

Veterans in Transition to Academic Leadership (VITAL)

The VITAL program seeks to provide a link between the VA and University campuses in order to better support student veterans' integration back into the community through their success in educational pursuits. Beginning in Spring 2016, VA psychologist, Nadine Shigezawa will be available on campus to assist UH student-veterans and staff. Housed in the Queen Liliuokalani Center for Student Services Building, her presence reflects the establishment of a unique new partnership between the VA and UH-Manoa.

Services offered through the VITAL program for veterans:

- On campus clinical counseling for student veterans with PTSD or other concerns, including: relationship problems, stress associated with attending college, anger management, depression, insomnia, or general adjustment to civilian life
- Assistance with enrollment and accessing medical care through the VA
- Providing information to help understand use of the GI Bill, Vocational Rehab and other benefits
- Consultation with instructors to facilitate understanding of potential difficulties for veterans within the learning environment

Services offered for faculty or other UH staff:

- Consultation/presentations regarding the mental health concerns common to veterans, and services offered by the VA
- Availability to serve as a guest lecturer on topics such as PTSD, the VA's role as a healthcare provider, or other related military or mental health concerns
- Collaboration with veterans' counselors or organizations currently located on campus to promote veterans' adjustment to the campus environment
- Possible collaboration with VA on research projects

Please come by to meet Nadine, and to bring any other suggestions you may have, which might make the VITAL program a success at UH. She welcomes any requests for participation in campus events, class projects or academic assistance with students. Or call 594-8039.