



MITCH D. ROTH
MAYOR

August 4, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MAYOR ROTH ANNOUNCES ANTICIPATED ARRIVAL OF THE WALL THAT
HEALS, A VIETNAM VETERAN MEMORIAL**

Hawai'i County Mayor Mitch Roth announces that The Wall That Heals, a three-quarter scale replica of the revered Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., will make its way to Hilo, Hawai'i, in early 2024. This traveling exhibition embodies the profound significance of remembering our history and paying tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

The Wall That Heals, established by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF), offers visitors a unique opportunity to experience the grandeur and emotional impact of The Vietnam Veterans Memorial, affectionately known as The Wall. Designed by Maya Lin and dedicated in 1982, The Wall bears the names of more than 58,000 servicemen and servicewomen who lost their lives during the Vietnam War. The monument stands as a testament to honor and remember the brave individuals who served in Vietnam, seeking to heal the wounds left by one of the most controversial wars in American history.

The arrival of The Wall That Heals in Hilo highlights its mission to bring the Memorial's poignant experience to communities that may not have the chance to visit Washington, D.C. The exhibition aims to educate the public about the Vietnam War and its profound impact on American history while providing a platform for veterans and their families to find closure.

Hawai'i County Mayor Mitch Roth expressed his thoughts, stating, "The Wall That Heals continues to serve as a powerful symbol of remembrance and respect. By bringing it to Hilo, we hope to offer our community the opportunity to honor the sacrifices of our service members and gain deeper insights into this pivotal period in our history."

More than just a wall, the exhibition includes a mobile Education Center featuring digital photo displays of "Hometown Heroes" - service members whose names are on The Wall and who listed a Hawai'i address as their official home of record. Additionally, an In Memory plaque honors those who returned from the war but later died from causes related to their service in Vietnam. The exhibit also comprises video displays that provide comprehensive insights into the history and impact of the Vietnam War and The Wall.

Michael Doolittle, Co-Chair of The Wall That Heals Hawai'i County Committee, commented on the extraordinary journey of bringing The Wall That Heals to Hawai'i, saying, "Starting with an idea, an army of selfless volunteers have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make this tribute a reality."

The County cordially invites all residents and visitors to Hilo in early 2024 to witness this moving tribute. The Wall That Heals provides a space for personal reflection and learning, serving as a place for us to come together in remembrance and an opportunity to honor the bravery and sacrifice of those who served during the Vietnam War.

Event details, volunteer opportunities, and more information will be announced closer to the event date.

###

MEDIA CONTACT:

Cyrus A.K. Johnsen

Public Information Officer

County of Hawai'i

Office of the Mayor

cyrus.johnsen@hawaiiicounty.gov

808.345.9434