

Chronological: Ex-USS Kamehameha Artifacts Presentation to the USS Bowfin Submarine Museum

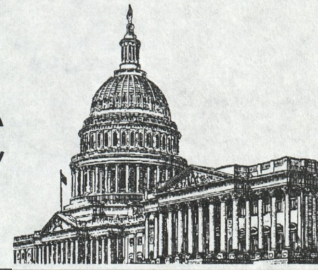
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Dan Inouye

U.S. SENATOR FROM HAWAII



**EX-USS KAMEHAMEHA ARTIFACTS PRESENTATION
TO THE USS BOWFIN SUBMARINE MUSEUM
AUGUST 12, 2004**

At my suggestion, and the approval of President Kennedy, the vessel was given its name – USS Kamehameha. In addition, I was present and spoke at both her launching and her inactivation ceremony.

The USS KAMEHAMEHA was built at the Mare Island Naval Shipyard, and commissioned on December 10, 1965. KAMEHAMEHA was the 30th of America's "41 for Freedom" Fleet Ballistic Missile Submarines. Mrs. Samuel Wilder King served as the ship's sponsor at the launching. Her husband was the Governor of the Territory of Hawaii, and one of the first Native Hawaiians to graduate from the U.S. Naval Academy.

After completing 63 deterrent patrols, KAMEHAMEHA'S missile systems were inactivated in July 1992, and she was converted to a special purpose, brown water attack submarine. This conversion installed modifications to support the surfaced and submerged deployment of Special Operations Forces. In August 1993, KAMEHAMEHA arrived in Pearl Harbor to become part of Submarine Squadron ONE. The KAMEHAMEHA was decommissioned on April 2, 2002, making her the last of the original "41" to be decommissioned and the oldest submarine in the Navy. The sub's slogan was "Imua".

On December 15, 1941, eight days after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the Portsmouth Naval Yard was given the order to begin construction of the new Balao class fleet submarines. The Bowfin was launched on December 7, 1942, and appropriately dubbed the "Pearl Harbor Avenger."