

Department of Hawaii General Orders # 001

Series 2026-2027

July 1, 2026

1. Commander's Moment Vision for this year:

Strengthen the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Hawai'i through teamwork, transparent leadership, continuous training, and the development of future leaders, while honoring our commitment to serve veterans, their families, and our communities with integrity, readiness, and excellence.

VFW Department Commander's Intent 2026 to 2027

Purpose: Strengthen the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Hawai'i through teamwork, leadership development, training, accountability, and dedicated service to veterans, their families, and our communities.

Key Tasks:

- **Promote open communication built on trust, respect, and transparency across all Posts and the Department.**
- **Identify, mentor, and develop current and future leaders at every level.**
- **Strengthen Posts through practical training, shared best practices, and active engagement.**
- **Encourage succession planning to ensure continuity and long-term stability.**
- **Support meaningful participation in programs that directly benefit veterans, families, and communities.**
- **Honor our traditions while remaining responsive to the evolving needs of today's veterans.**

End State:

A united Department of Hawai'i where every Post is strong, every member is valued, and leadership is shared and continuously developed. We sustain a culture of respect, accountability, and camaraderie, where members take pride in serving one another and those who have served our nation.

Our standards remain clear: we support those who contribute positively to our mission, and we address conduct that undermines trust or the well-being of our organization in a fair and consistent manner. Above all, we remain committed to taking care of veterans, their families, and each other.

IKAIKA IMUA!

VETERANS FIRST | VETERANS ALWAYS



Department of Hawaii General Orders # 001

Series 2026-2027

2. Attention of all members is directed to the purposes listed within the VFW's Congressional Charter. Amongst the "Purposes" of the VFW (Sec 230102): "To preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members"; "to perpetuate the memory of our dead, and to assist their surviving spouses and orphans"; "to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom"; and "to preserve and defend the United States from all enemies". As such, the Department of Hawaii will maintain true allegiance to the United States and the law of the land and nurture the patriotic spirit of those who served in foreign wars or expeditions. The Department shall be **apolitical** and shall support our Federal Charter by solely bearing allegiance to the Government of the United States and fidelity to its Constitution.

3. Non-Discrimination Statement

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Department of Hawaii is committed to fostering an inclusive environment for all members, volunteers, and participants. We proudly uphold the principles of equality and respect, and we do not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, sex/gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, veteran status, or any other protected characteristic. We celebrate diversity and ensure all individuals can participate fully in our programs and activities without fear of discrimination or harassment.

We believe in the dignity of every individual and are committed to ensuring that all people can participate fully in our programs and activities without fear of discrimination or harassment. Together, we celebrate the rich diversity of our community and strive to create an environment that honors and respects all who serve.

4. **The following officers were elected** for the Department of Hawaii in accordance with Section 520 of the National By-Laws.

Commander	Lynn Mariano	Post 8616
Senior Vice Commander	Rodney Boucher	Post 12138
Junior Vice Commander	Sherman Willis	Post 1540
Judge Advocate	Patsy Takemura	Post 10276
Surgeon	Lynn Gernert	Post 2875
Quartermaster	Randy Grant	Post 3292

Department of Hawaii General Orders # 001

Series 2026-2027

Chaplain

Robert "Lopaka" Correa

Post 2875

5. The National Councilmember for the Department of Hawaii was chosen in accordance with Section 623 of the National By-Laws. The term expires in July 2028.

National Council-Member

Ronald Schaedel

Post 10276

6. All earlier appointments having expired and are declared invalid.

7. The following National Committee appointments are hereby made:

National Veteran Service Committee

Raymond Loo

Post 10276

National Legislative

Jame Schaedel

Post 12138

8. The following appointments are hereby made:

State Adjutant

George Barlett

Post 10154

Assistant Adj/Audio Visual Coordinator

Gregory Agonoy

Post 12138

Assistant Adjutant

Randy Grant

Post 3292

Assistant Quartermaster

Norbert Enos

Post 2875

Assistant Quartermaster

George Barlett

Post 10154

Assistant Chaplain

Stanley Fernandez

Post 10276

Chief of Staff

Joshua Tauau

Post 12138

Officer of the Day

Jason Jonas

Post 12138

State Inspector

Norbert Enos

Post 2875

Assistant Inspector

Frederic Chang

Post 1572

Assistant Inspector

Randy Grant

Post 3292

Assistant Inspector

George Barlett

Post 10154



Department of Hawaii General Orders # 001

Series 2026-2027

Assistant Inspector	Jame Schaedel	Post 12138
Assistant Inspector	Joshua Taueu	Post 12138
Parliamentarian	Randy Grant	Post 3292
State Legislative	Jame Schaedel	Post 12138
Auxiliary Liaison	George Barlett	Post 10154
Oahu Veterans Council	Stanley Fernandez	Post 10276
Department Service Officer	Raymond Loo	Post 10276
Assistant Service Officer	Ernest Vesnefski	Post 2875
Assistant Service Officer	Rodney Boucher	Post 12138
Assistant Service Officer Big Island	Ben Fuata	Post 3830
Assistant Service Officer AS	Maria B.I. Togia	Post 3391

Finance Committee (Sub-Committees: Budget, Audit, Investment, Ways and Means)

Chairman Rodney Boucher

Post 12138

Budget Sub Committee members:

Randy Grant	Post 3292
George Barlett	Post 10154
Sherman Willis	Post 1540
Ray Loo (Service Office only)	Post 10276
Patsy Takemura	Post 10276

