

AMVETS Hawaii Summary

Mission: To serve veterans and active-duty military in procuring earned entitlements.

Category: Military and Railroad History

Contact: Donovan Lazarus, President

Address: P.O. Box 2865, Ewa Beach, HI 96706

Grant History: N/A

2024 Request: \$20,000 for adaptive fitness program
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Notes:

- Ewa Beach-based veterans group providing advocacy, support, and assistance for veterans of all military branches and their families.
- Request is to support adaptive fitness programs for disabled veterans in partnership with VA Pacific Islands Healthcare (3 veterans medical clinics located on Oahu).
- 720 adaptive veterans coping with injuries, chronic illness, and disabling conditions.
- 1500 monthly sessions. Plan to double this.
- Monthly Zoom nutrition education programs.
- Overall budgeted cost of this program is \$200,000 to pay for adaptive equipment and rehabilitation services.





January 5, 2024

Jeffrey T Peterson
Laurence H Dorcy Hawaiian Foundation
21030 Karoline Ct N
Forest Lake, MN 55025
(651) 402-7240

Dear Jeffrey and Family:

On behalf of all of us here at AMVETS Hawaii and as a fellow Hawaii nonprofit leader, **I want to thank you for your compassionate leadership in serving communities in Hawaii and beyond.** I am writing to ask you to consider building upon that legacy by supporting a project that aligns very closely with your foundation's priorities.

AMVETS Hawaii (AHI) is an Ewa Beach-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to serve veterans and the active-duty military in procuring their earned entitlements. AHI is committed to preserving and honoring America's heroes by remembering the legacy of those who came before us as well as educating and inspiring the American public by passing on the legacy to the generations who will follow. We provide advocacy, support, and assistance for all who served honorably in the United States Armed Forces, including all past, present, and future veterans and their families. Accordingly, **we are requesting \$20,000 to fund an exciting 70%+ expansion of the AMVETS Adaptive Fitness Program that will allow us to deliver 1,500+ sessions per month to Hawaii veterans by EoY 2024.**

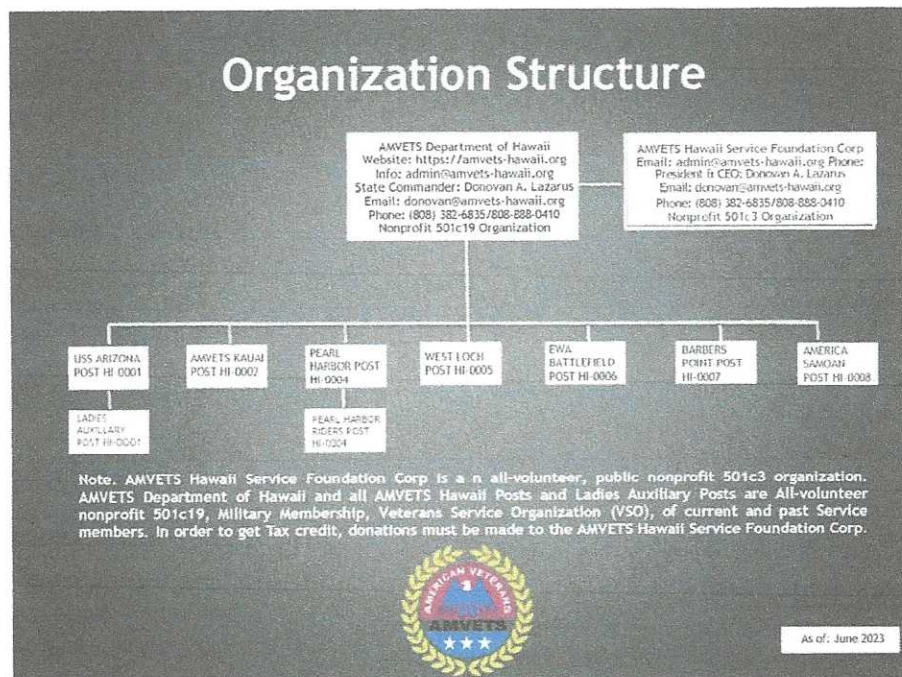
A growing body of research is revealing a wide array of benefits connected to physical activity and social support for disabled veterans. A study by Wilroy and Robertson (2017) demonstrates that physical activity can have a significant positive impact on the mental health and quality of life of individuals with severe mental illnesses, which includes many disabled veterans. Research by DeRuyter and Donnelly (2016) highlights the need for **community-based exercise programs tailored to the needs of veterans with disabilities**, noting the positive impact on physical and mental health, as well as overall quality of life. AHI supports program sustainability by training veterans to become mentors and supporting other local, nonprofit organizations to provide adaptive sports opportunities to our veterans. With this grant, we will be working toward a **goal of helping VA Pacific Islands Healthcare host local adaptive sports competitions for veterans on American Samoa, Guam, Saipan, and the outer Hawaiian Islands.**

