



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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O‘AHU MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS HONORS VOLUNTEERS

HONOLULU - The Hawai‘i State Department of Health (DOH) O‘ahu Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) will honor their 500 volunteers tonight at a 2012 Volunteer Recognition Dinner and Training held at the Honolulu Community College Boulevard Island Café. Tonight’s event will celebrate past volunteer achievements, and say mahalo for the more than 2,200 hours served by O‘ahu MRC members in 2011.

The DOH conducts MRC recruitment, training, and volunteer activities on O‘ahu, Maui, Kaua‘i, and Hawai‘i. In total, the state currently has about 900 registered volunteers who serve to fill gaps in medical and public health response not covered by other agencies. These volunteers include medical and public health professionals such as nurses, physicians, and epidemiologists. In addition, the MRC recruits non-medical professionals such as interpreters, chaplains, office workers, teachers, college students and others—that can fill key support positions.

The O‘ahu MRC ensures we are self-sufficient in a time of crisis. O‘ahu MRC volunteers receive training in the incident command system, as well as participate in exercises that improve their skills in emergency preparedness and response. For example, this year, O‘ahu MRC volunteers are involved in points of dispensing exercises, flu vaccine clinics, and alternative care site response teams. Volunteers are also active within their local community, and are often called upon to participate in health fairs and community emergency preparedness events.

The MRC is a national program and, including O‘ahu, has more than 980 local units and approximately 206,000 volunteers whom donate their time and expertise to strengthen public health, emergency response, and community resiliency. For more information about the O‘ahu MRC, contact Todd Kaneshiro at (808) 587-5770. To join the O‘ahu MRC, register at www.disasterhelp.net/hah.

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