

## **HAWAII**

### **Highlights of State Council Activities**

Hawaii is continuing its development of Citizen Corps and is incorporating Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and other Citizen Corps programs into emergency preparedness activities. This is reflected in how well the state has integrated citizen participation and involvement into their state homeland security strategies.

Both Kauai and Oahu have instituted a program with the schools to develop youth Citizen Corps volunteers. Kauai has used the "Ropes," a team building exercise, to support participation, trust and commitment.

### **Highlights of State Activities**

#### **Public Education and Outreach**

The Hawaii Civil Defense office has a strong public affairs branch, which has conducted outreach, produced DVDs, and held numerous events.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), a Citizen Corps Affiliate, participated in Statewide Tsunami Drill in Hawaii to begin Tsunami Awareness Month on April 1. Eighty-five percent of tsunamis occur in the Pacific, and Hawaii has experienced more tsunamis than any other state. A tsunami warning system has been in place in Hawaii since 1949. Annual drills and public awareness activities, such as Tsunami Awareness Month, have helped the State become better prepared.

#### **Training and Exercises**

The State and counties worked on developing and integrating systems for providing citizen training and inclusion as a capability in emergency preparedness and response exercises. In September, Hawaii hosted the Asia-Pacific Homeland Security Summit. During the Summit, a Community Response Exercise was held giving industry representatives, the general public, and Asia-Pacific Homeland Security Summit participants the opportunity to address their reactions to a terrorist bombing scenario and measures they would have taken to protect themselves and their fellow citizens.

#### **Support for Hurricane Katrina Response**

Hawaii Citizen Corps prepared to receive evacuees and deployed volunteers to support response in Gulf Coast states. In partnership with the state Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters and the Red Cross, Citizen Corps located sites for sheltering of evacuees and worked to identify their capability in deploying volunteers.

#### **National Preparedness Month**

The Hawaiian Humane Society and Oahu Civil Defense offered a brochure to help pet owners prepare for emergencies that was published on [HawaiiHealthGuide.com](http://HawaiiHealthGuide.com). Governor Linda Lingle issued a letter to Hawaiians encouraging them to join the nationwide effort to take steps to prepare for a disaster, including getting trained in first aid and CPR.