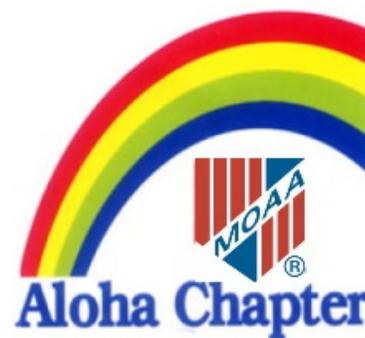


# Nā Leo O Nā Koa

(Voices of Warriors)



2006 Chapter Rating



Chartered January 27, 2000

*Newsletter of the Aloha Chapter,  
An Affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America*

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July 2008

## ALOHA CHAPTER SUPPORTS THE 27<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL HAWAII ARMY MUSEUM SOCIETY (HAMS) GOLF TOURNAMENT FUND RAISER

Amid clear and sunny skies at the Leilehua Army Golf Course, Aloha Chapter members, family and friends once again provided the volunteer support for the annual Hawaii Army Museum Society golf tournament fund raiser on Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup>. Conspicuous by the wear of the Chapter shirt and hats, our members, friends and family were present all over the entire golf course. They provided all the behind the scenes help so critical to the success of this type of endeavor.



*The four Marines sponsored by Aloha Chapter to play in the HAMS Golf Tournament, left to right: **Marcus King, Edroy Cummings, Matthew Propst, and David Pedrianes***

For the second year, member **Hal Okita** served as the HAMS Golf Committee Chair. Other committee members included members **GEN Herb Wolff, GEN Rick Richardson, Chuck McCauley, Don Birdseye, and Gordon Cho.**

Assisting with the Tournament Registration process were **Mary Cho, Alice and Norm Fujiwara,** and **Shirley Ihara.** Also assisting with Mulligan Sales was **Alice** and **Norm's** daughter-in-law **Kerrie Fujiwara,** who for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row came all the way from Houston, Texas, with husband **Nelson Fujiwara** to Hawaii to help out with

the tournament! Other repeat volunteers helping with the Putting Contest and Scoring were **Charlene & Dick Towne, Bob Kozuki, and Harold Kuwahara.** The Par 3 Hole Monitors included members **Nelson Fujiwara, Leroy Perry, Ken Yamada, Stan Furukawa, Jack Bohman, John Seely, & Herb Nakagawa.** They were assisted by Chapter

friends **Mike Tang, Bob Oshita** and **Mary Cho's** brother, **Mark Ertz,** visiting from Burlington, Iowa. The golf course Beverage Carts were manned by **Howard Okada, Shirley & Les Ihara,** who was also the official Tournament Photographer. On the 10<sup>th</sup> Fairway, **Vernon Von** monitored the Long Drive Contest, ably assisted by visiting grandsons **Ryan & Jordan Von.**

The tournament was a huge success fielding 73 two-person teams. The tournament could not have occurred without the support and participation in all aspects of the event by members of our Aloha Chapter. Let's hope that this effort will be a continuing legacy performed by the members of the Chapter for many years to come. **Gordon Cho**

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## President's Message By Joe Magaldi, Jr.

On June 25<sup>th</sup> I represented MOAA as the President of our Aloha Chapter at the 58<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of the Korean War. Incidentally, I served during the Korean War training new Marine Officers to serve in Korea.

The ceremony at Punchbowl was one of the most impressive I have ever attended; I felt even more inspired than at the annual Memorial Day Celebration at Punchbowl. The keynote speaker was Admiral **Timothy J. Keating**, USN, Commander, U.S. Pacific Command. Also, the number of wreaths presented by various military organizations was the most I have ever seen. As I am sure you know, the Korean War is known as "THE FORGOTTEN WAR."

The preceding day, Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, too few Aloha Chapter members attended a joint Legislative-Forum luncheon at the Japanese Cultural Center. Those members that didn't attend missed a lively, yet respectful, discussion of opposing viewpoints of the last legislative session by Senators **Colleen Hanabusa** (D) and **Sam Slom** (R), which was moderated by **Rick Hamada** of KHVH. I particularly enjoyed the stimulating question-and-answer session at the end of the discussion.

