

# **MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT**

**April 28, 2023**

The Military and Veterans Affairs Committee met on April 20, 2023.

At the Military and Veterans Affairs committee meeting we had the pleasure of having Armed Services YMCA Hawaii Executive Director Laurie Moore as well as Melissa Kelley, the HR chief for the National ASYMCA attend. Laurie gave a wonderful presentation; some key points include:

- The ASYMCA serves active-duty members, their spouses, their families; and veterans who have access to services on base. ~89000 were served in Hawaii last year.
- The focus used to be on the single soldier; now they focus on the families as well. Including the following services: early childhood education, youth development, family support, active preschools, parenting tips for young parents, presentations at elementary schools on what it's like when mom or dad are away and what it's like when they come home, an open market, and emergency cash assistance.
- They have lots of focus on military spouses, they give training to spouses on how to handle not just the active-duty spouse's deployment, but the adjustment upon their return too. Out of the 37, mainly part-time, workers on their staff most are military spouses.
- ASYMCA also gives cultural sensitivity training to military spouses to help them adjust to life/lifestyles in Hawaii.

Also wanted to share that there was a federal job fair that happened on April 11 where 604 jobseekers attended which included 25% or 150 veterans/transitioning service members. 28 federal agencies participated and were pleased with the quality of the jobseekers.