



Media Release

Public Affairs Office
U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii
(808)656-3157
“Malama na Koa”

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Army offering NAGPRA workshop, Thursday

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii — U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii (USAG-HI) and its Native Hawaiian Liaison Office are holding a Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) workshop at the Hale Koa Hotel in Waikiki, July 29, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The purpose of the workshop is to share the NAGPRA process with the Native Hawaiian community and to explain the process by which Native Hawaiian Organizations and lineal descendants may claim human remains, cultural items, and items of cultural patrimony.

Enacted in 1990, NAGPRA is a Federal law that requires museums and Federal agencies, including the military, to inventory and return Native American cultural items -- human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of ancestral cultural heritage -- to lineal descendants and/or culturally affiliated Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations.

“When the Army and local Native Hawaiian representatives signed the Native Hawaiian Covenant March 24, we pledged to engage in proactive dialogue and to better educate each other on our cultures, values, issues and actions,” said Col. Douglas S. Mulbury, commander, USAG-HI. “We are offering this free workshop as an avenue to assist Native Hawaiians in learning about their rights under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, and how the act applies to those seeking repatriation of remains and artifacts.”

“The sharing of information is so important for many reasons,” said Annelle Amaral, Native Hawaiian liaison, USAG-HI. “For the community, access to this type of information empowers Native Hawaiians to care for our kuleana. For the Army, the workshop is an opportunity to better explain these sometimes confusing laws and procedures.

“We hope that our community members involved in the management, preservation and stewardship of our cultural heritage join us,” Amaral added.

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The NAGPRA workshop is free and open to the public. Seating is limited and registration is required. For more information, or to register, please contact the Native Hawaiian Liaison Office at (808) 655-9694.

Since NAGPRA's inception, 38,671 remains; 1,142,894 funerary objects; and 4,303 sacred objects have been transferred to lineal descendants, culturally affiliated Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations throughout the United States.

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MEDIA NOTE: Media interested in attending the workshop should contact the USAG-HI Public Affairs office at 656-3157 or 656-3160.