We assisted again at the annual Hawaii Army Museum Society's Golf Tournament at Leilehua Golf Course. We sponsored four active-duty Marines to play in the tournament.

Our chapter has been invited by the Hawaii Chapter to join them on August 3<sup>rd</sup> at their annual picnic at Bellows AFB. This should be a fun event for everyone, young and old.

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## Troops to Teachers



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>July 28, 2008</b><br>(Monday)     | <b>Golf Outing, Malama Bay Golf Course, Hickam AFB</b>                                  |
| <b>August 3, 2008</b><br>(Sunday)    | <b>12: 00 Noon, Hawaii Chapter &amp; Aloha Chapter Annual Picnic, Bellows AFB</b>       |
| <b>August 14, 2008</b><br>(Thursday) | <b>Merrie Ladies Walking Tour of Manoa Heritage Center</b>                              |
| <b>August 15, 2008</b><br>(Friday)   | <b>11:30 AM, Luncheon, Hale Ikena</b><br>Speaker: <b>Nadine Shigezawa, PhD, on PTSD</b> |
| <b>August 24, 2008</b><br>(Sunday)   | <b>1:00 Bridge Bunch. Hosts: Dave and Lois Luehring</b>                                 |
| <b>Sept 18-22, 2008</b>              | <b>Twinning with the Las Vegas Chapter</b>  |
| <b>Dec. 9, 2008</b><br>(Tuesday)     | <b>6:00 PM, Hawaii Chapter Annual Christmas Dinner, Hale Koa Hotel</b>                  |
| <b>Dec. 10, 2008</b><br>(Wednesday)  | <b>6:00 PM, Aloha Chapter Annual Christmas Dinner, Hale Koa Hotel</b>                   |

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### Notice

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## An Opportunity To See a Bit of Hawaii

On August 14<sup>th</sup> the *Merrie Ladies* plan a walking tour of the Manoa Heritage Center. The center's mission is to promote the thoughtful stewardship and sustainability of the natural and cultural heritage of Hawai'i. It is located near the Waioli Tea Room. The historic site has a heiau, a beautiful garden of many local plants, and the Cooke family home. **Shirley Ihara** is planning this event and you may call her to make a reservation. Large groups cannot be accommodated so we are open on a first come first served basis. Car pooling is highly recommended and we can meet at the Manoa Market Place to take as few cars as possible to the site. After our tour, we will have lunch together. The cost for military personnel is \$4.00 per person. Please call **Shirley** at 239-7947 to save a place.

Cookbooks are still available. Here are some comments we've received about the book: "To the *Merrie Ladies* of Hawaii!! You did a great job

on this wonderful cookbook! We will surely share this gift with many others!" "This is such a wonderful and involved project. Words of praise and gratitude seem to fall short when I wish to express my feelings to you all for a job well done." "This cookbook will be on my shelf of favorites. What makes it nicer is that I know **Dick Towne**, one of the contributors." **Marion** 

## Legislative Report Politics as Usual

They blew it. All of them. The President. Congress. House and Senate. Republicans and Democrats.

They had months to work out a relatively simple deal to prevent a 10.6% cut in Medicare payments from taking effect on July 1 and to prevent cutting off Medicare coverage for hundreds of thousands of Medicare-eligible speech and physical therapy patients on that date.

But they chose to play **See Politics Page 7**

## Joint Legislative Forum Luncheon

On Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, sixty-five members and guests of the Aloha Chapter and the Hawaii Chapter assembled at the Japanese Chamber of Commerce for a delicious buffet luncheon. We dined on Swedish meatballs, teriyaki chicken, seafood Newburg, fried rice, salad, assorted vegetables, assorted fruit, and haupia cake.

It was also a very intellectually stimulating luncheon. Right after the meal, our guests, Senate President **Colleen Hanabusa** (D) and Senator **Sam Slom** (R) moved from dining with their constituents to the head table on the elevated platform to start their presentation, moderated by **Rick Hamada** of KHVH 830.

They initially discussed the legislation passed during the last session that had a direct impact upon the military community. Essentially, there were none; there were no issues affecting the military.

