

Programs Initiated/Supported by the Hawai'i America250 Commission

The Hawai'i America250 Commission works to help people be aware of, interested in, and participating in the 250th anniversary programs on the founding of the United States.

- **2025-2026 – Living the Aloha Spirit – Working Together with Aloha for the Future**
 - This is a nationwide program initiated and sponsored by the Hawai'i America250 Commission.
 - 250 years ago, the signers of the Declaration of Independence taught us vital lessons of personal responsibility, service, and sacrifice, with their mutual “pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor” to protect the “unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness”.
 - As we contemplate and plan for the next 250 years, especially in a time of increasing polarization, we individually and collectively have the responsibility of working together to realize the aspirations that the framers committed to in the Charters of Freedom (Declaration of Independence, Constitution of the United States, and Bill of Rights).
 - Hawai'i has a lot to offer to the process of fulfilling this. We are asking others to join us by including the “Aloha Spirit” in how we move forward, wherever you live.
 - As we look to the future and commit ourselves to making wherever we are a better place, we can learn from, reflect upon, and take actions in our community following the core principles of the Aloha Spirit: kindness, expressed with tenderness; unity, expressed with harmony; agreeable, expressed with pleasantness; humility, expressed with modesty; and patience, expressed with perseverance. (The Aloha Spirit is in Hawai'i State Law, §5-7.5 Hawai'i Revised Statutes.)
 - “Spread a little Aloha around the World.” (Mana'o Company) If we act with courtesy and caring (core to the Aloha Spirit), Hawai'i, America, and the World will be strengthened.
- **2025-2026 – Flying the Flag - America250 Flags in Color Guard Presentations and on Flag Poles**
 - This is a nationwide program initiated and sponsored by the Hawai'i America250 Commission.
 - This program encourages ROTC, JROTC, and other Color and Honor Guard units across the country to include the America250 flag alongside the US flag, to symbolize and acknowledge the ongoing commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the US.
 - Presenting the Colors (displays of the American, State, and other flags) is a long-standing tradition that has roots in the early days of the United States. It is a way of showing respect for the nation's flag and symbolizing patriotism; it became a formalized tradition with the adoption of the flag as a symbol of national identity and unity.
 - The Commission arranged for availability of America250 flags for participating ROTC (colleges and universities) and JROTC (high schools) Color/Honor Guard units to have the America250 flags included at Color/Honor Guard presentations (at sporting events, school programs, parades, etc; this includes departmental units (i.e. Police, Fire, etc), as well as flying on flag poles).
Link to Order Your Flags: <https://www.usflags.com/products/america-250-flag-double-sided>
- **2025-2026 - Moments That Made US**
 - This is a nationwide program initiated by several of the Western States and supported by the Hawai'i America250 Commission.
 - Moments That Made **US** is a free, customizable, print-on-demand exhibition exploring the ideals at the heart of the Declaration of Independence through moments in our history that have defined their meaning. It does so in a user-friendly format that organizations can adapt and make their own.
 - The panels may be printed as posters, foam-core panels, or vinyl banners (in whatever size/scale one needs), or they can be used digitally.
 - All materials will be free to download, so the only cost is printing and mounting in your space, making it ideal for museums, libraries, schools, community spaces and anyone looking for a meaningful and affordable way to participate in America's 250th. Moments That Made US exhibition will be available for installation beginning in early 2026.

- **September 17, 2025, Wednesday - “Constitution Day” and “Citizenship Day”**
 - Federal law (Title 36 USC §106), a commemoration of the signing of the Constitution of the United States on September 17, 1787, established “Constitution Day” and “Citizenship Day” and urges the civil and educational authorities “to make plans for the proper observance of Constitution Day and Citizenship Day and for the complete instruction of citizens in their responsibilities and opportunities as citizens of the United States and of the State and locality in which they reside” -
 - Information from the Hawai‘i Department of Education on Constitution Day and Citizenship Day is here: <https://sites.google.com/view/hawaiiicorestandardsforsocialst/home>
- **October 7, 2025, Tuesday - Ironman Triathlon World Championship Parade of Nations (Kona)**
 - 5 pm - Marriott King Kamehameha’s Kona Beach Resort (KBR) and proceed along Ali‘i Drive to Hale Hālāwai - Athletes from around the world come together - representing their countries with pride, walking behind their flags. The Kealakehe High School JROTC Color Guard will lead the procession and include the America250 flag in their detail.
- **October 11, 2025, Saturday – Waimea Fall Festival (Hawai‘i Island)**
 - This annual festival features games, food, military static displays, and plenty of family-friendly fun. The Signers of the Declaration of Independence video loop will be shown on a monitor.
- **October 13, 2025, Monday - 250th Anniversary of the Formation of Navy (October 13, 1775)**
 - The Hawai‘i America250 Commission has worked with the Mayors across the Islands, and each will present a Proclamation commemorating the Navy’s 250th anniversary.
- **October 16 or 17, 2025, Thu or Fri – Sojourn 250 at the Pearl Harbor National Memorial**
 - Sojourn 250 is a global traveling flag campaign to honor our nation’s most prized symbol, and all of our men and women including those who have given their lives in service to the ideals The Flag represents. The Flag will fly over all 26 overseas US military cemeteries, then across the US.
 - The Sojourn 250 flag is expected to be raised at the Pearl Harbor National Memorial (on either October 16 or 17) in a series of flag raising ceremonies at sites at the memorial.
- **November 10, 2025, Mon - 250th Anniversary of the Formation of Marine Corps (Nov 10, 1775)**
 - The Hawai‘i America250 Commission has worked with the Mayors across the Islands, and each will present a Proclamation commemorating the Marine Corps’ 250th anniversary.
- **December 12, 2025, Friday - Death of Captain John Kendrick (December 12, 1794)**
 - The Hawai‘i America250 Commission will work with the Hawai‘i DAR on this commemoration; event will be at the Kendrick Plaque at ‘Walker Park’ (bottom of Fort Street Mall – mauka of Aloha Tower).
- **April 2026 (Dates TBD), Sat and Sun - Hawaiian Scottish Festival and Highland Games**
 - Typically, 9 am – 4 pm, Sat and Sun,
Sponsored by the Hawaiian Scottish Association