This cause is a matter of deep personal conviction for me as a retired Soldier with twenty-five years of service from 1985-2010. In 2005-08, I was assigned to the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) as a Search and Recovery Team Leader. During that assignment, in August 2006, my JPAC Team and I were tasked to provide POW/MIA information at the AMVETS National Convention in Las Vegas. At that time, the AMVETS National Commander asked me to start an AMVETS Post in Hawaii to help them with the USS Arizona Memorial Shrine Wall restoration project. In September 2006, fellow JPAC Team Leaders and Team Sergeants



chartered our first AMVETS Post charter. **AHI is a volunteer-led organization committed to providing support for veterans and active military in procuring their earned entitlements.**

A core pillar of AHI's strategy to support servicemembers and veterans has been an Adaptive Fitness Program offering adaptive sports opportunities to the Oahu community, serving thousands of veterans, including about **720 adaptive veterans annually** at the AMVETS Ewa Beach location. This valuable resource reaches eligible participants from multiple congressional districts, while our **monthly Zoom nutrition education sessions** further expand our impact to 1,200 veterans. **A generous grant from your organization would go a long way toward meeting our goal is to grow the program by 60 to 70 percent capacity**, which will support over 1,500 sessions per month, including both in-person and online programs, and well as reach veterans located on other Hawaii islands through monthly visits.



This request will fund an expansion of the AMVETS Adaptive Fitness Program providing physical activity and social support to disabled veterans. Key details include the following:

- ❖ **Objective:** To grow the program by 70%+ percent capacity and support 1,500+ in-person and online sessions per month to Hawaii veterans by EoY 2024.
- ❖ **Collaboration partners:** AHI is partnered with the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) and our facility is an approved site for our existing adaptive sports program. In addition, we are partnered with: National Park Service, Pacific Historic Parks, Cohen Veterans Network, University of Hawaii at West O'ahu, on Violence, Abuse and Trauma, Hawaii Medical



Assurance Association, American Red Cross, Boy Scouts of America, U.S. Vets, B.R.A.V.E. Hawaii, Miss America Scholar, Street Bikers United, Basketball Hawaii Youth Academy, Big Tire Boot Camp, Cobra Sports Hawaii, Ewa Little League, Hawaii, Enterprise Holdings

❖ **Key leaders:**

- Donovan A. Lazarus, AMVETS President, (808) 382-6835
- William Rodriguez, AMVETS Service Coordinator, (631) 219-1374
- Ronald Y.K. Lam (US Army, Veteran), 1st Vice Commander (808) 375-4500
- Luis A. Linares (US Army, Retired), 2nd Vice Commander, llouiesalas@aol.com
- Marcus DeValentino, 3rd Vice Commander, marcus.devalentino@okinawakenpodssi.com

❖ **Similar agencies/projects:** While there are many wonderful organizations in Hawaii focused on supporting our active-duty service members and veterans, **AHI is the only congressionally chartered veterans' service organization whose membership is open to anyone who has honorably served or is serving in the U.S. Armed Forces since World War II.**

❖ **Evaluation:** To assess the impact and success of the AMVETS Adaptive Fitness Program, outcomes and results will be measured using a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods including participant fitness assessments, tracking progress toward individual goals, participant feedback, and program evaluation.

The budgeted cost of the project is \$200,000, and we are respectfully requesting \$20,000 from the Laurence H Dorcy Hawaiian Foundation. With these funds, we will pay for adaptive equipment and services to restore, remediate, and/or rehabilitate functional capabilities for veterans with injuries, chronic illnesses, and disabling conditions. Activities include painting, basketball, karaoke, pickleball, and Hawaii-specific outdoor recreational activities. The remaining funds are being sourced from other corporate and family foundation partners.

In summary, **AMVETS Hawaii is seeking the generous support of your foundation to see that our service members and veterans are loved, honored, and supported.** Please reach out with questions to the undersigned. All of us here at AMVETS Hawaii are grateful for your consideration and wish you the very best in your ongoing efforts to change the world.

Sincerely,

Donovan Lazarus, President, AMVETS Hawaii
donovan@amvets-hawaii.org
(808) 382-6835

Ewa Beach, HI • Tax-exempt since May 2018 • EIN: 83-0550908

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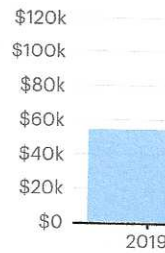
Type of Nonprofit

Designated as a 501(c)3

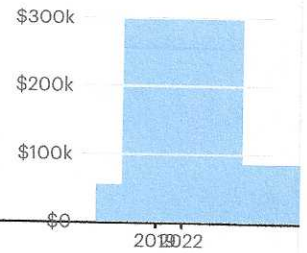
Category: Educational Institutions and Related Activities / Alliance/Advocacy Organizations ([NTEE](#))

Donations to this organization are tax deductible.

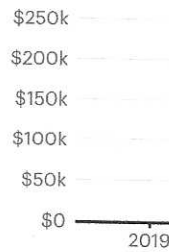
Revenue
\$120k (2022)



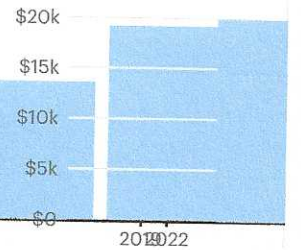
Expenses
\$276k (2022)



Total Assets
\$241k (2022)



Total Liabilities
\$0 (2022)



Source: Form 990 tax filings from 2019 to 2022

Tax Filings by Year

Form 990 is an information return that most organizations claiming federal tax-exempt status must file yearly with the IRS. [Show more](#)

Fiscal Year Ending
Nov.

2022

Revenue **\$120,000**

Expenses
\$275,825

Net Income
-\$155,825

Net Assets
\$240,825

990

Filed on May 1, 2023

Primary tax return for a nonprofit's activities, finances, and governance

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Compensation

Key Employees and Officers

	Compensation	Related	Other
Donovan A Lazarus (President)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ronald Yk Lam (Vice President)	\$0	\$0	\$0
William Rodriguez (Service Officer)	\$0	\$0	\$0

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Fiscal Year Ending Nov.

2021

Revenue **\$0**

Expenses
\$168,352

Net Income
-\$168,352

Net Assets
\$150,000

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990

Filed on March 5, 2022

Primary tax return for a nonprofit's activities, finances, and governance

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Compensation

Key Employees and Officers

	Compensation	Related	Other
Donovan A Lazarus (President)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ronald Yk Lam (Vice President)	\$0	\$0	\$0
William Rodriguez (Service Officer)	\$0	\$0	\$0

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Fiscal Year Ending Nov.

2020

Revenue **\$93,594**

Expenses
\$85,416

Net Income
\$8,178

Net Assets
\$150,000

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Filed on April 1, 2021

Primary tax return for a nonprofit's activities, finances, and governance

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Compensation

Key Employees and Officers	Compensation	Related	Other
Donovan A Lazarus (President)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ronald Yk Lam (Vice President)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Clifford L Chun (Finance Officer)	\$0	\$0	\$0

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Fiscal Year Ending
Nov.

2019

Revenue **\$54,664**

Expenses	Net Income	Net Assets
\$54,664	\$0	\$1

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990

Filed on Jan. 30, 2020

Primary tax return for a nonprofit's activities, finances, and governance

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Compensation

Key Employees and Officers	Compensation	Related	Other
Donovan A Lazarus (President)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ronald Yk Lam (Vice President)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Uyen Tran (Secretary)	\$0	\$0	\$0

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About This Data

Nonprofit Explorer includes summary data for nonprofit tax returns and full Form 990 documents, in both PDF and digital formats.

The summary data contains information processed by the IRS during the 2012-2019 calendar years; this generally consists of filings for the 2011-2018 fiscal