



STATE OF HAWAII

Governor Linda Lingle

e-NEWSLETTER

Aloha and Welcome from the Governor's Office in Hawai'i
Weekly Wrap-Up: November 10-16, 2007

Quote of the Week

"We are grateful for the service of men and women currently deployed and for our veterans. We will always, always remember the brave individuals who paid the ultimate sacrifice for each of us."

- Governor Lingle, speaking at the annual Veterans Day ceremony. Read [more](#).

Thought of the Week

"The [Yukio Okutsu Veterans Home] represents a small part of the overall fabric of care our veterans deserve, from adequate healthcare to proper retirement benefits to the very basics of having a place to sleep at night."

- An excerpt from the Honolulu Advertiser editorial, "New veterans home sends the right signal." Read [more](#).



"Governor Lingle has been a special friend to those suffering from conditions that often go unseen... What a difference she has made on behalf of our patients."

- Dr. Jeffrey Akaka, speaker of the House of Delegates for the American Psychiatric Association,

TOP STORIES THIS WEEK

- **Honoring Hawai'i's Veterans.** Read [more](#).
- **Governor Highlights Innovation at Small Business Conference.** Read [more](#).
- **50th Anniversary of Statehood Commission Convenes.** Read [more](#).
- **Hawai'i Observes Homelessness Awareness Week.** Listen to the Governor's [Weekly Radio Address](#) and read [more](#).
- **Judge Lifts Injunction on Superferry.** Read a [statement](#) from Governor Lingle.

Honoring Hawai'i's Veterans

thanking Governor Lingle for her support of Hawai`i residents suffering from mental illness. Read [more](#).

Upcoming Events

November 19, Governor Lingle and Lt. Governor Aiona will kick off the season of giving at the launch of the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Bell Ringing donation drive.

November 19, Governor Lingle will attend a celebration to mark the University of Hawai`i's 100th anniversary. The event will also include the inauguration ceremony for University of Hawai`i at Manoa Chancellor Virginia Hinshaw.

November 19, Governor Lingle will discuss state issues on the afternoon drive-time radio show with host Mike Buck. The public is invited to call in from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. HST at 521-8383 with questions and comments. The show can be heard live on KHVH 830 AM.

November 22, HOLIDAY - HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

 Send to friends

 Past Updates

 Subscribe

 Print



From left: Admiral Timothy Keating, commander, U.S. Pacific Command; Governor Lingle; and Major General Robert Lee, State Adjutant General laid a wreath in honor of veterans.

As part of her ongoing commitment to Hawai`i veterans and their families, Governor Lingle attended several Veterans Day events during the past week. The Governor honored the distinguished service of Hawai`i's men and women in uniform, as well as those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for the sake of freedom.

YUKIO OKUTSU VETERANS HOME DEDICATED

At a ceremony to dedicate the Yukio Okutsu Veterans Home in Hilo, Governor Lingle joined State Adjutant General, Major General Robert Lee and Admiral Timothy Keating, commander, U. S. Pacific Command, in thanking Hawai`i's veterans for their distinguished service.

"Today is a message to veterans in Hawai`i. We will take care of you as you have taken care of us," the Governor said. "All of you veterans have a special place in our hearts and our island `ohana."

The 95-bed nursing home and adult day care center, located on the Hilo Medical Center campus, is the first facility in the state to provide nursing home and domiciliary care to eligible veterans. Hawai`i was previously one of only three states that did not have a veterans home.

"Today, we give our brave a home," said Governor Lingle.

Governor Lingle also thanked Big Island residents for their dedication to making the veterans home a reality.

"Hawai`i is showing that we don't take our veterans for granted," said Governor Lingle. "The freedoms we all enjoy have been made possible by their sacrifices."

Contact Governor**Linda Lingle:**governor.lingle@hawaii.gov**For more information:**

Lenny Klompus

Senior Advisor -

Communications

Phone: (808) 586-7708

Email: [Lenny.](mailto:Lenny.Klompus@hawaii.gov)Klompus@hawaii.gov

Russell Pang

Chief of Media Relations

Phone: (808) 586-0043

Fax: (808) 586-0006

Email:

Russell.Pang@hawaii.gov**Managing Editor:**Travis.Loop@hawaii.gov**Editor:**Ashley.Cassel@hawaii.gov

The state provided \$13.2 million towards the completion of the facility, which is named after World War II veteran Yukio Okutsu, a member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor. During the ceremony, the Governor presented the family of the late Yukio Okutsu with a Medal of Honor Flag.