Hawai‘i

- **Spring 2026 (Date TBD) - A Conversation on Hawai‘i in America and the World**
 - The Hawai‘i America250 Commission is partnering with the young adults of the Youth250 Bureau and Made by Us (aged 18 to 30) to bring civics and history to dorm rooms, dinner tables, and devices, in a co-generational virtual event that will address the question: “What can we, as people from Hawai‘i, do to better our society, our country, and the world?”
 - Through a national Zoom gathering, there will be a brief panel presentation that will discuss what role Hawai‘i has historically played in America and in the world.
 - Then, in the main portion of the event, attendees will break into small groups to ‘talk story’ (have a conversation) amongst themselves and listen to each other share how they think Hawai‘i should participate in the next 250 years of American history and what they can do to support that vision.
 - Just as the founders took responsibility for and committed themselves to service and sacrifice in defending and upholding their vision for the future, we hope to empower participants to imagine and take action to forge visions/actions of their own for the next 250 years.
- **July 4, 2026, Saturday - Parades and Events across the Islands Commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence**
 - The Hawai‘i America250 Commission, with the active involvement of the Neighbor Island representatives, is planning and working with the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, and National Guard representatives in the planning and implementation of statewide flyovers at 4th of July (2026) parades and events across the Islands.
 - The Hawai‘i America250 Commission, Committees, and Commission and Committee members will seek participation/inclusion of Hawai‘i America250 representatives, banners, flags, and references in parade announcements in 4th of July (2026) parades across the islands.
- **July 4, 2026, Saturday – Let Freedom Ring - July 4, 2026**
 - Reminiscent of the program initiated across the country for the nation’s Bicentennial, Hawai‘i is calling others to ring bells (replica Liberty Bell on the State Capitol grounds, Church bells, hand bells, cow bells, etc).
- **July 4, 2026, Saturday – Light to Unite – evening of July 4, 2026**
 - The National Flag Foundation is planning a national event asking all cities in America to light up red, white, and blue the evening of July 4, 2026 as a national evening of unity to celebrate our nation's 250th Birthday. In Hawai‘i, the initial focus is on State and County government buildings.
- **July 5, 2026, Sunday - America’s Potluck**
 - This is a nationwide program that Hawai‘i is participating in.
 - Americans will come together for family, food, and fun. In partnership with America’s Test Kitchen, Americans are connecting through America’s Potluck to reach across our community tables and bring people together to commemorate, celebrate, and look to the future for America’s 250th anniversary.
- **July 8, 2026, Wed - Sharing the Spirit of America - (noon (HST), Wednesday, July 8, 2026)**
 - This is a nationwide program initiated and sponsored by the Hawai‘i America250 Commission.
 - Just as the Declaration of Independence was read for the first time to the people in Philadelphia on July 8, 1776, now, 250-years later, Americans in all 50 States and 16 Territories of the United States will read the Declaration of Independence ‘together’. These readings will occur at State Capitols, City Halls, County and Municipal Buildings, Schools, Libraries, Community Centers, Parks, etc (including individual families sharing the words and vision of the Declaration of Independence in their own homes). The following is a link to background information, scheduling (timing for those outside Hawai‘i), and other information, including a transcription of the Declaration of Independence: <https://www.hawaiiamerica250.org/spiritofamerica.php>

Two of Our Signature National Programs - Please Join Us (and Encourage Others to Join):

- **2025-2026 – Flying the Flag - America250 Flags in Color Guard Presentations and on Flag Poles**
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For Information: Peter T. Young, Chair
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