

**CULTURAL
AWARENESS**

ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, AND
PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

OBSERVANCE

MAY



The Department of Defense pays tribute to the generations of *Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders* who have enriched our country through their countless triumphs, sacrifices, and important cultures and heritages.

THE KIWI

The humble little *kiwi* is a New Zealand treasure- so much so that residents were named after the iconic bird.



1. Kiwi cannot fly!
2. There are five types of kiwi: Brown Kiwi, Great Spotted Kiwi, Little Spotted Kiwi, Rowi, and Tokoeka.
3. Compared to the size of kiwi, their eggs are huge! A kiwi egg is approximately 20% of the female's body size.
4. After the female kiwi lays her egg, the male sits on the egg until it hatches.
5. The kiwi bird can live up to 50 years!
6. Kiwi birds boast the tiniest beaks in the avian world. This unique feature arises from the way beak measurements are taken—from the nostrils to the tip of the beak.
7. Kiwi are nocturnal, meaning they are most active at night.
8. Kiwi birds mate for life. The male kiwi will follow the female around, grunting at her until she notices him- if she's interested, they will mate. If she's not, she will either run away or try and scare him off!

WHAT IS LEI DAY?

Lei Day is a cherished statewide celebration in Hawaii. Commencing on the morning of May 1st each year, it extends into the following day. This festive occasion was officially established as a holiday in 1929. What makes Lei Day truly special is that each of the Hawaiian islands has its own unique type of lei for people to wear during the festivities.

Here's a glimpse of the lei associated with each island:

The Big Island (Hawaii): The red blossoms of the Ohia tree, known as lehua blossoms, represent this island.

Maui: The Lokelani flower, delicate and pink, symbolizes the beauty of Maui.

Oahu: The Ilima flower, with its golden hue, graces the island.

Molokai: The Kukui tree provides green lei made from its leaves.

Lanai: The Kauna'ōa, a grassy flower with a sunny yellow color, is unique to Lanai.

Kahoolawe: The Hinahina, with its silver-gray hue, represents this island.

Kauai: The mokihana flowers, green and fragrant, are synonymous with Kauai.

Niihau: Interestingly, Niihau's "flower" is not a botanical one but rather shells called Pupū.

So, on Lei Day, Hawaiians come together to celebrate their vibrant culture, adorned in these beautiful lei, each carrying the essence of their island.

