

[Job Link Now](#) | [HNN808](#) | [Healthy You](#) | [Perfect Home](#) | [Tributes](#) | [Career Opportunities](#)



75°
Overcast
Kailua-Kona

[FULL FORECAST](#)

Search

Hawaii's Congressional delegation reacts to president's attack on media

Published: Friday, February 24th 2017, 5:47 pm HST

Updated: Friday, February 24th 2017, 11:33 pm HST

By **Jim Mendoza, Reporter** [CONNECT](#)

HONOLULU (HawaiiNewsNow) - In a speech to the American Conservative Union on Friday, President Donald Trump leveled a verbal assault on the media outlets he calls "dishonest."

"We are fighting the fake news. It's fake, phony, fake!" he said. "They shouldn't be allowed to use sources unless they use somebody's name. Let their name be put out there."

Because of the president's address, the White House's usual Friday press briefing was canceled. A short time later, several major media outlets -- including CNN, the New York Times, Los Angeles Times and Politico -- were shut out of a smaller briefing.

The move rankled observers from both parties, as well as most media watchdogs.

"It's a very troubling first step that we're seeing from this administration," said CNN senior political correspondent Brian Stelter.

Hawaii's Congressional delegation was quick to condemn the administration's actions.

"Simply because he doesn't like what you may be reporting or you may be saying is not the basis by which you stop it. It's censorship," said U.S. Rep. Colleen Hanabusa, D-Hawaii.

In a written statement, U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii, called the president's tirade "a new low."

"In a free society, it is the duty of the press to hold the government and the most powerful to account. Every American should be outraged," he wrote.

U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono, D-Hawaii, said: "Certainly, to try and muzzle the press is definitely not American."

Even former state Sen. Sam Slom, a staunch Trump supporter, wouldn't defend the administration's actions.

"It doesn't matter whether it's a Republican that does it or a Democrat. It's really beneath him. He doesn't have to do it," he said.

Journalists-in-training were similarly stunned by the statements.

University of Hawaii journalism student Annabelle Le Jeune believes it isn't a black and white issue.

"There needs to be kind of a balance between the media portraying both sides of the story, and then also the government needs to be maybe a little bit more transparent," she said.

The president says he's exposing the press.

"So I'm not against the media. I'm not against the press. I don't mind bad stories if I deserve them," he said.

White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer defended the White House's actions, saying the administration will "aggressively push back" against false stories.

Copyright 2017 [Hawaii News Now](#). All rights reserved.

RECOMMENDED STORIES

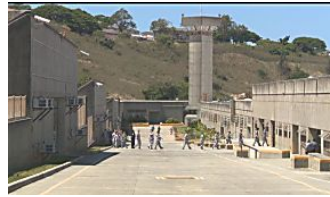
[Recommended by](#)



#4 Rainbow Warriors demolish #10 Pepperdine



Cards With Outrageously Long 0% APRs
Sponsored | Credit Cards



Lawmakers eye construction of big facility in Waiawa to tackle prison overcrowding



President Trump, About Your Diet -- We'd Like to Help
Sponsored | personaltrainerfood



There's a Problem With the New Chip Credit Cards
Sponsored | AARP



Red Cross Heroes: Maggie and Joe Edwards



The Fastest Way To Pay Off \$10,000 In Credit Card Debt
Sponsored | NerdWallet



'Road rage' incident at Arby's drive-thru turns violent

SPONSORED CONTENT

[O'Donnell Sick of Neighbor Trump, Sells Home](#) *Bankrate*

[What Are The Best Retirement Investments?](#) *Yahoo Search*

[Amy Schumer's Trump comments prompt boos, walkouts](#) *Political Storm*

[Letterman: Trump "Didn't Really Want To Be President And Now He's Stuck With It"](#) *Political Storm*

[Trump Inauguration Coin Has Liberals Furious](#) *donaldcoins.com*

WE RECOMMEND

[Splash Brothers lead way for Warriors with Durant out hurt](#)

[Russians march to honor slain opposition leader Nemtsov](#)

[Malaysia: Poisoning of Kim caused paralysis, quick death](#)

[New LG phone influenced by Samsung's Note 7 troubles](#)

[Thousands protest in Belarus against law targeting jobless](#)

Recommended by

Can't Find Something? SEARCH FOR IT HERE

SEARCH



Hawaii News Now

420 Waiakamilo Road, Suite 205
Honolulu, HI 96817
Main (808) 847-3246
News (808) 847-1112

KHNL

FCC Public File
KHNLpublicfile@hawaiinewsnow.com
EEO Contact (808) 847-3246
[EEO Report](#)
[Closed Captioning](#)

KGMB

FCC Public File
KGMBpublicfile@hawaiinewsnow.com
EEO Contact (808) 847-3246
[EEO Report](#)
[Closed Captioning](#)

- [NEWS](#)
- [WEATHER](#)
- [SPORTS](#)
- [VIDEO](#)
- [SUNRISE](#)
- [WHAT'S ON](#)
- [COMMUNITY](#)
- [TRAFFIC](#)
- [ABOUT US](#)

HAWAII NEWS NOW

All content © Copyright 2000 - 2017 Raycom Media. All Rights Reserved. For more information on this site, please read our [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#) and [Ad Choices](#)