GOVERNOR HOSTS VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

To honor the estimated 120,000 veterans currently living in the State of Hawai`i, as well as veterans across the nation, Governor Lingle hosted an annual Veterans Day Ceremony at Hawai`i State Veterans Cemetery in Kane`ohe.

The Governor encouraged residents to live by their words of appreciation for veterans' service.

"We must show our gratitude for veterans and our country in how we live each day," said Governor Lingle.

The Governor also discussed the state's continuing financial support for veterans and their families, and joined State Adjutant General, Major General Robert Lee and Admiral Timothy Keating, commander, United States Pacific Command, in laying a wreath on behalf of the state.

"Working with the military is among my greatest honors as Governor," she said. "I am incredibly proud and eternally grateful to those who have served, and are currently serving, our nation. Every freedom we enjoy, we owe to their selfless sacrifice."

GOVERNOR URGES MENTAL, EMOTIONAL SUPPORT FOR VETERANS

The Governor shared her message of support for veterans with delegates from the Hawai`i Psychiatric Medical Association and American Medical Association Section Council on Psychiatry.

"Large numbers of veterans are coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan, and they will be needing your help," the Governor told delegates in attendance. "The mental and emotional health services you offer will play a critical role for veterans and their families," she added.

KOREAN AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP ASSOCIATION WELCOMED TO HAWAI`I

Governor Lingle welcomed delegates from the Korean American Partnership Association (KAPA) to Hawai`i.

"Words matter, but they pale in comparison to your actions," the Governor told KAPA members. "Traveling on an airplane to personally share your appreciation with veterans means more than you will ever know."

KAPA supports organizations and events that foster goodwill between the U.S. military and Korean communities, and works closely with Korean War veterans organizations in America.

A home for the brave

Hilo celebrates grand opening of Yukio Okutsu Veterans Home



By TERRY HENNINGSON
Hawaii news staff writer

Hundreds of people turned out Monday to celebrate the grand opening of the Yukio Okutsu Veterans Home.

The facility, located at 1180 Waiwani Ave. in Hilo, is the state's first veterans home. The project was funded through state and federal grants. Construction of the 64,000-square-foot home cost \$20 million. The entire project, including demolition of the old hospital, totaled about \$70 million, according to hospital officials.

"Ladies and gentlemen, may I take this moment to honor all of our veterans that are here. It is the day for all of you, that this has been done," said Ron Schwann, Hilo Medical Center's chief executive officer.

The 97-bed nursing home and adult health center located on the Hilo Medical Center campus is named after Yukio Okutsu, one of Hilo's heroes from the 442nd Central Postal Directory and a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor. After the ceremony, guests were invited to take a tour of the facility.

The family of Yukio Okutsu was also presented with the Medal of Honor Flag by Gov. Linda Lingle and Maj. Gen. Robert G.F. Lee.

Lee said the flag was presented to home Okutsu for his bravery on Moore Beach, Iwo, on April 7, 1945. His widow, Elaine Okutsu, was visibly touched as Lee presented her with the flag and Lingle hugged her and kissed her cheek.

Randy Owen, former leader of Hilo's Hilo Okutsu Club, performed the blessing as part of the ceremony. Some in the crowd wiped away tears when the Hawaii Air National Guard played colors and everyone sang "The Star Spangled Banner" and "Hawaii Pono'i."

Speakers at the grand opening included Lingle, John Tinschert, J. Kanihira of the U.S. Pacific Command, Sen. Daniel K. Akaka, Congresswoman Mazie Hirono, Ambassador Johnnie S. Brown, Gov. Linda Lingle, Mayor Harry Kim, Thomas DeWalt Jr., president and chief executive officer of Hilo Medical Center, and David Dingerfeldt, president and chief executive officer for

See VETERANS Page A8

[A home for the brave](#)

Hawai`i Tribune-Herald,
November 13, 2007

First veterans home operated by state, named for WWII hero, opens



By TERRY HENNINGSON
Hawaii news staff writer

Hilo, Hawaii — The Yukio Okutsu Veterans Home officially opened Monday with the presentation of a flag to the widow of the World War II hero who gave the place his name.

