



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

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Sen. Inouye, Mayor Kenoi and Others Join the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to Recognize Munitions Clean-up Efforts on Hawaii Island

By Honolulu District Public Affairs

(FORT SHAFTER, HI NR-25-10) Hawaii's Senior Sen. Daniel K. Inouye and Big Island Mayor Billy Kenoi visited the Waimea area of Hawaii, Oct. 18, to recognize one of the largest ongoing environmental cleanups of unexploded ordnance (UXO) in the United States.

Accompanying Sen. Inouye and Mayor Kenoi were U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Pacific Ocean Division Commander Colonel Edward Kertis and Tony Paresa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District, Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management.

Both the senator and mayor said they were pleased with the Corps for employing Native Hawaiian entities to conduct this ordnance removal work. In the past, this highly specialized work went to large mainland based contractors with uniquely qualified ordnance technicians.

In addition, Sen. Daniel Inouye recently announced that the Corps recently awarded a \$8.4 million contract to Alu Like Enterprises/Environet Inc JV, an 8(a)/Native Hawaiian Organization, to continue work at the Waikoloa Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) on the island of Hawaii.

Under this contract, the Corps awarded the work to a joint venture made up of Alu Like Enterprises and Environet Inc., both Native Hawaiian owned entities. In partnership with the University of Hawaii Community College system, these organizations have trained nearly 60 Hawaii residents to become ordnance technicians and many of them have been hired for entry level positions paying slightly over \$50,000 annually.

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FUDS Ceremony 2/2/2/2

The services under this contract will allow the ongoing clearance and clean-up of unexploded ordnance from the 101,265 acre World War II military training in the Waikoloa-Waimea area of the Big Island.

Many of these individuals were unemployed due to the slowdown in the Big Island's construction industry but now possess highly skilled positions in a unique industry, as a result of the U.S. Army Corps' initiative to hire locally.

Funding for this cleanup comes from the Formerly Used Defense Site Program which is managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Sen. Inouye is a strong proponent for these efforts.

Mayor Kenoi was especially pleased with this Army Corps' effort because it helps make the Waimea and Waikoloa communities safer and has a significant economic impact upon the area.

During Monday's visit, Sen. Inouye personally greeted each one of the Environet ordnance technicians and presented promotion certificates to three of them. They are all Hawaii residents.

Owen Sarsona (originally from Makawao, Maui and a veteran of the Kahoolawe cleanup) was promoted to UXO Technician III. Marlon Chung and Clyde Quiniones were also promoted to UXO Technician II. These promotions are significant because it is one of the first known instances where local hires have been promoted to these senior level UXO positions.

Over 65 years ago the Waikoloa and Waimea communities were the home to some 50,000 U.S. servicemen who trained and prepared for many of the historic battles fought in the Pacific during WWII. Training in the former Waikoloa Maneuver Area included artillery and mortar fire, and other live fire training in an area encompassing over 130,000 acres.

The Corps has been removing munitions and explosives of concern at Waikoloa Maneuver Area since 2002, and has cleared approximately 13,600 acres, disposed of over 2,100 items and recycled over 250 tons of former military and munitions debris.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is committed to ensure the health and safety of the local community and the health of the environment and stresses that munitions encountered by the public should never be touched or handled.

If someone should come across unexploded ordnance, the Corps urges them to follow the Three Rs:

- Recognize – that you may have seen ammunition
- Retreat – do not touch it
- Report – tell the police (call 911), a life guard or another authority figure