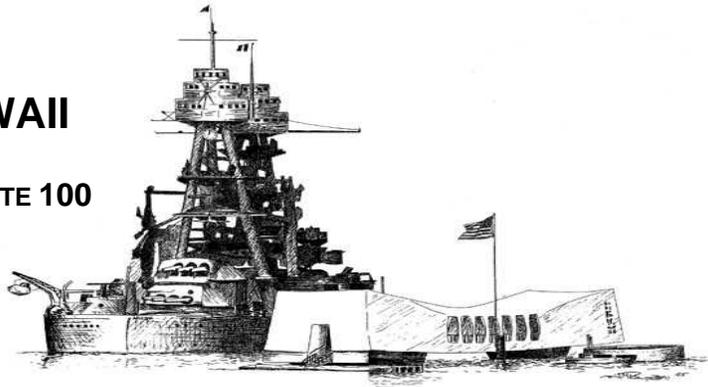


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
POC: Grace Hew Len, 473-2926 / 781-4617

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Ford Island to host Makahiki on Oct. 24

PEARL HARBOR – Ford Island will be the site of the Moku Umeume Makahiki festival on Saturday, Oct. 24 from 9 to 11 a.m. near the historic control tower. Organized by the Oahu Council of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, the Moku Umeume (Ford Island) Makahiki (festival) will feature Native Hawaiian song and dance, oli (chants), exhibition games, and other cultural demonstrations. Military and civilian personnel with base access are invited to watch the unique, cultural event.

Before the makahiki begins at 9 a.m., canoes will make a safe passage from Iroquois Point to the seaplane ramps on historic Ford Island for the event. A huakai (procession) from the landing site to the makahiki location will feature canoe paddlers and members of the Royal Order of Kamehameha, with 13 tall feather kahili (standards) announcing the arrival of the ali`i, or royalty, and Lono. The makahiki honors the Hawaiian deity, Lono, a guardian of agriculture, rain, health and peace.

“The annual makahiki at Moku Umeume is an important celebration of the past that will help redefine our relationship as contemporary people of Hawaii for the future,” said Shad Kane, the Ewa Moku representative for the Oahu Council of Hawaiian Civic Clubs. Moku Umeume Makahiki is on its 8th year in Pearl Harbor.

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“Moku Umeume Makahiki will not only help to improve relationships between the military and the Hawaiian and non-Hawaiian community, but also establish an awareness of the rich pre-western Hawaiian traditions and history of the lands surrounding Moku Umeume,” added Kane.

Ford Island, which is part of Naval Station Pearl Harbor, is also known as “Moku Umeume,” translated to “island that draws and attracts.” Moku Umeume was chosen by the ancient inhabitants of the Moku `o `Ewa district to serve as a place for important religious and cultural ceremonies, including the Makahiki festival.

NOTE: Media interested in covering the event should contact Grace Hew Len by 4 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 23, by calling 473-2926 or 781-4617. Media will meet at the Pass & ID Office parking lot at 7:45 a.m. on Saturday, Oct.24 and escorted to Ford Island.

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