The 97-bed, long-term-care home was named after Medal of Honor recipient Yukio Okutsu, a member of the 442nd Central Postal Directory who spent 18 months fighting in Italy. He was honored for his courage in descending three German machine gun positions on Monte Belvedere during a battle on April 7, 1945.

More than 600 people turned

out to attend Governor's Lt. Gov. Dan Claitor's opening ceremony and tour the new facility, which is now on Hilo Medical Center and is the first veterans home operated by the state government in Hawaii.

Many of the operations at the center were the state, caps and parts of old uniforms displayed with the number of veterans' badges and other medals of wartime veterans.

Among them was Army sergeant Dale Wilson, 90, who served as both an officer and an enlisted man during his 18 years of service. He was injured by a rocket-propelled grenade in Vietnam in 1966.

Walking carefully and slowly with a cane, Wilson lined up with the cheering dining room, gymnasium, theater club and living units of the new 64,000-square-foot facility. He appeared

"This is big day for me since we have been on the island because it's very difficult to find affordable housing for this for veterans. To have Hawaii at last get off the state and put me in a very important way," Wilson said.

"We were not here in the big island who have served in the military but it's difficult for them to comprehend just how hard he

The widow presented the Medal of Honor Flag to Elaine Okutsu during yesterday's dedication of the veterans home to Hilo named in honor of her late husband, Yukio Okutsu.

[First veterans home operated by state, named for WWII hero, opens](#)

Honolulu Advertiser,
November 13, 2007

Governor Highlights Innovation at Small Business Conference



Governor Lingle shared her Administration's work to preserve natural resources while raising the standard of living for Hawai'i residents.

At the 10th Biennial Hawai`i Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Conference, Governor Lingle shared her Administration's work to increase Hawai`i's capacity to compete in the global economy.

"Our world is rapidly changing through globalization, technology, science and innovation," the Governor said. "Hawai`i must adapt and stay ahead of the curve."

To achieve this goal, last January the Governor launched the Hawai`i Innovation Initiative, a comprehensive plan designed to improve the quality of life for Hawai`i residents, while preserving natural resources and reducing an over-dependence on land development.

"You are doing the type of work that will take our state forward," Governor Lingle told representatives from small technology and innovative research and development businesses. "Your efforts diversify and fuel our economy, inspire creativity in others, and provide careers for the next generation."

Governor Lingle highlighted the Hawai`i-based, high-tech company Archinoetics as a business that is leading the effort to promote innovative practices and creativity in the state. Owned by Hunter and Traci Downs, the company is focused on advancing technologies that connect humans with computing, neuroscience, engineering and physics. It began in March 2005 with six employees and has more than doubled in size.

The Hawai`i Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Conference aims to help small business entrepreneurs with new ideas for innovative products win federal grants so they can successfully transition from the

research and development phase to the point where they can create a marketable product.

-

Watch the Governor's [remarks](#).

Governor Convenes Meeting of 50th Anniversary of Statehood Commission



Governor Lingle addressed members of the 50th Anniversary of Statehood Commission during their first meeting. Also pictured from left: Kahu Curt Kekuna of Kawaiaha'o Church and Lenny Klompus, Governor Lingle's Senior Advisor - Communications.

Governor Lingle welcomed members of the 50th Anniversary of Statehood Commission as they gathered at the Hawai`i State Capitol for their first meeting.

The 25-member commission was established this year under Act 140 to develop, plan and coordinate activities to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the admission of Hawai`i to the United States.

"This celebration will be a meaningful and fun instrument to unify our state," Governor Lingle told the members. "I am excited to hear the ideas you come up with."

The Governor outlined three of the most important issues the commission will have to address: an emphasis on the past vs. the future, cultural sensitivities, and the inclusion of both residents and visitors.

"We must make certain that our young people don't take our history for granted," said Governor Lingle. "In order to celebrate this milestone, we need to remember our past and look ahead to our future."

Commission officers include Kippen de Alba Chu, chair; Keith

Vieira, vice chair; Stafford Kiguchi, vice chair - finance; Lenny Klompus, vice chair - events; and Deidre Tegarden, secretary.

Supporting University of Hawai`i - Hilo and Hawai`i Community College



From left: Carol VanCamp, member of the Governor's East Hawai'i Community Advisory Council, Governor Lingle and Harvey Tajiri, president of Hui Ka Ua.

Governor Lingle attended a dinner and auction fundraiser for Hui Ka Ua, an organization that provides support for programs and initiatives that enhance the University of Hawai`i - Hilo and Hawai`i Community College.

