**

**Commander highlighted the role of service officers in supporting veterans and the upcoming events such as dignified transfers, POW/MIA Recognition Day, and retiree days. The Commander in Chief of the VFW, Carol Whitmore, was announced to visit in December. Members were advised to be cautious of suspicious emails related to service officers and organizations.**

**Closing Ceremonies**

**1045:Commander closed in form.**

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**1048: Commander: Comrades, I now declare this business session of the Department of Hawaii, Council of Administration closed. Our next COA will be 0910 December 6, 2025 at the Oahu Veterans Center.**

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## National Council member Report

10 September 2025

The below update summarizing the pertinent happenings of our VFW is submitted for your perusal and discretionary distribution. More information will be updated upon conclusion of September's NCOA meeting.

### GENERAL COUNCIL:

- Arguments continue nationwide regarding unaccredited agencies charging veterans for assistance. Two (2) VFW State Departments have either officially or unofficially endorsed bills in their State House that would legalize and discourage claim sharks to profit off the backs of disabled veterans.
- Jame' Schaedel, Hawaii National Legislative Council Member, will continue his efforts to have a similar bill passed in the Hawaii State legislature.

### DEVELOPMENT:

- Development continues at a progressive pace. More information will be forwarded as received.

### PROGRAMS:

- *Voice of Democracy/Patriots Pen*: Ensure that Posts are meeting deadlines.
- VFW Day of Service pending another day later this month.
- *National VFW Awards*: **Take the initiative** and start looking for possible considerations. Any questions, contact VFW Programs director Lynn W. Rolf, III, [LRolf@vfw.org](mailto:LRolf@vfw.org)

### HUMAN RESOURCES:

Information regarding Promotions, Hires, Recruiting contact Human Resources Director Sara Maple. [\*\*SMaple@vfw.org\*\*](mailto:SMaple@vfw.org)

### MEMBERSHIP & MEMBERSHIP SERVICES:

- Participate in Membership Mondays.
- Set up recruiting booths
- Importance of Buddy Checks.
- Keep Membership on track to meet 101%
- Posts, Departments need for brochures, applications, or supplies must order them through VFW website.

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- OMS is online for assistance.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS:

- Will receive an updated report at NCOA meeting being held from 17-21 September 2005.

#### DEPARTMENT INSPECTION:

- Schedule will be distributed for this coming year.

#### MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

- 2025 National Convention was held in Columbus, Ohio
- 2026 national Convention will be in Reno, Nevada
- March 2025 Legislative Conference, Washington, D.C.

#### VFW FOUNDATION:

- Contact: VFW Director of donor Relations [RFriesburghouse@vfw.org](mailto:RFriesburghouse@vfw.org).

#### NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:

- Report submitted by National Legislative Committee member, Jame' Schaedel

#### NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE:

- NVS Director Mike Figlioli strongly encourages that if you see a veteran in need, please remember to direct them to an accredited representative.

#### VSO OVERSIGHT:

- Refer to Department VSO report.
- Mike Figlioli: *"The only point is that I am prouder of them as Service Officers labor is that every single dollar of recouped compensation went to those we represented. Our Service Officers did it out of a sense of **duty, care, and concern** – for **free**."*

#### STRATEGIC PLAN:

- Ongoing search continues for a possible new central location of our Department Headquarters. Any suggestions are welcomed. Any concerns/suggestions forward them to the Department Chief of Staff.

#### CONCLUSION:

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- Some may be (or not) satisfied with the functional operation(s) of our Department. Remember: ***"One's approach determines another's response (reaction)."***

Respectfully submitted,

*R. H. SchaeDEL, Sr.*

RONALD H SCHAEDEL, Sr.

VFW National Council Member

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July 29, 2025

For: Hawaii House



Dear Department of Hawaii:

Enclosed is your Hawaii house fund report for the fourth quarter of the 2024-2025 fiscal year. This report shows the quarterly beginning fund balance, plus revenue, less expenses, and the current fund balance. This report will be sent to you each quarter. Please take note that the fund balance disclosed within this report is unaudited and is subject to change. If changes are made, we will indicate on subsequent reports what those changes are.

Please accept a sincere “thank you” to all the members from Hawaii for their hard work and support for the VFW National Home. The funds and commitment you have made to support your Hawaii Home have made it an attractive and very pleasant haven for our families and you all can be very proud of that.

As always, we will be sure to communicate with you regarding other projects and special needs to assist you with your planning. Your continued support of your Hawaii Home is very much appreciated. We hope this report is useful to you, and if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please contact me.

Respectfully,

**Richard Stiver**

Richard Stiver  
Facilities  
Director

CC: District 12 Board Trustee



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[www.vfwnationalhome.org](http://www.vfwnationalhome.org)



800.424.8360



[info@vfwnationalhome.org](mailto:info@vfwnationalhome.org)

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VFW NATIONAL  
HOME HAWAII  
HOUSE FUND  
REPORT 4th  
QUARTER  
April 1, 2025 - June 30,  
2025

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>REPAIR/PURCHASE</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>FUND TOTAL</u>
BEG. BALANCE	4/1/2025				\$1,012.73
REVENUE					
	4/16	Post 849	210.00		
	5/13	Aux 12122	161.45		
TOTAL REVENUE					\$371.45
EXPENSES:					
Maintenance	4/30	Replaced Flag		9.00	
Purchase	4/30	Flag		9.99	
Maintenance	5/30	Replaced Flag and patched wall		18.00	
Purchase	5/30	Patched wall		5.00	
Purchase	5/30	State Flag		12.86	
Sponsorship	6/30			500.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES					\$554.85
FUND BALANCE					\$829.33

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**Richard Stiver**

Richard Stiver  
Facilities  
Director

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CC: District 12 Board Trustee

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[www.vfwnationalhome.org](http://www.vfwnationalhome.org)



800.424.8360



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VFW  
NATIONAL  
HOME  
HAWAII  
HOUSE  
FUND  
REPORT 4th  
QUARTER  
April 1, 2025  
- June 30,  
2025

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>REPAIR/PURCHASE</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>FUND TOTAL</u>
<b>BEG. BALANCE</b>	4/1/2025				<b>\$1,012.73</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>					
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	5/13	Aux 12122	161.45		
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<b>EXPENSES:</b>					
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Sponsorship	6/30			500.00	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>					<b>\$554.85</b>

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FUND BALANCE					\$829.33
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