



September 13, 2026

WELCOME TO THE AMVETS HAWAII SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM

A Message from the President & CEO

To: All Employees, Staff, Contractors, Volunteers, Peer Support Team Members, and Program Partners Supporting AHSP

Subject: Welcome, Mission, Purpose, and Command Intent for FY27

Aloha Team,

Welcome to the AMVETS Hawaii Suicide Prevention Program (AHSP). Whether you are joining us as an employee, staff member, contractor, peer support specialist, volunteer, or supporting member of our AMVETS Hawaii family, thank you for accepting the responsibility to serve Veterans through this important mission.

AMVETS Hawaii Service Foundation Corp. has been awarded \$683,905 by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs through the FY27 Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program. This award allows us to establish a dedicated, community-based suicide prevention program serving Veterans in Honolulu County during the September 30, 2026 through September 30, 2027 period of performance. Our Year 1 goal is to enroll 150 eligible Veterans while reaching many more through outreach, screening, referral, education, and connection to care.

This program is built on a principle that has guided AMVETS Hawaii for years: we must meet Veterans where they are. For some Veterans, the first step toward help will not be a clinical appointment. It may be walking through the doors of the West Oahu Veterans Center, participating in Adaptive Fitness, talking with another Veteran, attending an outreach event, or simply finding someone willing to listen and help make the next connection.

OUR MISSION

To reduce Veteran suicide risk by creating a trusted, accessible, community-based pathway that connects Veterans to screening, peer support, case management, practical assistance, protective social connections, and appropriate VA and community services.

OUR PURPOSE

To identify and engage Veterans who may be at elevated risk—including those who are not currently connected to VA care—and provide timely, respectful, non-clinical suicide prevention services while ensuring direct warm hand-offs to qualified clinical and emergency resources when needed.

OUR INTENT

Every Veteran who comes into contact with AHSP will be treated with dignity, respect, compassion, and urgency. We will build trust, strengthen protective factors, reduce barriers to assistance, and ensure that no Veteran experiencing a safety crisis is simply handed a telephone number and left to navigate the system alone.

What I Expect From Every Member of This Team

- Put the Veteran first. Treat every person with dignity and respect. Listen before assuming, and never allow administrative convenience to replace responsible service.
- Know your role and stay within it. AHSP is a non-clinical suicide prevention program. We support, screen, educate, coordinate, refer, and connect. We do not substitute our services for qualified emergency or ongoing clinical care.
- Take safety seriously. If a Veteran shows signs of immediate or elevated suicide risk, follow the established escalation and warm hand-off procedures without delay. When safety is involved, act—do not assume someone else will.
- Protect confidentiality. Participant information belongs only in authorized systems and with personnel who have a legitimate need to know. Privacy and cybersecurity are part of Veteran care.
- Document the work. If a service, referral, payment, screening, incident, or follow-up is not properly documented, we cannot demonstrate that it occurred. Accurate records protect the Veteran, the employee, the organization, and the federal award.
- Protect public funds. Every federal dollar entrusted to AMVETS Hawaii must be used only for its authorized purpose. Fraud, waste, abuse, conflicts of interest, duplicate charging, falsification, and misuse of grant resources will not be tolerated.
- Speak up. Every employee, volunteer, and contractor has both the right and responsibility to raise concerns about safety, ethics, financial controls, privacy, or grant compliance. Retaliation against a person making a good-faith report is prohibited.
- Work as one team. Suicide prevention cannot be accomplished by one position or one organization. Case management, peer support, outreach, Adaptive Fitness, VA coordination, financial administration, volunteers, and community partnerships must operate as one disciplined system.

Our Standard

Our standard is not simply to meet the minimum requirements of a federal grant. Our standard is to operate a program worthy of the Veterans who trust us and worthy of the public resources entrusted to this organization. Compliance, compassion, accountability, and measurable results are not competing priorities—they are all part of the same mission.

The Governing Board, executive leadership, Project Director, Chief Financial Officer, Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Case Managers, Peer Support Specialists, clinical consultant, administrative staff, trainers, contractors, and volunteers each have different responsibilities, but we share one purpose: helping Veterans stay connected to life, community, resources, and appropriate care.

I ask each of you to learn the AHSP Standard Operating Procedures, understand the requirements that apply to your position, complete all required training, ask questions when something is unclear, and immediately elevate concerns that could affect a Veteran's safety or the integrity of this program.

We have been given an important opportunity and an equally important responsibility. The success of AHSP will not be measured only by reports or numbers. It will be measured by whether Veterans know they have somewhere to turn, whether they are connected to the right help at the right time, and whether our team earns and keeps their trust.

Welcome to the team. Thank you for choosing to serve. Together, we will carry this mission forward with discipline, compassion, accountability, and purpose.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Don A Lazarus", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Donovan A. Lazarus (USA, Ret.)

President & CEO, AMVETS Hawaii Service Foundation Corp.

State Commander, AMVETS Department of Hawaii

Authorized Signatory — AHSP

EMPLOYEE / STAFF / VOLUNTEER ACKNOWLEDGMENT

AMVETS Hawaii Suicide Prevention Program (AHSP)

FAIN OSPI-000276-27 | FY27 SSG Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program

I acknowledge that I received and reviewed the President & CEO Welcome Letter describing the mission, purpose, intent, standards, and expectations of the AMVETS Hawaii Suicide Prevention Program. I understand that my role requires compliance with applicable AHSP policies, Standard Operating Procedures, participant-safety requirements, confidentiality and information-security rules, financial and ethical standards, and assigned training requirements.

I understand that I am expected to promptly report participant-safety concerns, suspected fraud, waste or abuse, privacy/security incidents, conflicts of interest, or other material compliance concerns through the appropriate reporting channels. I understand that good-faith reporting is protected from retaliation.

I understand that this acknowledgment does not replace the executed federal award, applicable law, AMVETS Hawaii policies, my position description, or role-specific training requirements.

Printed Name	
Position / Volunteer Role	
Department / Program	
Signature	
Date	
Supervisor / Program Lead	

Mission Reminder: Meet Veterans where they are. Protect their dignity. Act when safety is at risk. Make the connection. Document the work. Protect the trust.