"Higher education is critical to progress in Hawai`i, our nation and the entire Pacific region," Governor Lingle said as she thanked members of the Hilo community for their support of the university.

"My obligation as Governor is to help our public university system thrive, and organizations such as Hui Ka Ua and partnerships with the community are key," she added.

The Governor also discussed the Big Island's world class opportunities for students, particularly in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math, and encouraged the university to take full advantage of the region's resources.

"The Big Island is an ideal classroom for science, technology and innovation," Governor Lingle said. "Astronomy on Mauna Kea is among the best on Earth, Kilauea is the world's most active volcano, the island is surrounded by the Pacific Ocean for marine studies, and there are many diverse types of agriculture to research and practice."

Hui Ka Ua was created and chartered by Hilo residents, most of whom attended UH Hilo or Hawai`i Community College at one

time.

Governor Inspires Students at Wai`anae Elementary School



Governor Lingle and Wai`anae Elementary School second and third grade students and staff.

The Governor spoke to second and third grade students living on the Leeward Coast as part of Wai`anae Elementary School's Career Day activities.

Governor Lingle shared her experiences as the leader of the state and encouraged students to set goals and follow their dreams.

"Always remember that you can be anything you want to be as long as you study hard," she said.

The students also heard from other community leaders, including a representative from the state Department of Land and Natural Resources and Grammy Award-winning music recording artist and North Shore resident Jack Johnson.

Wai`anae Elementary School educates approximately 540 students from preschool to sixth grade; and is one of the oldest schools on O`ahu, celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2005.

Waiakea High School Robotics Team Represents Hawai`i at International Competition



In April, Governor Lingle spoke to members of the Waiakea High School Robotics Team before they left Hawai'i for the FIRST Robotics Championships in Georgia.

Waiakea High School's Robotics Club returned this week from the 16th annual Micro Robot Maze Contest in Tokyo and Nagoya, Japan.

The first American secondary school to participate, the team's 17 students competed against college and high school teams with micro robots that measured either one cubic inch or one centimeter in size. With components that small, the students were required to use microscopes or magnifying lenses for much of their work.

Led by Waiakea High School teachers Dale Olive and Eric Hagiawara and mentor Riley Ceria, a Waiakea High School and University of Hawai`i Electrical Engineering graduate, the students earned first place in the Fully Autonomous Micro Robot Maze Competition (robot name: Teeny Humuhumu), third place in the Micro Robot Racer Competition (robot name: Stich.05) and the Special Judges' Award, 5th Overall Standing for the Remote Controlled Micro Robot Maze Competition (robot name: Teeny Humuhumu).

"It was very exhilarating, working with an electrical engineer," said Waiakea High School junior Kelson Lau. "You couldn't believe you could build something that small. And competing in Japan was indescribable."

Earlier this year, Governor Lingle met with members of the Waiakea High School Robotics Team before they left Hawai`i for the 2007 FIRST Robotics Championships in Atlanta, Georgia. The Governor is supporting robotics as part of the Hawai`i Innovation Initiative to engage Hawai`i students in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education.

Nuts and bolts

Waiiaka High School dominates international contest

By PETR DUB
Tribune-Herald staff writer

The first 15 years of the International Robot Match Contest have been dominated by the top-ranked high schools and universities of Japan, Korea and Guatemala.

No U.S. high school had even attempted to enter the contest, which is held in Nagoya, Japan.

This came the 17 Waiiaka High School students, who on Sunday won some

impressive hardware to go with their little bots.

Competing in the 16th annual contest against 34 international teams, including 28 universities, the robot whizzes was one category, and in other games placed third, fourth and won a "best effort" award in a fifth.

How small were these robots? There were two divisions — 1 cubic inch and one cubic centimeter. They didn't resemble the Terminator cyborgs, but

all that to the competition.

The Waiiaka team's 3-inch robot, constructed and programmed from scratch, navigated a maze without any human intervention to win the "thirty seconds minus robot maze competition."

"We were the only one to drive through and finish the maze in autonomous," said Waiiaka teacher Dale Olive. By default, they were declared winners.

See ROBOTS Page A4

[Waiiaka High School dominates international contest](#)

Hawai`i Tribune-Herald,
November 15, 2007



GOVERNOR'S WEEKLY RADIO ADDRESS

Aired Statewide beginning
Thursday, November 15 at 2:30 p.m. HST

Hawai`i Observes Homelessness Awareness Week

I proclaimed this week as Homelessness Awareness Week in Hawai`i to maintain our important focus on housing challenges. We continue making significant progress addressing the homeless problems along the Leeward Coast of O`ahu and statewide.

