



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**News Release**

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GOVERNOR

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**HAWAII MEDICAL TEAM ACTIVATED TO ASSIST HURRICANE  
RELIEF EFFORTS**

HONOLULU — The Federal Emergency Management Agency activated the Hawaii Disaster Medical Assistance Team (Hawaii DMAT) medical Strike Team at 12 noon today. The team is directed to report to the Hurricane Katrina operational area in Houston, Texas where they will receive their assignment. The Hawaii DMAT is co-sponsored by the Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH) and the Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH).

The nine member team of medical professionals will leave for Houston tomorrow night and arrive Thursday morning. Team members are:

Toby Clairmont, RN, Healthcare Association of Hawaii  
Monte Elias, MD, Straub Hospital  
Annie McCoy, RN, Maui Memorial Medical Center  
Sandra Melton, RN, Queens Medical Center  
Cynthia Junkin, RN, Queens Medical Center  
Kenneth Moskow, RN, Hawaii Medical Professional Services  
Peter Hughes, RN, Kaiser Medical Center  
Dennis Lai Hipp, EMT, Retired from Honolulu EMS  
Jason Tomoyasu, EMT, Honolulu EMS

The Hawaii DMAT may be asked to augment a small community hospital, assist with outpatient clinical services, conduct assessments of health care capabilities, or establish a clinic to treat rescue and recovery workers. The team could also be asked to stand-down if the situation is stable and the need for emergency medical resources diminish.

Dr. Paul Effler, the team's Supervisory Medical Officer and the Chief of the Hawaii DOH Disease Outbreak Control Division left Sunday to join the Ohio-based team in Memphis, Tennessee. The team traveled though Mississippi today to provide medical and surgical care to disaster victims.

As of today, there are already 23 DMAT teams in the disaster area together with a VMAT, a DMORT and various support elements. Dr. Paul Effler has joined with DMAT Ohio-1 and is already in the region.

The Hawaii DMAT is jointly sponsored and operated by the Healthcare Association of Hawaii and the Hawaii State Department of Health as part of the National Disaster Medical System. The team consists of about 50 physicians, nurses, paramedics, logistics and communications specialists, respiratory therapists, pharmacists and mental health practitioners.

(more)

Current status of the DMAT is and will continue to be posted on the team's website <http://www.hah-emergency.net/dmat/default.aspx>

Individuals who wish to support relief efforts can donate to the Red Cross by calling 1-800-HELP NOW.

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