

Liberty Program caters to single service members

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Ho'okele Staff

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Stationed far from their hometowns, single, unaccompanied active duty military members often find themselves alone with lots of free time.

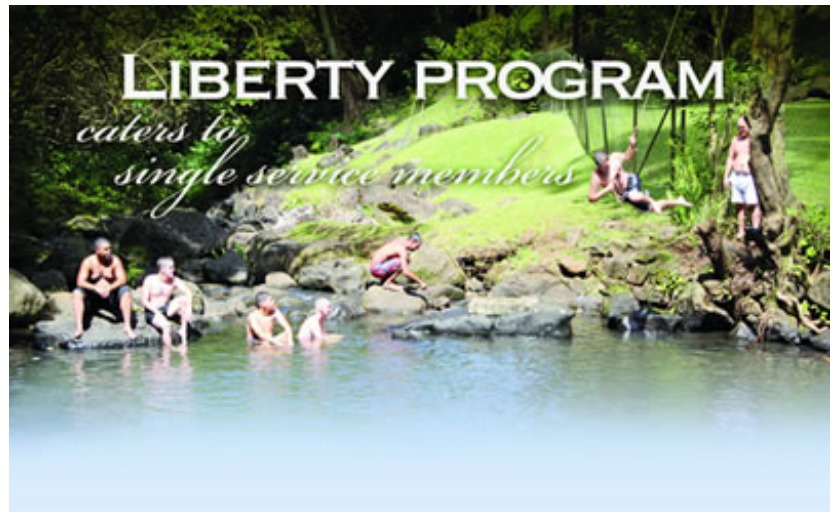
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam's Liberty Program is devoted to providing fun recreational alternatives for the single Sailor and Airman on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH).

Greg Brown, Liberty director, described his program as one that caters to all active duty service members on base who fit the specific category of single, unaccompanied personnel within the Navy or Air Force.

Their focus is on younger enlisted (E1-E6) men and women, but they welcome others who fit into the realm of their target audience. That includes "geo-bachelors," those whose duty station keeps them separated from family.

"It is designed specifically for those that don't have families while in Hawaii. That is what we're here for," Brown said.

Three facilities are operated within the confines of JBPHH: Beeman Center, Instant Liberty and at Wahiawa Annex, Liberty Express.



A fourth, the Gathering Place, is funded and supported by Liberty but is run by volunteers. All centers offer

a comfortable environment where the single Sailor or Airman can relax. As Brown described it, "They're meant to be like your home away from home."

Amenities include multiple big screen televisions to watch the latest movies or play favorite video games, pool tables, computer stations and free Wi-Fi.

"The main thing is, they have an outlet to come to when they have free time and nothing to do. It's an atmosphere where they can sit down, relax and do whatever they want," Brown said.

Food and drink are welcome at all centers, but alcohol and tobacco products are prohibited. Liberty runs activities in-house, including video game, pool and ping pong tournaments and Texas Hold'em. Larger events such as pampered nights and live entertainment are also offered on occasion.

Outside excursions get service members acquainted with the island.

"In my opinion, we're living in one of the best places in the world. So you can do a lot more, especially if you're an outdoorsy person. There are tons of things to do," said Brown. Activities include hiking, kayaking and dinners.

Despite the effects of sequestration, Liberty still covers all or most of the expenses involved so their patrons are never paying full price.

Brown believes strongly in the importance of giving the young servicemen something to do rather than just sitting in their barracks.

"On the weekend they might have nothing to do, so they say, 'sure, why not?' and if we get one person that ends up picking up that activity and likes it then great," Brown said.

Thousands of single, unaccompanied service members are stationed on JBPHH, but only a small percentage use Liberty's services, according to Brown.

"For the amount of single and unaccompanied Sailors and Airmen (on this base), they don't utilize the centers as much as they could," Brown said. Efforts have been made to reach out to other organizations on base.

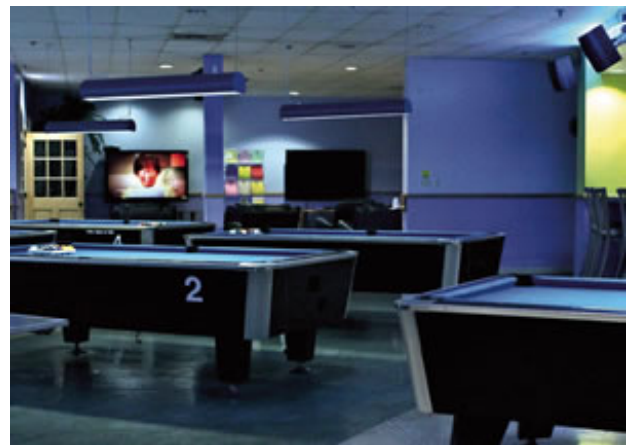
Liberty has begun working with CSADD (Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions) to reach their young audience.

"We are always looking for more interested parties to participate in Liberty programs," Brown said.

Senior enlisted and officers are also welcome to contact Brown.



The Liberty Program provides activities for single Sailors and Airmen. MWR Marketing photos



Liberty can work on activities and excursions with them as long as it fits in the parameter of the single, unaccompanied Sailor or Airman.

“In my eyes, that’s what we’re here for. That’s the good part of the job,” said Brown.

For more information email gregory.r.brown3@navy.mil or call him at Beeman Center at 473-2583.

Liberty Program offers activities for single service members

MWR’s Liberty Program provides recreational alternatives for the single Sailor and Airman at joint base.

Greg Brown, liberty director, described his program as one that caters to all active duty personnel on base that fit the specific category of single, unaccompanied personnel within the Navy or Air Force.

“It is designed specifically for those that don’t have families while in Hawaii. That is what we’re here for,” Brown said. The program serves to help the young service member stay out of trouble, he explained.

Three facilities are operated within JBPHH: Beeman Center, Instant Liberty and Liberty Express at Wahiawa Annex. A fourth, the Gathering Place, is funded and supported by Liberty but is run by volunteers.

All centers are designed to offer a comfortable environment where the single Sailor or Airman can relax.

“They’re meant to be like your home away from home,” Brown said.