



# HAWAII VETERAN

## STATE OF HAWAII OFFICE OF VETERANS' SERVICES

### Daniel K. Akaka State Veterans Home

Story and Photos by  
**Jayne Nagamine**

On March 27, 2025, the Daniel K. Akaka State Veterans Home (DKA SVH) held its grand opening. The home is located at 91-1204 Kealanani Ave. across the street from the Kapolei Walmart. This 120-bed facility sits on seven acres and will provide post-acute care and rehabilitation services.

The home is appropriately named after the late Hawai'i Senator Daniel Kahikina Akaka. He championed veterans' rights and expanded GI Bill benefits. Senator Akaka worked



*Danny Kahikina Akaka Jr., performs the State Veterans Home blessing with Millie Akaka, widow of the late Sen. Daniel K. Akaka and family.*



**For more information on the Daniel K. Akaka State Veterans Home**  
**Email:** [info@dkasvh.org](mailto:info@dkasvh.org)  
**Ph:** (808) 751-3270  
**Website:** [www.dkasvh.org](http://www.dkasvh.org)

to improve lives and foster mutual respect, a legacy that continues in his name.

The State of Hawai'i Office of Veterans' Services has been working on this project for over 15 years to gathering support from the Hawai'i Legislature, securing funds, finding the land to place the home and so much more. Thank you to all the state departments for their support in creating this veterans' home. The Office of Veterans Services is working on the next veterans' home to be in Maui.

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# Daniel K. Akaka State Veterans Home (DKA SVH) Dedication Ceremony



*Gov. Josh Green met with a few of the first residents at the DKA SVH.*



*The first residents at the DKA SVH watched the ceremony.*





# Col.(R)Ronald P. Han Jr. Room Dedication

Story and Photos by  
Jayme Nagamine

The Office of Veterans' Services (OVS) held a ceremony dedicating a room for the late Col. (R) Ronald P. Han Jr. at the Daniel K. Akaka State Veterans Home (DKA SVH). Col. Han was an instrumental advocate in making the DKA SVH a reality. As OVS Director for 12 years, Col. Han was there at the beginning asking legislators for initial approval and design of the home.

At the ceremony, the son of the late Col. Han said his father dreamed of a veterans' home on every island. "It was a passion of my dad to get a home on every island," said Ronald "Ronnie" Han III. "He said he won't stop until there's a veterans' home on every island. Since there's already one in Hilo, they need one on Kona side too." The OVS will honor his legacy and continue establishing homes on as many islands as possible.

During the ceremony, we were lead with a prayer from Pastor William "Billy" Han. Gov. Josh Green pro-



**Col. (Ret) Tommy Driskill unveiled the bronze memorial plaque with Col. Han's wife Terry, son Ronnie and daughter Shondie.**

claimed it Col. Ronald P. Han Jr. Day. Friends and family called the DKA SVH his "baby." But he wouldn't see it to completion — Col. Han died in August 2023 at the age of 62. Col. (Ret) Tommy Driskill unveiled the bronze memorial plaque with Col. Han's wife Terry Han, son Ronald Han III and daughter Shondie Han present.

Friends and family spoke about how Col. Han would be rolling his eyes at all of us because he never liked receiving credit for his service, ded-

ication and hard work. He avoided the spotlight and would rather shine the light on someone else's service. Maj. General Stephen F. Logan, Adjutant General, Col. Han's son Ronald Han III, Col. (R) Clay Park and John Condello offered remembrances and stories about Col. Han. He lived his life with tremendous humility, compassion and gratitude. Col. Han had an unparalleled ability to uplift and inspire. His huge heart and immense passion were truly a gift, and he will be forever missed.



**Han Family pictured: Tehane Han, Terry Han, Ronnie Han, Shondie and James Takemoto.**





# Daniel K. Akaka State Veterans Home Quilt Donation



*Above, Evelyn, Wayne Kajiwarra Family Pictured: Evelyn, Wayne and grandchildren showing the DKA SVH staff a sample of the quilts that they made. At right, some of the quilts that the staff placed on beds in the veterans home. It gave each room a unique and homey feel. (DKA SVH photos)*

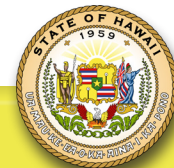
Wayne and Evelyn Kajiwarra have been in contact with the Office of Veterans' Services' Tommy Driskill, Healthcare Coordinator, offering to provide the Daniel Kahikina Akaka State Veterans Home (DKA SVH) with 120 handmade lap quilts for the Veterans who come to stay in the home. "Wayne and Evelyn Kajiwarra had made a truly magnanimous gesture in that Wayne provided all supplies and Evelyn personally sewed each of the 120 lap quilts herself," commented Driskill.

The Kajiwaras delivered the quilts in the first week of February 2025 and displayed some of the quilts for the DKA SVH staff. The Kajiwaras hope a quilt will be placed in each room to make every Veteran or spouse feel warmer and more

at home. The staff placed the quilts on beds during the grand opening ceremony and tour of the DKA SVH on March 26, 2025. The quilts added color and warmth, and made each room look unique.

The first Veteran patients were accepted on Feb. 4, 2025. The home started with six veterans with plans to add a few more every month. The DKA SVH staff will ramp up in sync with the increasing number of patient enrollment.

As of June 3, 2025, there are 20 veterans at this facility.



## STATE OF HAWAII OFFICE OF VETERANS' SERVICES

**459 Patterson Road  
E-Wing, Room 1-A103  
Honolulu, HI 96819-1522**

**Governor Josh Green  
Commander in Chief**

**Major General  
Stephen F. Logan  
The Adjutant General**

**Lieutenant Colonel  
John P. Alamodin  
OVS Director**

**Jayme Nagamine  
Editor**