



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

PROCLAMATION

Navy 250th Birthday

WHEREAS, July 4, 2026, will mark the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, a milestone that invites reflection on our nation's history, the contributions of all Americans, and the future we wish to build for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, the events surrounding the Declaration of Independence played a pivotal role in shaping our national heritage and defense, including the establishment of the United States Navy on October 13, 1775, by the Second Continental Congress with the following Resolution: "Resolved, That a swift sailing vessel, to carry ten carriage guns, and a proportionable number of swivels, with eighty men, be fitted, with all possible despatch, for a cruise of three months, and that the commander be instructed to cruise eastward, for intercepting such transports as may be laden with warlike stores and other supplies for our enemies, and for such other purposes as the Congress shall direct"; and

WHEREAS, by 1776, the Colonies had 27 warships, compared to approximately 270 in the Royal British Navy, yet the Continental Navy captured hundreds of British vessels, demoralizing the enemy, forcing diversion of British resources, and contributing significantly to American victory; and

WHEREAS, following the Revolutionary War, the U.S. Constitution empowered Congress "to provide and maintain a navy," leading to the establishment of the Department of the Navy on April 30, 1798, and for 250 years the U.S. Navy has sailed the globe as America's primary forward-deployed force, defending liberty, supporting global trade, and serving as a critical instrument of U.S. foreign policy.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR, COUNTY OF KAUAI, do hereby proclaim October 10, 2025, as a day to celebrate the **250th Birthday of the United States Navy** at the 2025 Navy Ball, and I encourage all citizens to join in honoring the service and sacrifice of our Sailors while reflecting on the Navy's enduring contributions to our nation's past, present, and future. Anchors Aweigh!



Derek S.K. Kawakami
Mayor, County of Kaua'i
State of Hawai'i