Then, they both expressed their views on Governor **Linda Lingle**'s plan to purchase Turtle Bay on the North Shore with taxpayer funds, education under the DOE vs. the DOD and private schools, federal impact funds for education, basing of a carrier task group here and its consequences upon the communities, the multi-billion dollar rail project being railroaded upon the taxpayers without a say in the matter until the Stop-the-Rail initiative gained momentum, Mayor Mufi Hannemann's ads at taxpayer expense protesting this anti-rail petition drive, the Superferry and Environmental Impact Statements, and the likelihood of the legislature convening a special session to over-ride some of the governor's probable vetoes.

What was particularly noteworthy was the way they each respectfully listened to the other's views without interrupting and then stated their own position. Both of the senators very eloquently expressed their views on the issues. Thus, the members and guests could draw their own conclusions.

Afterwards, there was a very interesting and enlightening question-and-answer period. Most of questions were about the Stop-the-Rail petition drive which would exonerate the mayor and city council when his exorbitant project gets off track.

Mark 



*Aloha Chapter Secretary **Anna Blackwell** enthusiastically welcoming **Rick Hamada**, host of the KHVH morning talk show and the moderator of the legislative forum luncheon*



*Senator **Sam Slom** and Admiral **Ronald Hays***



*Senate President **Colleen Hanabusa** and **Rick Hamada** discussing the issues in Hawaii's politics*

**Welcome to Our New Life Member**  
**Myron K. Brumaghim,**  
COL, HARNG, Ret.

## Aloha Chapter Party Bridge

The Aloha Chapter party bridge session on Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, was again held at the Fahrni residence; it was hosted by **Mitzi Austin** and **Dan Matthews**. There were 4 tables of bridge played with the top scorer being **Helen Fahrni**, followed by **Midge Brooke**, **Bev Jensen**, **Dan Matthews**, and **Mitzi Austin**. Top scores were higher than usual since 4 of the top five—partners **Helen & Bev** and **Midge & Dan**—bid and made small slams. Others participating were: **Anna Blackwell**, **Len Fahrni**, **Les & Shirley Ihara**, **Gary Jensen**, **Dave & Lois Luehring**, "Mac" **Macdonald**, **Coralee Vellis**, **Phyllis Williams**, and guest **Hazel Theodore**.



*Left to right, sitting: Bev Jensen, Guest Midge Brooke, and Helen Fahrni.*

*Standing: Mitzi Austin and Dan Matthews.*

There will not be any party bridge played in July, so the next session will be on Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, hosted by **Dave & Lois Luehring**. Those intending to play on that date are asked to contact **Dave** or **Lois** by calling them at 488-4458 or e-mailing to: [davelue@earthlink.net](mailto:davelue@earthlink.net) not later than Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup>.

## Recruit A New Member!

Your Aloha Chapter is always looking for new members—active duty, retirees, and auxiliary members, all are welcome and will enjoy the camaraderie of the Aloha Chapter. Make it your goal to recruit at least one new member in 2008. Cut out the Membership Application on Page 7 to give to a prospective member..

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\*Rates are subject to change without notice.



## May Golf Report

What a start for a golf coordinator! We had twenty-four players signed up to play at Klipper Golf Course in Kaneohe, exactly six foursomes, and the weather forecast from **Guy Hagi** for Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, was for a sunny day. I prepared the score cards and, as we drove to Kaneohe, the skies had the making of a wonderful day for golfing. I am sure that **Joe Kuroda** was singing his heart out with *O What a Beautiful Day* while driving to Kaneohe.

Today's group consisted of a haven't-played-in-a-long-time-wahine-golfer, **Barbara Chong**; it was so nice she joined her husband **Cedric** and the rest of the gang today and several first-time playing guests. These guests were **Kelly Lau**, guest of **John Ma**, **Bill Beadle**, guest of **Gordon Cho**, and **Gerald Nichols** and **Richard Young** guests of **Walter Kinoshita**. Another guest of **Walter's**, **Myron Brumaghin**, was unable to join us because of car problems. **See May Page 6**

