

Local & business

UPGRADING APPLIANCES
A Waimanalo-based program allows some residents to trade in old for new >> B2

Coast Guard could get 4 new ships if Congress approves

U.S. Rep. Ed Case requests the \$335 million acquisition

By Kevin Knodell
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A \$91.5 billion bill making its way through Congress funding programs under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security includes provisions to continue supporting an increased U.S. Coast Guard presence in the Pacific.

The bill includes \$335 million requested by U.S. Rep. Ed Case, who represents urban Honolulu and sits on the House Appropriations Committee, for the acquisition of four new Sentinel-class Fast Response Cutters for the Coast Guard to support operations in the Pacific.



COURTESY PHOTO

U.S. Rep. Ed Case during a visit to Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point. A bill moving through Congress includes \$335 million requested by Case for the Coast Guard to get three new Sentinel-class Fast Response Cutters to support operations in the Pacific.

The measure also includes language encouraging the Coast Guard to continue stepping up its coordination with U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, expand

intelligence-sharing efforts with regional countries and take steps to improve Coast Guard facilities in Hawaii.

"My recent site visits to U.S. Coast Guard stations in

Honolulu, Washington state and Alaska not only reinforced my understanding of the service's critical role in our country's maritime security and emergency search and rescue operations, but the visits also strengthened my push to increase the Coast Guard's presence in the Indo-Pacific," Case said in a news release.

The Coast Guard has been working to modernize its aging fleet of cutters as the service plays an increasingly critical role in the U.S. military's strategy at sea.

This month, Pacific Shipyards International completed its first round of maintenance on the USCGC Kimball, which along with the USCGC Midgett is one of two Legend-class National Security Cutters assigned to Coast Guard District 14. Headquartered in Honolulu,

District 14 encompasses Oceania and the Western Pacific and is the Coast Guard's largest area of operations.

The Legend-class cutters are among the service's largest vessels at 418 feet long, 54 feet wide, with a water displacement of 4,500 long tons and an operating range of 12,000 nautical miles. Most recently, the Kimball sailed all the way to Japan to conduct operations and train with the Japanese Coast Guard.

But while the two national security cutters conduct long-range missions around the region, the Coast Guard also looks to its more nimble fast-response cutters to respond quickly to contingencies and conduct operations in island communities with ports and harbors too small for the large Legend-class cutters to enter.

These vessels — which are gradually replacing the service's older Island-class patrol boats — are operated by a 24-person crew, are 154 feet long and can reach speeds of more than 30 mph. Of the 10 cutters currently assigned to District 14, six of them are fast-response cutters.

In 2021 the Coast Guard held a historic triple commissioning ceremony when it brought three new fast-response cutters — the Myrtle Hazard, Oliver Henry and Frederick Hatch — to Santa Rita, Guam. Then-Coast Guard commandant Adm. Karl Schultz, now retired, flew from Washington, D.C., to Guam to preside over the occasion, telling attendees, "These FRCs are so capable that we bring expeditionary capability to the region that

Please see SHIPS, B4

A good day for HUGS

The Honolulu Elks Lodge 616 presented the inaugural "Elks Kumulokahi Paddle Out for HUGS" event where 60-plus HUGS (Help, Understanding & Group Support) family members were hosted by the Honolulu Elks lodge and paddled out on canoes. Paul Lee, left, of Kumulokahi took HUGS family Damian Akiu, Tiarae Gututala, Kimo Akiu and Lillian Akiu on a ride with David Buerge, also of Kumulokahi.



PHOTOS BY CRAIG T. KOJIMA / CKOJIMA@STARADVERTISER.COM

HUGS family member Tavyne Danielson is brought back to shore by Joshua Alamanza of Kumulokahi and greeted by his mother, Masina Danielson. Inset, Honolulu Elks Lodge 616 trustee Shelley Hee, left, events coordinator, and Amy Morton-Sogi, executive director, HUGS.

Hawaii and Japan to celebrate sister ties at Waikiki summit

By Nina Wu
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An inaugural summit celebrating ties between Hawaii and Japan will be held next month in Waikiki.

The goal of the summit, to be held July 27 and 28 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, is to revitalize sister relationships between Hawaii and Japan that were paused by the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the state Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism.

Its theme is "The Ties that Bind."

DBEDT AND the Japan-America Society of Hawaii had started planning for the summit in 2019 to be held in 2021, but had to postpone it due to the pandemic.

"Hawaii and Japan have a long narrative of cultural, social, economic, and historical ties," said Gov. Josh Green in a news release. "Our shared experiences have made us not only the closest of friends but partners in many respects. This summit brings us together to celebrate our relationships, while focusing more on what we can do together in the future."

Green and all of Hawaii's four county mayors will welcome the governors and

Pupukea study to propose management strategies

By Christie Wilson
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ensure local residents can continue to enjoy the area.

These measures could include

place at Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve. To manage overcrowding at that East Honolulu beach, the city

established an online reservation system and an entry fee of \$25 per nonresident age 12 and older. Addition

before entering the preserve.

Concerned about the "unabated levels of tourism" at