Hawaii Welcomes Third Sentinel-Class Coast Guard Cutter



The William Hart, a 154-foot fast-response cutter, arrived in Hawaii to its new homeport on Aug. 17. U.S. Coast Guard

HONOLULU –

The Coast Guard Cutter William Hart (WPC-1134) arrived in Honolulu Harbor on Aug. 17, becoming the third 154-foot fast-response cutter homeported in Hawaii, the Coast Guard 14th District said in a release.

The FRCs are some of the newest Coast Guard vessels to come online, replacing the aging patrol boat fleet currently in use. The FRCs represent the Coast Guard's commitment to modernizing service assets to address the increasingly complex global maritime transportation system.

FRCs boast advanced command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance systems designed to assist the cutter's crew with their primary mission to patrol coastal regions.

Recently, the FRCs already stationed in Honolulu participated in longer over-the-horizon voyages to the Republic of the Marshall Islands and Samoa, displaying the potential of these cutters and their importance to the Coast

Guard’s overall
Pacific strategy and regional partnerships.

William
Hart, the cutter’s namesake, was a Gold Lifesaving Medal recipient who rescued
a crew member of the tug Thomas Tracy. In 1927, Hart dove into the water in a
70-mph gale off Absecon, New Jersey, to save the mariner, who went overboard in
the storm.

Throughout
the 1930s, Hart served in the Army Corps of Engineers before returning to the
Coast Guard in 1939, advancing to chief petty officer and serving as a
boatswain’s mate. Once the United States entered World War II, Hart was
commissioned as a lieutenant junior grade and served in both the Atlantic and
Pacific theaters. He retired from the Coast Guard in 1950.

William Hart is the last of the three FRCs to be stationed in Hawaii. The crew transited the vessel from Key West, Florida, following delivery and preparation for sailing. Three more are scheduled to be homeported in Guam, increasing the Coast Guard 14th District’s total number of FRCs to six.

The Coast Guard is acquiring a total of 56 FRCs to replace the 110-foot Island-class patrol boats. Coast Guard Sector Honolulu, to whom the cutter crew will report, plans to commission the William Hart in a ceremony Sept. 26.