



HAWAII MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS OVERVIEW.....1



MRC VOLUNTEERS OF THE QUARTER.....2



TRAININGS, EXERCISES, & EVENTS.....3

# Hawaii Medical Reserve Corps

## *In Touch*

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**Mission Statement:**

**To establish local teams of volunteers who can contribute their skills and expertise for medical and public health services during times of community need and throughout the year**



## What is the Hawaii MRC?

The Hawaii Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) started actively recruiting in January 2007. There are four units that make up the Hawaii MRC: Big Island MRC, Kauai MRC, Maui County Health Volunteers (MCHV), and Oahu MRC.

All four units are overseen by an Executive Committee (see page 4) made up of Department of Health staff and preparedness partners including the Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), University of Hawaii (UH), and the American Red Cross (ARC). One of the first tasks of the Executive Committee was to create a statewide mission statement that would be applicable to all of the units in Hawaii (see above).

The main focus of the Hawaii MRC is to fill gaps in response that are not covered by other emergency response entities or volunteer organizations. The curriculum that is developed and used in MRC trainings is consistent statewide, and is in line with the recommendations handed down from the national MRC organization. To date our curriculum includes an MRC Orientation, Point of Distribution (POD)

clinic training, and training on the needs of vulnerable populations during disasters.

Each of the four MRC units has an Advisory Board which consists of local partners chosen by the unit. The mission of the Advisory Boards is to coordinate the training and response of the MRC with other local response partners. Coordination and open communication between emergency responders in Hawaii was the goal behind Na Lima Kako'o (Many Hands, One Heart of Aloha).

Na Lima Kako'o was the vision of the Director of Health, Chiyome L. Fukino, M.D., and includes: ARC, Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), the Hawaii Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT), Hospital Emergency Response Teams (HERT), Public Health Emergency Response Teams (PHERT), and the MRC.

The Hawaii MRC will continue with our mission, and is sure to make big strides in the years to come. Mahalo to all of the Hawaii MRC volunteers who have made 2007 such a successful first year!

*~Tara Nash, MRC Coordinator, Department of Health*



# School Flu Vaccination Campaign

The Department of Health's statewide school influenza vaccination campaign kicked off in October and will run through January 2008. Free flu vaccination is being offered to all school children aged 5-13, as well as faculty and staff at participating schools. This means that over 90,000 people will be vaccinated in a matter of months! MRC members have been instrumental to the success of this campaign, and are currently staffing clinics on Oahu, Kauai, and Maui in both

registration and vaccination positions. All participating MRC members received training by the Department of Health. Each unit is contributing locally to this effort:

- On Kauai there are currently 8 MRC members participating in the effort staffing 31 flu clinics.
- On Maui there are over 12 members staffing over 20 clinics.
- On Oahu there are 100 MRC members staffing over 400 clinics.

Big thanks to all of the MRC members statewide who are volunteering!

**Department of Health's statewide school influenza vaccination campaign** ↑  
Kauai MRC member Serena Arts administering flu vaccine during Eleele School Flu Clinic 10/26/07

## What's New?

▶ The MRC Orientation Training is now available online through the Pacific EMPRINTS website. This makes it possible for people to become MRC members if they are unable to attend an "in person" Orientation Training. In order to complete the course a post test must be taken and a score of 80% or better must be obtained. The MRC Coordinator will be notified of the completed course, and will be able to contact the individual for follow-up. For more information on Pacific Emprints or to take the online training please go to <http://www.emprints.hawaii.edu>.

▶ There is now an official web page for Hawaii MRC on the Department of Health website <http://www.hawaii.gov/health>! On the DOH homepage, click on "Emergency Preparedness," then "Medical Reserve Corps," or you can go directly to the page at <http://www.hawaii.gov/health/health/emergencyprep/mrc>. In the future we will expand the site, and add many more features including access to the MRC Hawaii Newsletter and a separate page for each of the MRC Units.



## MRC Volunteers of the Quarter Alan & Janet Nakamura

Since the beginning of the Hawaii MRC we have been blessed with great volunteers, some of whom stand out due to their kindness and selfless dedication. Alan & Janet have been active in their community as volunteers in many different capacities for years, and both have chosen careers in public service: Alan (a retired police officer) is currently a Public Safety Worker and Janet works as an Licensed Practical Nurse.



Janet and Alan started volunteering at the first Oahu MRC Orientation Training they attended. Together they have volunteered at practically every event we have had including countless Orientation Trainings, POD Trainings, News Interviews, Hurricane Preparedness Expo, POD Exercise, Disaster/Preparedness Open House, and the School Flu Vaccination Campaign. Without dependable members like Janet & Alan, our MRC unit would not be nearly as successful as it is. We appreciate all of their hard work and look forward to a continued relationship with them in the future!

# Hawaii MRC Events, Trainings, & Exercises

Many different activities have been taking place all over the state since the Hawaii MRC's inception. Here is a sampling of some of the different things that Hawaii MRC Members have participated in this year.

