



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

**COVID-19 AWARENESS
APRIL 15, 2020**



COVID-19 Awareness – April 15, 2020

Region and MIDPAC Ohana,

It has been six weeks since Hawaii Governor David Ige issued a proclamation declaring a state of emergency to support ongoing State and county responses to COVID-19. This proclamation, signed 4 March, came three days before the state's first case was confirmed. Since then, we have seen numbers grow here and throughout our country and the world. We have seen major changes or cancellations of events that we could have scarcely dreamed of – high-school and college commencement ceremonies, Easter Sunrise worship services, professional sporting events, and even weddings and funerals. These and other events have been put aside in the name of social distancing to minimize the spread of COVID-19.

We have not let circumstances overwhelm us. We are fighting back. The Department of Defense is marshalling significant resources to combat this viral foe; at the same time, the leadership of state and local governments have taken dramatic steps to help to flatten the curve of the virus's growth. It has been, and continues to be, a team effort. In an ohana, everyone does their part.

Over the past few days, DOD has directed the mandatory use of face-coverings on our installations when social distancing is not achievable. This requirement goes further at our commissaries and exchange facilities, where face-coverings are now required for all patrons and staff. Many private businesses have adopted similar requirements, and local governments have enacted measures to enforce social distancing. Some people and jobs have been deemed essential and exempt from stay-at-home/work-at-home restrictions, but this does not relieve any of us of our responsibilities to the communities where we live. We share with our neighbors the duty to support measures that will ultimately benefit the health and well-being of every individual who calls Hawaii "home."

The circumstances surrounding our fight against this virus continue to change, and as they do, I will keep you informed. I cannot emphasize to you enough the vast pride I have in the determination and creativity you have consistently applied as we find answers to questions we didn't know existed only a week ago. It does not go unnoticed. In his first message to the Department of the Navy, Acting SECNAV McPherson praised the performance of the DON team:

"Today, with the extraordinary challenges posed by COVID-19, and the continual threats we face in a changing global security environment, our Nation needs you more than ever. Throughout this crisis, Sailors, Marines, and Civilians have stepped forward to protect the American people and our force...you have responded to the medical, logistics, engineering, and security requirements of our homeland during this time of need. And through it all, you have maintained the watch around the world... You are the reason I am extremely confident that we will make mission."

You can find a link to Secretary McPherson's message, along with other information and updates related to COVID-19 at the CNRH COVID-19 webpage at <https://www.cnric.navy.mil/regions/cnrh/om/coronavirusdisease->

[2019.html](#). Stay up to date by following the CNRH Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/NavyRegionHawaii/>. If you have questions you'd like to ask, plan to participate in the JBPHH leadership virtual town hall meeting on Facebook Live on Thursday, 16 April at 1200HST at <https://www.facebook.com/JBPHH/>.

Once again, thank you for continuing to support our mission, and I encourage you to let your leadership or me know of any ideas, concerns, or questions you may have.

Please continue to take care of yourselves and your families.

V/r, Robb

RDML Robb Chadwick, USN
Commander, Navy Region Hawaii/
Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific
