

PMRF Kaua'i

E Pane Mai Ka Nonoi O Nohili
Answering the Requests of Nohili

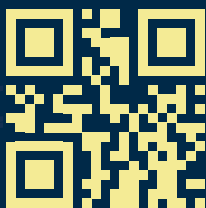


Aloha and Welcome!

Aloha and welcome to the quarterly newsletter for Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) Barking Sands! This newsletter is intended to be a resource to Kaua'i communities for information about PMRF and its role in national defense, the Navy's stewardship efforts to protect natural and cultural resources within its care, and its role as a good neighbor and community partner. Here you can find information on ongoing and upcoming environmental impact analyses, community events, and updates related to military testing and training activities.

Also, visit our new website at PMRFKauai.com and subscribe to receive future notices! We want to keep you up-to-date on upcoming military projects, community events, and our marine, terrestrial, and cultural stewardship programs.

PMRFKauai.com



Get to Know the New CO!

Pacific Missile Range Facility is honored and excited to introduce the Kaua'i community to our new commanding officer, Captain Robert Prince. Captain Prince joined our PMRF family on June 5, 2025. Below he discusses his Navy career, leadership style, and first months on Kaua'i.

Why did you join the Navy?

I applied for a Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps college scholarship as a way to pay for college and serve my country, but I didn't really have any expectations to stay in the Navy past my initial four-year commitment. I always had an interest in aviation, and like most kids in the 80's, I grew up watching Top Gun. Flying has been an absolute blast, especially flying F/A-18s from aircraft carriers, but what got me interested in staying in the Navy was the people I worked with. Whether it's people I worked for or, as I got into leadership positions, the people working for me, they motivated me day in and day out to do the mission.

Do you have a motto or personal mantra that you live by?

Anything that's worth doing is worth doing right.

One of the things I really like about serving in the Navy is that you're part of something much bigger than yourself, and it takes a lot of people coming together to move the ball. Seeing everyone do their job well, coming together as a team, and making a difference is what really inspires me, not just the individual effort, but the collective efforts and the teamwork.

What are some of the highlights of your Navy career? How did they contribute to getting to where you are now?

Things that really stick out in my mind are the challenging times. Even though they weren't fun at the time, when you look back at them you can see the challenges you've overcome and get a great sense of pride from being a part of that team.



Captain Robert Prince, PMRF commanding officer, communicates with community members about the importance and contributions of PMRF to Kaua'i.

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When I think about it, what I really enjoyed was being surrounded by people with a “can do” attitude who rose to the occasion. While I have been surrounded by the military for most of my career, I worked with a lot of civilians in my last job at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, and I witnessed the same commitment and attitude from them.

What is your model for leadership?

A leader should enable and empower their teams to do their job. My goal is to break down barriers and try to help the organization function at its peak. If you’re doing everything right as a leader, you can create an organization that functions smoothly without you. The goal is to ultimately empower the people at the right levels to do their jobs and make sure they’re able to be successful.

What has your experience on Kaua’i been like so far?

I grew up in a small town in upstate New York, and then during my time in the Navy, the small town of Lemoore, California, became my home. The quiet life here on Kaua’i is perfectly fine with me and my family. We enjoy the opportunity to reconnect with nature and enjoy time together and with the tight-knit community here on the west side of the island. Everyone has been so welcoming and has made the transition much easier for my family.

How do you intend to make an impact while here?

First and foremost, accomplishing our mission always needs to be at the forefront of the mind. The mission of PMRF is unique and I’m still trying to fully understand its implications, but we need to ensure we’re always ready because the entire fleet is counting on us to do our job.

How we accomplish our mission is also important. We need to be good neighbors, so I’m always looking for ways that we can have a positive impact on the local community. We also need to take care of our team, making sure their physical, mental, and spiritual needs are being met.

If you could tell your younger self one thing, what would you say?

I would say be open to new things and don’t shut any doors unnecessarily.

The advice I always give to junior Sailors is to keep your opportunities open: study for that exam even if you don’t know if you want to stay in the Navy, work hard in school and get good grades even if you don’t like your classes. Even if you don’t love what you’re doing now or don’t know what you want to do, you may find something along the way that you’re really passionate about.

“I am excited for the opportunity to serve as the commanding officer at PMRF. It is an honor to serve at a command that is so embedded in the local community while being the keystone in maintaining our status as the greatest fighting force the world has ever seen. I look forward to strengthening the bonds PMRF has formed with our community, our allies, and our partners.”

– Captain Robert Prince speaking at the PMRF change of command ceremony on June 5, 2025.



Captain Robert Prince briefs executives from the State of Hawai'i's Military and Community Relations Office (MACRO) and Scott Glenn, senior adviser to the governor, during their visit to Kaua'i.

Public Access at PMRF: Guest Card Program

The Pacific Missile Range Facility is one of the most accessible Navy installations in the world, and PMRF leadership always seeks to balance public access and mission requirements.

The Navy currently authorizes recreational access to certain areas of the facility through the PMRF Guest Card Program. Cardholders enjoy main gate access 365 days a year (unless heightened Force Protection Conditions are in effect) between the hours of 5:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. The card allows guests to access to the following leisure activities on the base:

- Beach access (includes parking and showers)
- Shenanigans Bar & Restaurant
- Mana Motors for automobile, motorcycle, and trailer safety inspections
- Mana Car Wash
- Waiapua'a Bay Trail
- Fishing at Kini Kini Ditch (weekends and federal holidays only; includes parking. For updates, hours, and access information, call 808-335-4229.)

The processing fee for a guest card is \$25. PMRF accepts all major credit cards, but please note:

- Applicants must be U.S. citizens and at least 18 years of age.
- PMRF Guest Card holders are not permitted to sponsor guests over the age of 18.
- Passes are valid for one year from the date the background check is completed.



Building Lasting Community Ties

This spring and summer, PMRF continued to build ties to Kaua'i's future workforce and connect with its people. The base hosted young adults for three internship programs; two internships were in high-tech STEM fields and the third encouraged Waimea High School seniors to learn about PMRF's Fire and Emergency Services Department.

This year marked the first time that PMRF hosted Waimea Canyon Middle School students and teachers for a career fair and tour. Students attended rotating presentations and live equipment demonstrations and toured facilities showcasing a mix of career options, from fitness instructors and first responders to engineers and biologists. Students were interested to know that PMRF careers included positions that support outside agencies, such as the County of Kaua'i and Department of Land and Natural Resources. Many were also excited to learn that they could work in technical fields at PMRF and build their careers on Kaua'i.



PMRF also hosted this year's only live Independence Day fireworks show during the annual America's Most West Freedom Fest on July 3, 2025. The Independence Day celebration is PMRF's annual open base event with live music and food from local vendors. More than 6,500 residents and island guests attended the celebration.

Hālau Ka Pā Hula O Hīnano dance hula during America's Most West Freedom Fest at PMRF.

Navy and NASA Receive Valuable Public Input on Real Estate Environmental Analysis

The Navy and NASA held three public meetings in July 2025 to support the public involvement process for the PMRF and Kōke'e Park Geophysical Observatory (KPGO) Real Estate Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

A Draft EIS for the proposed real estate action was made publicly available on June 20, 2025. In the Draft EIS, the Navy proposes to retain the use of 8,172 acres of state lands (684 acres of leaseholds; 7,488 acres of easement lands) on Kaua'i in support of continued and ongoing military training, testing, and facility operations at PMRF. NASA proposes to retain the use of 23 acres of state lands (16 acres of leaseholds; 7 acres of easement lands) on Kaua'i in support of maintaining data collection efforts of global significance at KPGO. The Proposed Action is needed because the existing real estate agreements for these state lands are set to expire between 2027 and 2030. Navy use of these state lands is required to maintain technological and safety capabilities supporting PMRF training and testing. Navy training and testing operations do not occur on these state lands. The environmental effects of these training and testing operations are fully analyzed in previous, focused environmental documents.

