

## Visiting the Army Tax Centers

For those of you who haven't heard, the Schofield Tax Center is now open for business. Before you plan your trip, however, there are a few things you will want to know (as we would hate to have to turn you away). There are several important documents that you must bring with you.

Number one on this list is an ID that entitles you to the free Tax Center services. This could be your Active Duty Military ID, Reserve ID, Military Dependent ID, or Retiree ID. In addition you will need Social Security Cards for any and all dependents. If you do not have a Social Security card for a dependent, we will accept a DEERS printout that includes their Social Security Number. If you are a military spouse, and your SSN is not listed on your ID card, we will still need to see a form of identification that includes your full SSN.

This is not all. You will also need to bring any and all documentation that substantiates any pay or income you may have received during 2010. Many of our clients will bring their W-2 to show their wages, a 1099-INT to show interest earned from a bank account, a 1099-DIV to show dividend income, a 1099-B that will show capital gains, and perhaps a 1099-MISC that will show any rental income received during the year. These are all forms of income that MUST be reported. A good rule of thumb is to bring anything that you have received that is labeled an "IMPORTANT TAX DOCUMENT".

To potentially increase your refund, you will want to bring your 1098 mortgage interest statement if you have a mortgage, statements from your bank listing any IRA or other retirement contributions, tuition statements from schools you have attended and receipts from child care services. If you paid college tuition out-of-pocket, or paid student loans, you will want to bring your 1098-T or 1098-E.

If you are filing Married Filing Jointly and your spouse is not with you, you will need to bring a Power of Attorney (signed by the unavailable spouse) that will allow you to sign the return on their behalf. The IRS has their own POA, form 2848 that you can find on their website, but oftentimes a clause allowing a spouse to file taxes is included in Special POAs for deploying Soldiers.

Last but not least, do not forget to bring your bank account number and your bank's routing number. These are needed if you would like your refund directly deposited to your account.

We hope to see you at the Tax Center! Remember to check us out on Facebook at "Hawaii Army Tax Centers" where we will be constantly updating our estimated wait times. We expect an early rush during the first few weeks of the tax season as well as a last minute rush during the last few weeks leading up to the 18 April filing deadline. At these peak times, the wait can be 4-5 hours, so please plan accordingly. You may want to consider leaving your younger children with a friend or babysitter. Our hours are Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-4 p.m., through 29 April.