



Department of Hawaii General Orders # 004
March 20, 2020

Series 2019-2020

1. The Disciplinary action against Harry Kaneakua, Jr. has been adjudicated and the penalty of Removal from the office of Department Commander has been directed.
2. Effective March 20, 2020 and in accordance with the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure, Ronald Lockwood is now the State of Hawaii, Department Commander.
3. **VA Closes Regional Offices to the Public, VFW Service Officers Still Available:** In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, VA made the decision to close its regional offices to the public, postponing hearings for the duration of the national emergency. The VFW similarly made the difficult decision to close its Pre-Discharge locations to the public. However, Veterans Benefits Administration is still working, processing benefit claims for veterans. Veterans and advocates must also note that all VA filing deadlines still apply. The VFW is pushing VA to extend these deadlines and has started working with Congress, in case such an extension requires an emergency legislative fix. VFW National Veterans Service (NVS) continues to send guidance to the VFW's global network of accredited service officers, many of whom continue to work from safe locations. Veterans should still be able to reach their VFW Service Officers and Pre-Discharge reps via email. If you do not hear from your representative within two business days, please contact NVS via [email](mailto:vfw@vfw.org) at vfw@vfw.org.
4. **Beware of COVID-19 Virus Scams:** The White House is warning the public to ignore rumors of a national quarantine due to the COVID-19 virus outbreak, which were circulated by erroneous text messages. "Text message rumors of a national #quarantine are FAKE," according to a March 15 tweet posted on the Twitter page of the National Security Council. "There is no national lockdown." Pentagon spokesman Jonathan Hoffman told defense reporters Monday that he "was not familiar" with any plans of using the U.S. military to enforce a national quarantine to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Social media has been flooded with virus-related rumors, many of which are being perpetrated by cybercriminals, according to U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command.
5. Post Commanders Trustee Reports of audit for second quarter ending December 31, 2019 are now due to the Department Quartermaster. The deadline for the third quarter last Trustee Report of Audit will be April 30, 2020. Post Commanders are reminded that any Post in arrears to department or National for fees, other financial obligations or administrative requirements including convention registration fees and Election reports will be deprived of representation at the department Convention.
6. Executive Order No.1, dated March 17, 2020 from the Commander-in-Chief, this flexibility would be allow Posts and Districts to use **all necessary means to meet the quorum requirements of the bylaws to elect officers prior to your Department Conventions**. We know that there will be areas that will be hit harder than some and as result will not be able to elect officers. No punitive action will be taken for those not able to conduct their business prior to our Department Convention as a direct result of COVID-19. This



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CinC directive also provides the necessary guidance to keep officers in place until such time they're able to elect new officers.

7. All Commanders are directed, to work on contingency plans immediately, for all your upcoming events. When contemplating your contingency plans, each Post must be cognizant of any state and local governmental declarations and executive orders currently in place. Governor Ige has issued State of Emergency procedures recommending the ban of any gatherings of greater than 10 people, and the closing of bars and restaurants. Counties have also instituted additional restrictions of their own. These restrictions **do apply** to our VFW Posts and these prohibitions must be followed where applicable. Restaurants should be takeout only.
8. Effective March 19, 2020, the Oahu Veterans Center is closed for meetings and parties for at least 15 days following governmental guidelines. This closing extends in to April. Check with the OVC to ensure your meeting place.
9. The State Commander, Chief of Staff, and State Adjutant will receive copies of all reports sent to any National office or sent for further distribution throughout the Department.
10. All Post Inspections will be conducted by May 10, 2020. All Post Commanders are responsible to ensure their Post books and records are available for inspection. Commanders are requested to obtain all necessary documents for the inspection and contact Department Headquarters to arrange for an inspection.
11. The 82nd Annual State Convention for the Department of Hawaii, Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Auxiliary is scheduled for June 11, 12, and 13 at the Pagoda Hotel. A Convention Book will be made whether or not a physical Convention is held. Forms are available on the Department Website. Please submit advertising to Department Headquarters.
12. Proposed changes to Department and National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure must be approved by the Post membership at a post meeting and submitted in writing to the Department Adjutant at least 30 days before the start of the Department Convention.
13. The current membership plan for 2019-2020 asks for several donations to be made. At this time we are concerned with the lack of Donations being sent to Department. The Donations are listed in the Membership Plan, every year for the Annual awards we look at what the Post have donated plus other accomplishments by the Post and individual members. To date, the following Posts have donated



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to: [National Home/Hawaii Home](#) \$100.00 each: Posts 1540, 2875, 3391, 3830, 10276, 12138 [Veteran Military Support/VMS](#) \$100.00 each Posts 2875, 3391, 3830, 10276, 12138. The following Posts have met all the required Donations: Posts: 2875, 3391, 3830, 10276.

14. The Department Adjutant needs to be aware of all donations and programs completed to update the All-American scoreboard.

15. The Department is currently at 94.64%. We need 231 new, reinstated, or continuous members. The current restrictions on gatherings, we need to think of other ways to increase membership. Contact expiring members by phone or email to get them to renew. Members who are in financial need may have their membership paid from the relief fund. As long as the Post has

16. Community Service reports are due April 15, 2020. Reports should include hours, donations, number of volunteers, number of people assisted and mileage. Submit reports to Ron Lockwood at lockwood0849@gmail.com.

Ronald Lockwood
Ronald Lockwood
State Commander

OFFICIAL:

George Barlett
George Barlett
State Adjutant