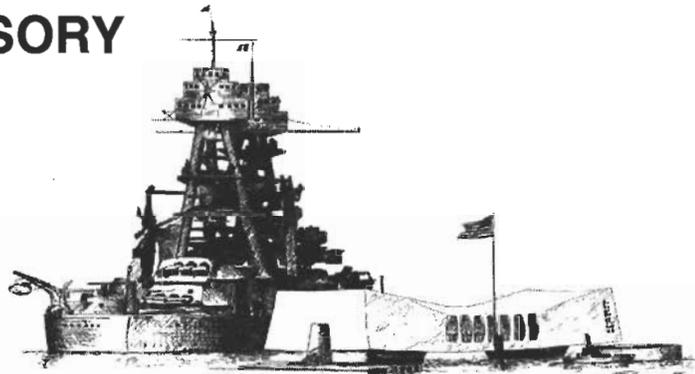


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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **USS Chafee to visit Hilo for Merrie Monarch Festival**

PEARL HARBOR, HI—USS Chafee (DDG 90), home ported in Pearl Harbor, will be arriving in Hilo at 4:30 p.m. April 19 at Pier 1 to participate in the Merrie Monarch Festival. Since 1964, Hilo has welcomed the U.S. Navy to celebrate in one of the most beautiful art forms of the Hawaiian culture.

The ship's crew will attend the week's festivities, including the hula competition and the Merrie Monarch Festival Royal Parade on Saturday, April 22. The Pacific Fleet Band ensemble "Dixie Express" will play at the Merrie Monarch Festival on Wednesday evening and again at the parade.

While the ship is in port more than 20 crewmembers will work on a community service project at Kuhio Centennial Park.

USS Chafee is a 509-foot-long Arleigh Burke class guided missile destroyer. The ship, commanded by Cmdr. John M. Clausen, is designed to provide multi-mission offensive and defensive capabilities, and can operate independently or as part of carrier battle groups, surface action groups, amphibious ready groups, and underway replenishment groups. USS Chafee has approximately 320 crewmembers, including several from Hawaii.

*Media representatives interested in covering the Navy's participation should contact the Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office, at (808) 473-3958 or 473-2888.*

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