



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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**AERO MEDICAL SERVICES FOR NEIGHBOR ISLANDS
SUPPORTED BY CONTINGENCY PLANS**

HONOLULU — Since the tragic crash of Hawaii Air Ambulance's (HAA) plane last night on Maui, the Department of Health's (DOH) Emergency Medical Services System Branch has been working with medical emergency partners statewide to respond to patients who need transport from Neighbor Island hospitals to Oahu.

Normal aero medical transportation capacity is reduced, but HAA's contingency plans have been activated to quickly transport waiting patients. Chartered private and U.S. Coast Guard aircraft, staffed with HAA medical personnel have already responded to the situation and are in the process of transporting 8 patients to Oahu.

The Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) has also offered support for additional medical staffing if needed.

HAA and its medical directors will continue to receive requests from referring hospitals and physicians and will work with them to determine priority needs for patient transfers. The DOH is working closely with HAA, hospitals, public and private partners to continuously monitor and assist as the situation develops.

DOH honors the tremendous work of emergency medical responders and the risks they take to help others. We extend our heartfelt sympathies to the families, friends and colleagues of the HAA crash victims.

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