

**U.S. Attorney Ed Kubo**  
**Introducing Hawaii's Wounded Warrior Support Program**  
**Tripler Army Medical Center**  
**May 20, 2008**

I would like to start off this morning by thanking General Stephen Jones, the Commanding General for Tripler Army Medical Center, and his staff, for allowing us to have this event here this morning. Tripler has treated our Military and their families for generations, and they continue to care for our service members in need of medical attention. I know of their service, because years ago when I was a military dependent, I was helped here as well. Thus, I am honored to be here today.

Aloha to all of you and welcome.

Each year, the month of May is recognized as our Nation's Military Appreciation Month. However, our country never waits until May to show our deep appreciation to the men and women in our Armed Forces. --- We are a country that shows our support and appreciation to our Military each and every day. And, so it rightly should be.

And, so I take this opportunity again, like I have done so many times before, – to thank all of you who are wearing our Nation's uniform. Thank you for your service to our country. Thank you for your bravery and sacrifices for our Freedoms. And, thank you for being prime examples of what our country is all about. Good and decent, moral and just, along with the Freedoms we enjoy, are the greatest virtues of America. And, these are values you represent on and off the battlefield.

Each of you are among a new generation of American Heroes, and our gratitude for your service is great --- it is deep, and it is spoken sincerely from our hearts. And, that is why it is

right for us to show our gratitude to you --- by taking care of you and your families, in much the same way that you have taken care of us --- by protecting our Freedom and our way of life against those who would harm us because they hate everything America stands for.

And it is with these national obligations in mind, that I announce today the creation of Hawaii's Wounded Warrior Community Support Program, known as "Malama na Koa," or "Caring for our Warriors."

This program is created as part of my Community Outreach Program. The U.S. Attorney's Office represents the Federal Government with all litigation in Federal Courts, --- but, we are also Public Servants, --- and service to the public should always be the responsibility of good Americans everywhere.

In the past, I have become involved in many community events, like anti-drug awareness and prevention, --- and I have also been involved in promoting and protecting our valuable Tourism Industry. With the recent national controversy surrounding the quality of care for our injured military members, I saw the need --- and the responsibility to assist our wounded warriors as well.

The mission of Malama na Koa is to promote the morale, welfare, and quality of life of those United States Armed Forces service members who have been wounded or injured, during our Global War against Terrorism, and who are in the State of Hawaii recuperating. This mission also includes assisting the families of these service members as well.

As of April 22, 2008 (last month), Hawaii had its own population of wounded and injured Warriors here in our State, with approximately 242 recovering Schofield Soldiers and Army

National Guard and Reservists. There are also another 12 Kaneohe Marines recovering from their injuries. All are being treated in various ways here at Tripler.

Additionally, at one point last year, we had a recovering Navy Sailor here in Hawaii, --- and this month, we assisted Operation Comfort, a Texas non-profit Wounded Warrior Organization, who visited our State with their 28 wounded service members, including Airmen.

Nationally, there are tens of thousands of military members in the United States defined as "Wounded or Injured Warriors." The September 2007 statistics from the U.S. Army indicates that 25% are Amputees; 20% are suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD); 16% have Traumatic Brain Injuries; 11% have significant forms of Paralysis; 8% have either Blindness or Vision Loss; and the remaining amount suffer from Burns and other injuries.

Each of them are in various stages of healing and/or dealing with a new and more challenging life. And, as you may know, their increased care will have a cascading stressful effect on their families and loved ones.

That is why Malama na Koa will make Hawaii's communities and businesses aware of the challenges facing our wounded or injured service members and their families, --- and, it will bring donors in direct contact with our Wounded Warrior Units.

This will promote Hawaii's support and assistance to them and facilitate their recovery. Our intent is simply to give these wounded warriors activities, items, and information to help them, and to ease their families' burdens, — to aid in the recovery process, — and, to give them a smoother transition back to either military life or into civilian life."

And, I am so very proud of our State because we have received such a strong and positive response to this program from our community and businesses. Through the generosity of Hawaii:

- 1) we have taken our warriors and their families to University of Hawaii Athletic Games;
- 2) we have given them Nintendo Wii Playstations, Accessories, and Gift Cards for their mobile recuperation;
- 3) we have helped them enjoy a day of snorkeling at Hanauma Bay; and,
- 4) we have gotten them access to Hawaiian Racing Canoes for their recuperation and recreational activities.

On the display tables for your review, are several more donations from our community and businesses, including:

- Four NFL Footballs for their recreation;
- 100 contemporary DVD Movies in order to create a DVD Library; and
- On its way to Hawaii are new Blue Ray DVD players.

And, there are many more activities planned, and more donations on its way, only because of Hawaii's outstanding spirit of giving. And, I would like to thank those caring and compassionate persons and businesses who have helped our injured service members with their tremendous heartfelt generosity. Only in Hawaii can all this be done. --- Only in Hawaii can we show our Nation what our aloha spirit is all about.

And so I welcome all of you this morning to this event, and I am honored to introduce you to Hawaii's Wounded Warrior Support Program, "Malama na Koa."

In closing, we will now be unveiling our “Malama na Koa” Logo, and then on behalf of my wife, Tammy, and myself, I would like to present each Wounded Warrior Unit with a check for \$500.

Thank you for coming this morning, and may God Bless all of you, and this Great Nation.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

- **Speaker** – Upon unveiling of Malama na Koa Logo]  
“Ladies and Gentlemen, the Logo for Malama na Koa.”
  
- **Speaker**  
“ U.S. Attorney Ed Kubo will now present a check for \$500 to the Army Wounded Warrior Unit – followed by presenting another check for \$500 to the Marine Corp Wounded Warrior Unit.”  
“Will the representatives of each Unit please come forward to accept these donations.”
  
- **Speaker**  
“U.S. Attorney Kubo will now present Ms. Mildred Courtney, Military Liaison for Outrigger Hotels and Resorts, with the Distinguished Public Service Award, for her outstanding contributions to the Wounded Warrior Program and to our Military in Hawaii.”
  
- **Speaker**  
“U.S. Attorney Kubo will now award “Certificates of Patriotism” to the following individuals for their outstanding contributions to Malama na Koa:
  - ❖ University of Hawaii Athletics Department
  - ❖ Sony Hawaii Company
  - ❖ USO Hawaii
  - ❖ Mr. Karl Kiyokawa, Vice President Tri-West Healthcare
  - ❖ Mr. Alan Hong, Manager, Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve
  - ❖ Mr. Dan Dennison, Manager of KHNL News
  - ❖ HPD Sergeant David Barnett
  - ❖ HPD Officer Leland Cadoy
  
- **Speaker**  
“That concludes our ceremony today. Thank you all for coming.”  
“U.S. Attorney Kubo and our other guests will be entertaining all media questions in the side area of this Lanai. Thank you again, and have a nice day.”  
**[END OF EVENT]**