



**COMMANDER, NAVY REGION HAWAII/
NAVAL SURFACE GROUP
MIDDLE PACIFIC**

**COVID-19 AWARENESS
MAY 28, 2020**



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Region and MIDPAC Ohana,

I know many of us are encouraged by positive signs of improvement on the COVID-19 front, including several days over the past week in which Hawaii had no new reported cases of the virus. We all look forward to enjoying some of the relaxations to state and local constraints that have already taken place on Kauai and are set to take place on Oahu on 5 June.

But even with these changes, some people still choose to ignore the guidelines that were so effective in reducing the spread of COVID-19. The media is still reporting instances of quarantined people breaking their 14-day restriction, and over the past weekend, local authorities broke up a large beach party of people accused of violating emergency rules at Kaena Point State Park. It is easy to understand the desire to get out and socialize, but we must continually guard against this type of complacency. Our primary goal is to preserve the ability of our servicemen and women to provide for national defense and current worldwide military missions. The bottom line: we must protect our people and preserve readiness.

We may feel ready to completely reset our operations, but that enthusiasm must be tempered with the cautious realization that moving too quickly could set the stage for an unwanted resurgence of COVID-19 cases here in Hawaii. Navy leadership has prepared the Health Protection Condition (HPCON) Framework, but we are not opening things up fully yet. We will not speculate about a specific timeline for returning operations to “normal,” because the criteria to change HPCON and installation service status is based on multiple factors and conditions. Until the proper conditions are met, we will still employ our most effective weapons in combatting COVID-19 – social distancing, heightened hygiene, disinfectant wipes and face coverings. Reduced manning criteria is still in effect at the Tier One level, not to exceed 50% of the total workforce.

You have done a great job navigating these uncharted waters and, as the numbers indicate, so have all the citizens of Hawaii. Stay vigilant as we prepare to transition to the next phase. As always, I encourage you to share your ideas, concerns, lessons, or questions as they relate to our current campaign.

Please continue to take care of yourselves and your families.

V/r, Robb

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