## May Golf Report (cont.)

The members of the Aloha Chapter golf group who made their contribution to the mega jackpot but did not receive any compensation from the mega pot were **Allen Ono, Bob Kozuki, Howard Okada, Hal Okita, Ken Munechika, Leroy Perry, Jack Bohman, Vernon Von, Joe Kuroda, Curtis Lee, Cedric Chong, Alice Fujiwara** and yours truly. The players that shared the mega jackpot were in fourth place **Gordon Cho** and **John Seeley**, in third place were guests **Rich Young** and **Bill Beadle**, there was a tie for first place so, when the tie breaker was applied, in second place were **Ken Yamada** and **Barbara Chong**, and the first place winners were **Walt Kinoshita** and **John Ma**. Congratulations to all the winners, and Mahalo to all the other players, and special thanks to our two wahine golfers **Barbara Chong** and **Alice Fujiwara**.

Now for our thought of the day "A loving husband is one who remembers his wife's birthday but forgets which one".



## June Golf Report

The June Aloha chapter Golf outing on Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, began with nineteen members and guests signed up for a 9AM tee time at Barbers Point Golf Course. However, even before the first group teed off, we had two drop out so the final count was seventeen—actually seventeen-and-a-half since **Joe Kuroda** had his grand son riding with him.

The first group consisted of **Allen Ono, Bob Kozuki**, and **John Ma**, they were followed by **Gordon Cho, Howard Okada, Dick Towne** and his guest **John Holmes**, in the third group were **Jack Bohman, Cedric** and **Barbara Chong**, and **Ken Munechika**, they were followed by **Ira Tagawa, Curtis Lee**, and **Ken Yamada**, and, bringing up the rear, were **Joe Kuroda**, his grand son, and **Norm** and **Alice Fujiwara**.

It was somewhat interesting who the winners of the mega jackpot were. First of all, since we had seventeen players, the odd person ended up as his/her own partner, and in our case the first place winner was **Jack Bohman** and he was his own partner; thus, he was able to keep the first-place mega jackpot for himself. The other interesting thing was that there was a three-way tie among the next three teams. Therefore, it was necessary to apply a tie breaker. We used the pairs score on the first hole. **Gordon Cho** and yours truly had fours on that hole, **John Ma** and **Barbara Chong** had fives on that hole, while **Dick Towne** and **Ken Munechika** had sixes on that hole and, accordingly, were placed in fourth place with no financial rewards.

Now for our thought of the day: "What's to be done? Everyone wants to go to heaven, but no one wants to die."

Our next golf outing will be on Monday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, at Malama Bay Golf Course. A sign up notice will be forthcoming.

Aloha and Mahalo to all of today's participants.

Good golfing!

**Norm**



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**Politics (cont.)**

political chicken with seniors' care, and their collective hard-headedness prevented anything from getting done. Having failed in timely action, Congress took a week's vacation over Independence Day and promised to fix things when they return.

Medicare payments to doctors will be cut 10.6% starting July 1. Also as of July 1, speech, physical or occupational therapy patients for whom Medicare has already paid at least \$1,810 for therapy in 2008 will have further Medicare payments for that care stopped. (NOTE: TRICARE doesn't have a therapy payment cap like Medicare does, so TRICARE therapy patients should be okay. For TRICARE For Life patients, TRICARE will pick up payments when Medicare stops, BUT only after the \$150 annual TRICARE deductible has been satisfied, along with applicable copays.)

TRICARE patients have a little more breathing room. Although TRICARE doctor payments are tied to Medicare's, there's usually about a month's delay in updating TRICARE payment files when Medicare makes a change.

This isn't the first time Congress has failed to stop a Medicare payment cut. In 2006, Congress missed the deadline, but approved a fix within a few weeks and made it retroactive.

That caused doctors and Medicare administrators lots of headaches in the interim, but in the end, the lost payments were made up. And TRICARE patients were never affected, because Congress fixed the rates before TRICARE got around to implementing the cuts.

That's the best-case scenario now - if Congress can act quickly after July 4 to approve a fix the president will sign. But the risk remains that some number of fed-up doctors will decide not to accept any more Medicare or TRICARE patients.

Whatever Congress does after July 4, they could have done before July 1 and prevented this mess.

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Revised: January 2007. All prior forms obsolete.

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