To date, the three new emergency shelters have helped 684 people successfully transition into permanent housing, including renting their own rooms or apartments, transitional housing, and other housing arrangements. In total, the three facilities have provided safe and secure shelter as well as meals to more than 1,900 people.

The shelters have also provided essential services to help homeless individuals and families move toward self-sufficiency, including life skills, job assistance, health and dental care, childcare, and substance abuse counseling and treatment.

We are working hard everyday toward ending homelessness in Hawai`i.

•
[Listen](#) to this address.

[Department of the Week](#)

Commerce and Consumer Affairs



Hawai'i Investor Education Specialist Theresa Kong Kee is pictured with the 2007 Investor Education Outreach Award.

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' Office of the Securities Commissioner was awarded the 2007 Investor Education Outreach Award by the North American Securities Administrator's Association (NASAA). The award was presented to Hawai`i's Investor Education Specialist, Theresa Kong Kee.

The award recognizes the state, province or territory in North America with the greatest consumer outreach through their investor education program.

"Education is a critical part of consumer protection, and the department believes that increased fraud awareness and financial literacy will help people make better financial decisions," said Commissioner of Securities Tung Chan.



Mahalo for your service.



Members of the United States Marine Corps honored their proud history through the "parade of historical uniforms."

Governor Lingle joined Lt. General John Goodman, commander, U. S. Marine Corps Forces - Pacific and Hawai`i-based Marine Corps officers and their spouses at a celebration in honor of the 232nd anniversary of the United States Marine Corps (USMC).

The USMC traces its roots to the Continental Marines of the American Revolutionary War, formed at Tun Tavern in Philadelphia, by a resolution of the Continental Congress on November 10, 1775, a date celebrated as the birthday of the Marine Corps.

We invite you to submit digital photos of your loved ones who are serving our country in the defense of freedom and liberty around the world. Please e-mail your photos and a brief caption to governor.lingle@hawaii.gov.



In the News

Bridges being reinforced to withstand quakes

[withstand quakes](#)

The Maui News, November 13, 2007

Spans over Honolulu, also show signs of being reinforced to help them withstand the shock of earthquakes.

On Maui, bridges over the sea and Honolulu streams will be rebuilt and, over to create seismic standards.

The rebuilding projects began in 1994 to comply with federal regulations.

The work has stretched more than 100 miles of the Interstate 5 highway from San Francisco to San Diego, California.

Last year's 8.7 and 8.1 magnitude earthquakes caused all the Big Island, which managed several bridges including the Kawili Bridge on Hawaii's Big Island state of Hawaii, also highlighted the importance of bridge safety.

The state is targeting the Big Island's bridges first since that state has the greatest potential for quakes, said Scott Ishikawa, spokesman for the state Department of Transportation.

Officials are studying upgrades to the 12 most critical bridges and overpasses on the Big Island, including the Maunaloa Bridge north of Kailua-Kona Harbor.

The rebuilding isn't designed to make the bridges and overpasses earthquake-proof.

But by lowering their seismic risk, they're making them more resilient.

meaning the width of the pillars that bridge it as well reinforcing the pillars with concrete and other materials, transportation officials hope to prevent collapses that could shut down highways and block emergency vehicles from getting through.

"You don't want a collapse in dollars when there's a lot of bridges," Ishikawa said. "But what will help is the bridges up and standing after an earthquake. And it's possible in enough time to fix the bridge."

Ohio, which has the most bridges, overpasses and walls, is the next priority after the Big Island, Ishikawa said.

Officials are working their way through a list of 151 potential bridges and overpasses in Ohio that also might need to be upgraded to comply with federal earthquake standards.

The rebuilding contracts for 30 more bridges and overpasses in other states are soon away because of limited funding, Ishikawa said.

Preventing similar problems by retrofitting bridges and overpasses in California.

The money has to come from just one half of the \$20 billion in so far state transportation officials receive in federal highway funds each year, Ishikawa said.

San Francisco, a University of Hawaii structural engineering professor, said the state is doing what it can given limited resources.

[Send to friends](#)

[Past Updates](#)

[Subscribe](#)

[Print](#)