

# THE WEEKLY MO'OLELO

Wednesday, December 31, 2024

## HAPPY New Year



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### USS Montana Arrives at New Homeport at Pearl Harbor

The Virginia-class fast-attack submarine USS Montana (SSN 794) arrived at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) on Dec. 23 following a change of homeport from Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia. Montana's arrival marks the ninth Virginia-class fast-attack submarine home ported at JBPHH. The submarine will be assigned to Submarine Squadron 1. "Now that we're here in the Pacific, we're ready and eager to get out there doing the work of the Navy," said Cmdr. John Gilligan, commanding officer of USS Montana.



### U.S. Space Force Indo-Pacific Celebrates Service's 5th Anniversary

U.S. Space Force Indo-Pacific Guardians and community members last week celebrated the 5th anniversary of the U.S. Space Force, which was established by Congress on Dec. 20, 2019. It is the sixth military branch and the newest in 73 years. Guardians are responsible for tracking tens of thousands of space objects, protecting U.S. and allied interests in space, and conducting military space operations including space domain awareness, missile warning, satellite communication, navigation, and supporting critical intelligence and cyber operations.



### University of Hawaii at Manoa Navy ROTC Commissioning Ceremony

Vice Adm. Blake Converse, deputy commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, administered the Oath of Office to University of Hawaii Navy ROTC Midshipman 1st Class Kirsten Spillman and Midshipman 1st Class Raphael Blair during a Dec. 20 commissioning ceremony aboard the Battleship Missouri Memorial. This is the third commissioning ceremony for UH midshipmen since the program was established in 2021. The program educates and trains young men and women for leadership positions in an increasingly technical Navy and Marine Corps.





## Coast Guard, University of Hawaii Sign Memorandum of Agreement

The U.S. Coast Guard and the University of Hawaii at Manoa signed an updated memorandum of agreement (MOA) on Dec. 19 to continue the College Student Pre-Commissioning Initiative scholarship program at UH Manoa. Coast Guard Rear Adm. Sean Regan, commander of District Fourteen, and Michael Bruno, provost of UH Manoa, signed the MOA, which is designed to create more awareness about USCG recruitment efforts and provide mentorship and career development support for students interested in the Coast Guard.



## USINDOPACOM Hosts Hawaii Lawmakers

U.S. Indo-Pacific Command hosted members of the Hawaii State Legislature earlier this month at USINDOPACOM headquarters at Camp H.M. Smith. State senators and representatives met with military leaders, received strategic security briefs on the region and participated in discussions on key issues affecting local communities in Hawaii. Among those who met with lawmakers were Adm. Samuel J. Paparo, commander of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, and Adm. Stephen Koehler, commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet.



## This Week in History: December 31, 1941

On Dec. 31, 1941, Admiral Chester W. Nimitz took command of the Pacific Fleet on the deck of the submarine Grayling (SS-209) at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Nimitz remained commander throughout World War II and was the United States signatory to the surrender aboard the battleship *USS Missouri* in Tokyo Bay.



Laulima Navy underscores our responsibility to the community and the ways we work alongside partners to help and support our neighbors. Service to others and a commitment to the greater good are values we hold in high regard. It is a privilege for all of us to call Hawaii home and we seek every opportunity we can to show how much we treasure this place. In this edition, we share a few ways we help to care for the community. Scan the QR code to learn more about Laulima Navy.



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