Public involvement is an integral part of the environmental planning process. The public has an important role in providing input to help the applicants (Navy and NASA) and the accepting authority for the State EIS (Board of Land and Natural Resources) make more informed decisions about the proposed real estate action. At the July meetings and through an online portal, the Navy and NASA received verbal and written input on the Draft EIS from citizens, state and local government officials and agencies, and other stakeholders.

Each public meeting included a livestreamed broadcast, public comment opportunity, and information stations. The public was encouraged to attend any of the public meetings to talk story, learn more, and submit written or oral comments either in person or online. More than 160 people attended the public meetings, either in person or online.

The Navy and NASA value and welcome input from the community, as well as the chance to share, communicate, and inform the community about the Draft EIS and the need for the real estate agreements. Through the public involvement and stakeholder engagement process, the Navy and NASA provided more than a dozen briefings to stakeholders and received 177 oral and written comments from the public. These comments are now being considered in the development of the Final EIS. For additional information, please visit the EIS website at PMRF-KPGO-EIS.com.

The Navy and NASA thank you for your comments on the Draft EIS!



The Navy and NASA receive valuable input from the Kaua'i community at recent public meetings.

PMRF Bids Fair Winds and Following Seas to Captain Brett Stevenson

PMRF held a change of command ceremony on June 5, 2025. Captain Robert A. Prince relieved Captain Brett A. Stevenson as commanding officer of PMRF. The ceremony is a time-honored naval tradition and serves as a visual representation of this important transfer of authority, emphasizing the continuity of leadership and unity at PMRF.

Stevenson thanked his family, friends, and the entire PMRF team for their support, trust, and dedication to duty. Stevenson added that Kaua'i is unique to anywhere he had served during his 35 years in the Navy. "My time here has been incredibly rewarding," said Captain Stevenson. "The kindness and support that this community has shown me is unparalleled. Captain Prince, you're going to develop relationships here that will last for the rest of your life. The connections I've made here have engrained in me my kuleana to the 'āina, our 'ohana, and the safety of not only our great nation at large but also the families right here on Kaua'i. I am proud to say that I am not giving up my kuleana but sharing it with my successor Captain Prince."

Following the ceremony, Captain Stevenson retired after 35 years of distinguished service.



Captain Brett Stevenson (left), outgoing commanding officer of PMRF, is relieved by Captain Robert Prince (right) during a change of command ceremony. Rear Admiral Stephen Barnett (center), commander, Navy Region Hawai'i, officiates the turnover.

Kaua'i Veterans Council Honors America's Fallen Service Members



(Left to right) PMRF Commanding Officer Captain Robert Prince, Kaua'i Mayor Derek Kawakami, former PMRF Commanding Officer Captain Brett Stevenson, and Officer in Charge of Coast Guard Station Kaua'i Chief Petty Officer Michael McHugh attend the Memorial Day ceremony at the Kaua'i Veterans Cemetery in Hanapēpē.

Kaua'i Veterans Council held a Memorial Day ceremony at the Kaua'i Veterans Cemetery in Hanapēpē in honor of America's fallen service members. The local ceremony included a color guard presentation, guest speakers, a Hawaiian prayer blessing, and wreath and lei presentations. PMRF commanding officer, Captain Brett Stevenson, and incoming commanding officer, Captain Robert Prince, were in attendance and participated in the lei presentations and reflections alongside local and visiting veterans, active-duty service members, local officials, community organizations, and families.

PMRF Prepares for 'Dark Skies' as Fledging Season Begins

The annual fledging of Newell's shearwaters ('A'o) and Hawaiian petrels ('Ua'u) on Kaua'i runs from Sept. 15 to Dec. 15, marking a critical period for two of Hawai'i's most threatened seabirds. Each year, young seabirds leave their mountain burrows for the first time and make their way to the ocean using the moon and stars as guides. Unfortunately, bright artificial lights can disorient fledglings, putting them at risk of injury or death.

