

= Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor =

Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor is a non @-@ profit founded in 1999 to develop an aviation museum in Hawaii . Part of Senator Daniel Inouye 's vision for a rebirth of Ford Island , the museum hosts a variety of aviation exhibits with a majority relating directly to the attack on Pearl Harbor and World War II . The first section of the museum , hangar 37 , opened with the museum on December 7 , 2006 , and features much of the museum 's static exhibits . The museum 's hangars show damage from the attacks on Pearl Harbor from December 7 , 1941 .

The museum has been involved in community events ranging from preservation of historical landmarks to educational tours throughout Hawai 'i . The focus devoted efforts to restoring the Ford Island control tower and signed a lease with the Navy to begin repairs . Visitors to the museum gain access via tour bus from the Pearl Harbor Historic Sites on Halawa landing or use a US Military ID card at the Admiral Clarey bridge gate . The museum has received awards for their efforts to restore historical buildings and is listed as a top 10 aviation museum on TripAdvisor .

= = History = =

In 1983 , the Pacific Aerospace Museum was formed inside Honolulu International Airport after pressure from the Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce to create an aviation museum in Hawaii succeeded . The first phase of the museum opened in 1991 and was founded by Frank Der Yuen . The idea for the Pacific Aviation Museum began on the anniversary of the victory over Japan in 1995 . After the September 11 attacks , the Pacific Aerospace Museum operation was suspended by the state and finally removed two years later . A few of the exhibits were salvaged by the Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor foundation as well as responsibility for the education and scholarship programs .

Prior to the completion of the Admiral Clarey Bridge in 1998 , access to Ford Island was provided via ferry boat only to those residing on Ford Island and their guests . Senator Inouye proposed a \$ 500 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 " rebirth " of Ford Island through special legislation 2814 U. S. Code to authorize the Navy to sell land to fund the rebirth . The plan included 500 new homes for Navy personnel , a new child development center , a new Navy lodge , and the Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor . The original museum was called the Military Aviation Museum of the Pacific . The foundation sought funds to raise the original \$ 46 million goal from various sources including the US State of Hawaii , the United States Congress , the United States Navy , and fundraising dinners . It received support from former US astronaut Captain Walter Schirra . While executive director of the San Diego Air & Space Museum , Allan Palmer was hired by the United States Air Force to conduct a feasibility study on an aviation museum in Hawaii and then hired as its executive direction and chief executive operating officer .

A groundbreaking ceremony was held March 21 , 2006 for the \$ 75 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 construction of the museum . It opened on December 7 , 2007 on the 65th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor . Its board consists of former United States president George H.W. Bush , Brigadier General Chuck Yeager , and formerly Brigadier General Paul Tibbets . The museum occupies hangars 37 , 54 , and 79 on Ford Island and covers 16 acres . In 2012 , the Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor was named an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution as part of the Smithsonian Affiliations program . On April 4 , 2013 , the museum received its millionth visitor .

= = = Facilities = = =

Due to its historical significance , as the location of the first radio alert of the attack on Pearl Harbor , the museum plans to spend over \$ 7 @,@ 500 @,@ 000 repairing the Ford Island control tower . It was registered as a category 1 structure in the 1978 Pearl Harbor Naval Base Historic Preservation Plan and is being restored by Kiewit Building Group ; the same contractor who built the museum . The 70 @-@ year @-@ old 158 feet (48 m) tower suffers from deteriorating steel stairs , landing , and beams that require repair or replacement . A grant through the United States Department of

Defense appropriations for the stabilization and restoration of a historical landmark was given to the museum for \$ 3 @, @ 800 @, @ 000 which provided the initial funds to start the project . The control tower , as well as the runway , has been designated a national historic landmark since 1964 . In 2010 , records filed with Congress shows that defense firms had donated nearly \$ 449 @, @ 000 to the museum during efforts to raise money to restore the tower . The tower was considered a personal issue for Senator Inouye and many of these donations were made in his memory . The tower was featured in the films Tora ! Tora ! Tora ! and Pearl Harbor .

Hangar 37 , a former seaplane hangar and one of the few survivors of the attack on Pearl Harbor , was the first hangar developed for the museum . The 7 @. @ 25 acres (2 @. @ 93 ha) facility consists of nine exhibits , a movie theater , flight simulators , a store and a restaurant . The renovation cost was \$ 11 @, @ 000 @, @ 000 and was raised by federal and state grants and through donations by local corporations . Built in 1939 and at over 87 @, @ 000 square feet (8 @, @ 100 m²) , Hangar 79 is the restoration hangar but also contains many of the museums exhibits including the flying tigers exhibit , MiG Alley exhibit , and various helicopters , jets , and civil aircraft . The hangar 's glass windows are still riddled with bullet holes from Japanese aircraft from the day of the attack . Tawani Foundation donated \$ 82 @, @ 500 for the renovation of Hangar 79 .

= = Exhibits = =

In 2009 , former McDonalds CEO Fred L. Turner sponsored the restoration of a Douglas SBD Dauntless . The Boeing N2S @-@ 3 Stearman used by former President George H.W. Bush for flight training and used for his first solo flight is an exhibit at the museum .

