

Coast Guard Establishes First Hawaii-Based JROTC Program



A cadet with Kalani High Schools Coast Guard JROTC program renders a salute to Coast Guard Rear Adm. Sean Regan, commander, Coast Guard District Fourteen at the high school in Honolulu, Hawaii, Nov. 21, 2024. The Coast Guard established its first Hawaii based JROTC at Kalani High School. (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Tyler Robertson)
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HONOLULU – The Coast Guard established a new Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps Program at Kalani High School in Honolulu Thursday.

Coast Guard Rear Adm. Sean Regan, commander, District Fourteen, served as keynote speaker during the JROTC unit's commissioning ceremony.

"I am so proud to be part of such a great event and to see

fantastic young men and women seeking new challenges, opportunities and adventures,” said Regan. “Thank you to the cadets’ families for their support, to Congress, the State of Hawaii and the City of Honolulu for bringing this program to fruition, and to Kalani High School’s administrators and teachers for partnering with the Coast Guard.”

Kalani High School’s Coast Guard JROTC unit is the 14th in the nation and has over 20 cadets enrolled in the inaugural semester.

“We’re exceedingly grateful to be working with the State of HI Department of Education, Honolulu District, to launch this incredible partnership,” said Cmdr. Clay Cromer, Coast Guard JROTC program manager. “We look forward to seeing cadets learn, grow, and achieve in a supportive and fun learning environment. My hope is they’ll look back on their time in Coast Guard JROTC at Kalani High School with incredible fondness as they go out equipped to make a positive difference wherever they’re called to serve.”

Coast Guard JROTC instructors are hired and employed by the school district and certified by the service. Instructors must be Coast Guard retired, selected reserve, or qualified veterans with at least eight years of service. Kalani High School’s Coast Guard JROTC instructor is Retired Chief Petty Officer Ash Armstrong.

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2023 mandated the Coast Guard to establish and maintain JROTC programs in each of the nine Coast Guard districts by Dec. 31, 2025. The Coast Guard established four new JROTC units this fall, making Kalani High School’s unit the 14th with program-wide enrollment of over 1,200 cadets. These new units are at the following host schools:

- Barnstable High School in Barnstable, Massachusetts

- Innovation High School in Orlando
- Veterans Memorial High School in Corpus Christi, Texas
- Kalani High School in Honolulu

Coast Guard JROTC is not a recruiting program. Cadets incur no military service obligation by participation in JROTC, but they may be eligible for advanced enlistment opportunities with two or more years of participation in the program. The program helps equip cadets with the skills necessary to be more prepared for tomorrow's challenges, no matter what path they take.

To learn more about the Coast Guard JROTC program, visit their website: [U.S. Coast Guard Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps \(CGJROTC\)](#).