Bylaw and Resolutions Committee

Chairman Patsy Takemura

Post 10276

Members:

Randy Grant	Post 3292
George Barlett	Post 10154
Jame Schaedel	Post 12138



Department of Hawaii General Orders # 001

Series 2026-2027

Community Activities Committee (Sub-Committees: Citizenship Education, VFW Day of Service, Loyalty Day, Student Veterans, POW/MIA, Safety, Emergency Preparedness, Employment, Special Events)

Chairman George Barlett

Post 10154

Conventions Committee (Sub-Committees: Time and Place, Credentials, National, Department, State Convention)

Co-Chairman George Barlett (National Convention)

Post 10154

Co-Chairman Randy Grant

Post 3292

State Convention Sub Committee Chair Jason Jonas

Post 12138

Membership Committee (Life, Legacy)

Chairman Norbert Enos

Post 2875

Sub Chairman Norbert Enos (Post Revitalization)

Post 2875

Programs Committee (Youth Activities, Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, Scouting, Student Military Programs, JROTC, ROTC, CAP, Veterans and Military Support, Hospital, Homeless Veteran, Buddy Poppy, National Home, Teachers Award)

Chairman Randy Grant

Post 3292

Youth Activities Sub Committee Chairman George Barlett

Post 10154

VOD/PP/Teachers

Chair Raynesa Jonas

Post 12138

National Home

Chairman Sherman Willis

Post 1540

Social Media Committee (Website, Newsletter, Public Relations)

Chairman Joshua Tauau

Post 12138

Department Training

Co-Chairman Randy Grant

Post 3292

Co-Chairman George Barlett

Post 10154

Department Veterans Service Advisory

Chairman Jason Seal

Post 110

Department of Hawaii General Orders # 001

Series 2026-2027

Strategic Planning/Building Committee
Chairman Sherman Willis

Post 1540

9. **Removal and Appointment of Salaried Officers** will be done in accordance with National and Departmental By-Laws.
10. **National by-laws stipulate that elected and appointed state officers** shall not assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been given and reviewed. Failure or refusal to send the same within thirty (30) days of election or appointment shall result in the office being declared vacant. Proof of eligibility will be submitted to the office of State Adjutant.
11. **As members of the Department Council of Administration, ALL Post Commanders, Post Senior Vice Commanders, and Post Junior Vice Commanders** are required to submit proof of eligibility to the Department Adjutant.
12. **NATIONAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION** – Section 222 of the Manual of Procedure states each Post will pay, in advance, a National Convention registration fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25) which shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials and one identified registered delegate for the VFW National Convention. Each additional delegate attending the National Convention will pay a ten-dollar (\$10) delegate fee provided the Post has paid the mandated \$25 advance registration fee. All advance registrations should be mailed to the VFW National Headquarters, 406 W. 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111. ATTN: Convention Registration, Quartermasters are strongly encouraged to register delegates utilizing the on-line membership system (OMS).
13. **This year's COAs are currently** scheduled for September 12, 2026, December 5, 2026 and February 13, 2027 and June 19 2027. The June 19, 2027, COA is dependent on the dates of the next Department Convention.
14. **Post Commanders are reminded that any Post in arrears** to Department or National for fees, other financial obligations or administrative requirements including Election and Trustee Audit Reports will be deprived of representation at the Department or National Conventions and Council of Administration. These include up to date trustee reports, current election reports, proper bonding of officers, payment of delegate fees for both the Department and National Conventions and filing of 990's and current DCCA registration.
15. **Any officer or committee member whose membership is not in good standing** by reason of failure to pay current dues by their anniversary date shall forfeit eligibility to hold any

Department of Hawaii General Orders # 001

Series 2026-2027

office in that administrative year.

16. **Each Post Officer accountable for funds or property** pursuant to any provision of the National By-laws shall be bonded in amount and surety, shall be approved by their respective units. Bonding period runs from September 1, 2026 to August 31, 2027. This includes everyone that is a signatory on the banking/investment accounts.
17. **Post Commanders shall submit Trustee Reports of Audit** to the Department Quartermaster for 4th quarter ending June 30, 2026, 1st quarter ending September 30, 2026, 2nd quarter ending December 31, 2026 and 3rd quarter ending March 31, 2027. The deadline for the last Trustee Report will be April 30, 2027. Submitted Trustee's Reports need bank statements or other corroborating data attached.
18. **Community Service Reporting: Post Adjutants** are required to submit Community Service Reports on the All-American Dashboard quarterly. Total money expended, Volunteer Hours, Total Volunteers, Mileage, and Event Explanation are required for each volunteering opportunity. Reports sent to Department will be entered into the Dashboard for the Post.
19. **Congratulations to the following Posts for completing all the requirements for becoming an All-American Post 110, 352, 849, 1540, 1572, 2875, 3292, 3391, 3875, 8616, 10154, 10276, and 12138.**
20. **The distribution of Department financial documents will be restricted to members of the Department of Hawaii VFW only unless authorized by the State Commander and Quartermaster.**
21. **The State Commander, Quartermaster, and Adjutant will be informed of all official neighbor island trips.**
22. **The State Commander, National Councilmember, State Adjutant and Chief of Staff will be cc'd on all reports sent to National or sent for further distribution.**

By Order of:

Lynn Mariano
State Commander

OFFICIAL:

Department of Hawaii General Orders # 001

Series 2026-2027



George Barlett
State Adjutant