## Trainings



### Oahu MRC POD Training ↑

Oahu MRC Members participate in a Point of Distribution Clinic (POD) Training held at the John A Burns School of Medicine. During the second half of the training a POD is set up and “citizens” are processed through. An influenza vaccination scenario was used for the training. The training was modeled after the Department of Health’s statewide school influenza campaign taking place October 2007-January 2008.

## Exercises



← **Maui Special Needs Shelter Exercise**  
MCHV volunteer Charlotte Flavin played the role of an interpreter for “evacuees” speaking Spanish or Portuguese. Here, Charlotte is translating Portuguese, spoken by Dr. Lorrin Pang, for public health nurse Kris Aoki at the shelter’s special health needs registration station. The exercise was conducted at Pomaikai School in Kahului on October 2 and included volunteers from the American Red Cross plus members of local Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT).

### Oahu MRC POD Exercise →

A POD Exercise was conducted on September 15<sup>th</sup> 2007 at McKinley High School. The scenario was a large scale Anthrax attack on Oahu which would require all people living on the island to receive preventive medications. Participants included nursing students, DOH staff, and MRC members. POD staff also had the opportunity to play citizens getting treatment.



## Events



### MCHV ICS-400 Class Picture ↑

This course on advanced Incident Command Systems is recommended by the National and Hawaii MRCs for members who would like to participate at the managerial level. Thus far, seven MCHV volunteers and four MCHV leadership members have completed ICS-400.

*Front row:* Mark Tanaka-Sanders, Stacy Rogers, Mary Santa Maria, Vanessa Medeiros, Victor Ramos, and Milton Matsuoka

*Middle Row:* Mahina Martin, James Kaimiola, Wayne Ibarra, Linda Mau, SeaRay Beltran, Louise Linker, Debra Smalley, and Gregory Moniz

*Back Row:* Brian Hashiro, Donna Hinton, Lorrin Pang, Lauren Farmer, Buck Joiner, Kiefer Gier, Michael Kahooohanoho, Tivoli Faamu, Stan Zitnik, Mark Shima, Charles Hirata



### Big Island MRC Booth ↑

The Big Island MRC set up a display at the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Jaycees Hawaii County Fair to promote the program and recruit new volunteers. Susan Parker is pictured at the booth.

**HAWAII MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- Bart Aronoff, MPH-DOH**
- Dileep Bal, MD, MS, MPH-DOH**
- Morgan Barrett, MD, MPH-DOH**
- Toby Clairmont, RN, CEM-HAH**
- Paul Effler, MD, MPH-DOH**
- Kate Gaynor, MD-DOH**
- Maria Lutz-ARC**
- Tara Nash, MS-DOH**
- Lorrin Pang, MD, MPH-DOH**
- Kris Qureshi, RN, DNSc-UH**
- Aaron Ueno-DOH**

**MEET THE STAFF**



Mojisola "Moji" Owolabi recently moved to Kaua'i from her hometown of Chicago, IL to assume the position of Health Educator and MRC Coordinator for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Branch of the Kaua'i, District Health Office. She has served as both an AmeriCorps National Service member and Team Coordinator, and also mentors at-risk youth. She enjoys working with the community, and believes in the importance of empowering people through education. She has Bachelor's of Science Degree in Psychology and a Masters of Public Health both obtained from the University of Illinois.

**FUN FACT:** Moji is a world traveler; one of her favorite trips was to India.



Tara Nash is the Hawaii (and Oahu) MRC Coordinator. She is originally from Thousand Oaks, California. In 2004 she graduated with Bachelor's of Science Degrees in Cellular and Molecular Biology and Psychology (Minor in American Indian Studies) from San Diego State University (SDSU). She then moved to Oahu and attended University of Hawaii at Manoa where she received her Masters of Science degree in Public Health Specializing in Epidemiology. Her hobbies include painting, playing with her pets, and outdoor activities. She enjoys spending time with her husband, and gave birth to her first child in December 1, 2007.

**FUN FACT:** Tara played Division 1 Women's Water Polo while at SDSU.

*Upcoming Events*

**Big Island  
MRC**

- Orientation Training (Jan/Feb)
- Lecture Series: Non Violent Crisis Intervention (Feb/Mar)
- POD Training (Mar/April)

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**Kauai  
MRC**

- Mahalo Coffee Hour-School Flu Vax Volunteers Jan. 31st
- Creating prepared and resilient communities for Homeland Security Workshop (Feb)
- ICS 300 March 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>
- ICS Forms Workshop April 2<sup>nd</sup>

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**Maui County  
Health Volunteers**

- Members Quarterly Meeting Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>
- Incident Command Post Exercise Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>
- Psychological First Aid Class Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Patient Handling Training March 12<sup>th</sup>

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**Oahu  
MRC**

- Vulnerable Populations in Disasters Training Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> (9-11am) & 29<sup>th</sup> (5-7pm) at UH Manoa
- Orientation Training March 13<sup>th</sup> (5:30-7:30pm) at UH Manoa
- Lecture Series (Feb/Mar)

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