The PMRF Dark Skies Program plays a vital role in protecting these birds by reducing light pollution and ensuring safer passage for fledglings. Since the program's inception, the number of fallen seabirds at PMRF has decreased significantly. PMRF reminds residents and businesses to do their part by dimming or shielding lights at night; reporting any downed seabirds to the Shearwater Hotline at 808-635-5117; and taking any downed bird to the nearest aid station.



To learn more visit [PMRFKauai.com](https://www.pmrfaa.com)

PMRF and Lineal Descendants Honor Ancestral Native Hawaiians at Annual Summer Solstice Ceremony

While primarily focused on training and testing, PMRF's civilians and Sailors are also committed to supporting efforts that make a lasting positive impact on the environment, cultural resources, and the community.

When ancestral Native Hawaiian remains are unearthed on base by changing tides, PMRF works in consultation with the lineal descendants on the most appropriate path forward, whether in reburying the remains in place or conducting an archeological process and cultural ceremony to inter the remains during the Summer Solstice. On the first day of summer, families with lineal ties to Mānā gathered at Lua Kupapa'u O Nohili (Nohili crypt) on PMRF for the annual Summer Solstice ceremony in a sacred duty to honor the iwi kūpuna (ancestral remains) who rest on these grounds.



The ho'okupu (gift) presentation takes place during the Ka Māui'iki'i o ke Kawela, Summer Solstice, ceremony at the Lua Kupapa'u O Nohili (crypt).



PMRF officials attend the Governor's Luncheon. (Left to right) Hawaii Range Complex Sustainment Coordinator Tim Ashby, SAIC; Barking Sands Fire and Emergency Services Asst. Chief of Operations Jason Peralta, Koa Lani JV LLC; PMRF Commanding Officer Captain Robert Prince; PMRF Community Planning Liaison Kaulana Mossman; Governor Josh Green, M.D.; PMRF Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Fleet and Family Readiness Director Jeffrey Shaw; PMRF Deputy Public Works Officer Thomas Nizo; PMRF Senior Enlisted Chief Eddie Ko.

PMRF Connects with Local Businesses and Government Officials at Governor's Event

The 27th Annual Governor's Luncheon, hosted by the Kaua'i Chamber of Commerce, was held on Aug. 11, 2025, at the Koloa Landing Resort at Poipu. Hawai'i Governor Josh Green, M.D., briefed attendees on the State's affairs and participated in a Q&A segment with local residents. As the island's leading technology employer, PMRF is a proud community leader and continues to establish connections with our local businesses and government officials to stay current on county and state policies. We continue to be a community resource for education groups, environmental protection, and natural resource conservation.

Interns Shine in PMRF's Summer Program

Five college students spent part of their summer at PMRF to broaden their skills and gain work experience in a real-world setting. The summer interns were provided housing, transportation, and a stipend for 10 weeks. This is the fifth year that PMRF is participating in the Test Resource Management Center Summer Intern Program, which aims to provide a pipeline of workforce talent to support future Department of Defense test and evaluation (T&E) demands.

More than 160 universities were solicited for this competitive program. The interns apply their knowledge, broaden their skills, and gain valuable experience through exposure to T&E.

In addition to direct engagement via PMRF mentors on range activities and projects, interns also participate in weekly talks with top leadership on T&E topics such as autonomy, AI, directed energy, hypersonics, and careers in T&E.

The PMRF Team was thrilled to work alongside these bright, talented students this summer to help them prepare for their future careers.



Congratulations and mahalo to PMRF's 2025 Test Resource Management Center Summer Interns: Kailea Danielson, Joe-Ansel Pupilava, David Rickards, Alicia Shi, and Amanda Wills!