The remains of the Japanese A6M2 Zero " B11 @-@ 120 " from the carrier Hiryu piloted by Airman First Class Shigenori Nishikaichi , who crash landed on Ni 'ihau after the second wave of the attack on Pearl Harbor , are stored at the museum . It is displayed exactly as it was after the crash . The remains of the tractor used to create trenches to prevent such a landing are stored at the museum . The trenches were created after the island was warned that the Japanese had planned to use the island as a forward operating base .

A Japanese A6M2 @-@ 21 Zero similar to the aircraft used in the attack on Pearl Harbor was salvaged in 1968 and restored to flying condition in 1985 . Originally , it flew with the Japanese air group 201 in the Solomon Islands . It was sold to the Confederate Air Force for use in air shows and later sold to the museum in 2006 .

On April 11 , 2013 , the remains of a B @-@ 17 bomber arrived at the Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor almost 70 years after avoiding destruction during the attack on Pearl Harbor . The restoration project is expected to cost \$ 5 @, @ 000 @, @ 000 . The plane , called " Swamp Ghost " , was supposed to fly to Hickam Field on December 7 , 1941 but was delayed due to engine trouble and avoided the attack . Later , it was used in the February 22 , 1942 bombing of Rabaul . After the bombing , the plane was attacked by nine Japanese fighters on its return to base , was struck on the wing , and crashed in marsh water . The plane remained there for 64 years , earning its nickname , and the wreckage was used as a navigational aid . It appeared in National Geographic in 1992 and several attempts were made to recover the aircraft , but it was not successfully recovered until 2006 and arrived back in the United States in 2010 . It was purchased by the museum in 2011 . It was delivered in seven separate shipment containers and is being restored outside of hangar 79 .

In June 2012 , the museum debuted a 10 @-@ foot (3 @. @ 0 m) tall , 40 @-@ foot (12 m) wide diorama of the Battle of Midway . The diorama was commissioned in 2008 for \$ 400 @, @ 000 on the advice of Turner and took three years to complete by former US Navy pilot Karl Lau .

= = Collection = =

= = East , Wind , Rain = =

In 2008 , the Hawaii Pacific University documentary and corporate video class completed

development of a 12 @-@ minute film titled East , Wind , Rain to replace the older film shown to visitors at the museum . The film explains the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor to museum guests and won the 2010 Pixie Gold Award from American Pixel Academy .

= = Public reception = =

= = = Controversies = = =

In 2013 , the Navy was concerned about plans by the museum to host 1 @,@ 500 Chinese nationals from Amway China on Ford Island , as it remains an active military installation , who were particularly interested in the Flying Tigers exhibit . Despite these concerns , the Navy approved the event and erected a 6 @-@ foot (1 @.@ 8 m) tall fence .

In March 2013 , the museum 's online ticketing service was hacked , the museum 's service provider , Vendini , believed that none of the data of its customers was accessed .

In June 2013 , the museum fought the US Navy 's plan to install 60 @,@ 000 photovoltaic panels over 28 acres on the Ford Island runway . The Navy had intended to comply with Congressional and Defense Department mandates to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and offset the cost of Hawaiian energy costs , which are the highest in the United States . The plan deviated from a 2009 proposal which would use the panels to define the historic runway in favor of panels which would produce twice the power . The Navy offered the museum \$ 250 @,@ 000 toward renovation of the control tower 's elevator in exchange for their support of the plan which the museum declined . It organized an internet campaign to oppose the plan based on historical significance . Instead , the Navy decided to install the panels on existing structures around Pearl Harbor .

= = = Community involvement = = =

In 2008 , the museum received a grant from BAE Systems to fund its Barnstorming program to build wind tunnels and plane props that will tour local schools to teach aerospace education to sixth graders . In 2012 , the program was credited with teaching 3 @,@ 500 students from 40 schools .

In 2013 , the U.S. State Department awarded the museum the " Museums Connect " grant for the " Past to Present : U.S. -Sino Bridge of Connections " program . The program allowed students from Kaiser High School to participate in a cultural heritage exchange with students in Chengdu , China and conduct research into 1940s American @-@ Chinese relations .

= = = Tourism = = =

During the 2013 federal budget sequestration in the United States , the Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor received an increase in tourists , due to limited ferry trips to the USS Arizona Memorial which are operated by active duty United States Navy personnel . Because Ford Island is still part of the active military base Joint Base Pearl Harbor @-@ Hickam , tourists gain access via the National Park Service 's Halawa Landing , now known as the Pearl Harbor Historic Sites , for tickets to the museum and then are transported via tour bus onto the installation for the museum and the USS Missouri .

= = Recognition and awards = =

Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor was listed as the eighth top aviation attraction in the United States by TripAdvisor . In 2007 , the museum was awarded a preservation award from the Historic Hawaii foundation for " a specific project that preserved , rehabilitated or restored a historic building , object , site or district " in the redevelopment of hangar 37 .