



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMVETS HAWAII AWARDED FY27 STAFF SERGEANT PARKER GORDON FOX SUICIDE PREVENTION GRANT

Federal grant strengthens community-based veteran suicide prevention, outreach, connection, and access to resources across Hawaii

EWA BEACH, HAWAII — September 2026 — AMVETS Hawaii Service Foundation Corp. and the AMVETS Department of Hawaii are proud to announce the award of Fiscal Year 2027 funding through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program (SSG Fox SPGP).

The federal grant will strengthen AMVETS Hawaii's continuing efforts to prevent veteran suicide through community-based outreach, connection to services and resources, stronger partnerships, and engagement with veterans and families who may not otherwise be connected to traditional systems of care.

The Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program supports eligible community organizations that are positioned to reach veterans where they live, work, and engage with their communities. For AMVETS Hawaii, the FY27 award represents another important investment in a comprehensive veteran-support network centered at the AMVETS West Oahu Veterans Center in Ewa Beach.

"This grant is about reaching veterans before they reach a crisis," said Donovan A. Lazarus, Commander, AMVETS Department of Hawaii, and President & CEO, AMVETS Hawaii Service Foundation Corp. "Our responsibility does not begin when a veteran walks through our door. We must be present in the community, build relationships, recognize when someone may need support, and make sure our veterans and their families know that resources and people are available to help."

A Community-Based Approach to Veteran Suicide Prevention

Through the FY27 Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant, AMVETS Hawaii will continue building a coordinated community approach emphasizing outreach, connection, prevention, and timely access to appropriate resources. Grant-supported efforts will strengthen the organization's ability to engage veterans and their families, provide suicide-prevention education and outreach, identify individuals who may benefit from additional assistance, connect eligible veterans with VA and community resources, and reinforce referral relationships among organizations serving Hawaii's military and veteran communities.

The initiative complements AMVETS Hawaii's broader programs that create opportunities for veterans to remain active, connected, engaged, and supported. At the AMVETS West Oahu Veterans Center, veterans and community members participate in adaptive fitness and sports, Big Tire Bootcamp, adaptive gaming and esports, martial arts, Tai Chi Po Fit, youth and family activities, volunteer projects, community events, veteran outreach, and other programs designed to foster connection and a renewed sense of purpose.

Reaching Veterans Where They Are

Hawaii presents unique challenges for veteran outreach because communities are spread across multiple islands and veterans may face geographic, transportation, cultural, financial, or other barriers to accessing services. AMVETS Hawaii intends to use its community partnerships and established veteran network to help reduce those barriers and strengthen connections among veterans, families, the Department of Veterans Affairs, military organizations, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and community providers.

"Our goal is simple: no veteran should believe that he or she has to face a difficult time alone," Lazarus said. "Sometimes the first step is not a clinical appointment. It may be a conversation with another veteran, participating



in a fitness program, attending an event, volunteering, or simply walking into a place where someone knows your name. Those connections can open the door to additional support.”

Building on AMVETS Hawaii’s Veteran Support Network

The FY27 SSG Fox SPGP award builds upon AMVETS Hawaii’s continuing expansion of veteran programs and partnerships throughout the state. The AMVETS West Oahu Veterans Center serves as a community hub where veterans, military families, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, community partners, volunteers, and service providers can work collaboratively in support of Hawaii’s veterans.

Honoring Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox

The grant program honors Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox, an Army veteran whose life and legacy are remembered through a national effort to strengthen community-based veteran suicide prevention. By carrying his name, the program serves as a reminder that behind every suicide-prevention statistic is a service member, veteran, family, and community.

A Call to the Community

AMVETS Hawaii encourages veterans, family members, community organizations, healthcare providers, businesses, government agencies, military organizations, and other stakeholders interested in supporting veteran suicide-prevention efforts to become involved. Preventing veteran suicide requires more than intervention during a crisis. It requires communities that promote belonging, purpose, connection, awareness, and pathways to assistance long before a crisis develops.

“This grant gives us another important tool, but the real strength of this effort will always be our people and our partnerships,” Lazarus said. “We look forward to working with the VA and organizations throughout Hawaii to ensure veterans know that their community remains beside them.”

About AMVETS Hawaii Service Foundation Corp.

AMVETS Hawaii Service Foundation Corp. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting veterans, service members, military families, and communities throughout Hawaii. Working alongside the AMVETS Department of Hawaii, the Foundation supports programs focused on veteran services, adaptive fitness and sports, community engagement, outreach, youth and family activities, volunteerism, and initiatives that improve the quality of life of veterans and their families.

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Veterans Crisis Line: Veterans experiencing a crisis, or anyone concerned about a veteran, can call 988 and press 1 or text 838255 for confidential crisis support.