



Press Release

U.S. Army Garrison Pohakuloa
Public Affairs Office
(808) 787-7839

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release number: 2023-04-21

Experience PTA Day a HUGE Success

PŌHAKULOA TRAINING AREA, HILO, HAWAII (April 21, 2023) —

Almost 900 visitors came to Experience PTA Day on April 20, 2023. Visitors learned about our expansive environmental program and got to talk to archeologists, biologists and more to learn about all we do to protect endangered and rare plants and animals. They were enthralled by U.S. Army helicopters and U.S. Marine aircraft flyovers, and went to the airfield to sit in the pilot seats, walk through aircrafts and talk to crew members. They learned about our recycling program which diverts more than 50% of waste from landfills; 500,000+ pounds in 2022. Visitors also learned through hands-on activities that community partners such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 3Rs program (Recognize, Retreat, Report), Mauna Loa Observatories, Hawaii Firewise, American Red Cross, and many more (see attached for complete list).

LTC Kevin Cronin welcome remarks to the 14 community partners setting up displays at event:
“We’re part of the community and we’re super excited to have this dedicated day where everyone sets up alongside the community to welcome the public to show the incredible work that happens every day at PTA and the community. We are a Team of Teams and this is the perfect embodiment of the Team that we have going on at Hawai’i Island and at Pōhakuloa Training Area.”

A Vietnam War Veteran comments: “I always wanted to come here...I had a good time...it was interesting to see the choppers and Marine helicopters [actually Osprey aircraft]...I found out that there are eight plant species that are only found on the base and how they preserve them...it was all pretty interesting.”

Canadian visitor comments: “Everyone has been so friendly...We had a wonderful experience. All the giveaways...it’s really nice to see all the school kids enjoy themselves...the firefighters and the different units...it’s just a wonderful experience we can take home to Vancouver, Canada.”

Makua Lani Christian Academy student comments:

“There were lots of activities, we could make our own buttons, do art, make some clay things...it was just very fun.”

“What I liked best was the airplanes, and I love to learn about the airplanes.”

“My favorite part of this trip was going in the pilot seat and learning about the controls.”

B-roll available at: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1--aoOuavEQ_hAcZwSNxrtB-wOlnExfvR?usp=share_link. Videos are also posted on our social media platforms.