



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

**News Release**

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GOVERNOR

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**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ACTIVATES  
RAPID RESPONSE TEAM TO ASSIST  
204 MAUI LAND & PINEAPPLE COMPANY AGRICULTURAL  
EMPLOYEES**

Job Fair to be held in addition to the Rapid Response Session to Assist  
Workers in finding a New Job

**HONOLULU** – The Hawai'i Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) announced today that the state has activated its multi-agency Rapid Response Team to assist the 204 employees who are being laid off by Maui Land and Pineapple Company's (MLP), Maui Pineapple Company

The Rapid Response Session for the affected employees will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on Monday, August 11, 2008, at the Lahaina Civic Center, located at 1840 Hono'apiilani Highway, Lahaina, Hawai'i 96761. Additionally, the DLIR, in partnership with the County of Maui's Office of Economic Development and the Maui Farm Bureau, will hold a job fair directly after the Rapid Response session from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The DLIR held a Rapid Response session for the approximately 46 employees laid off from MLP's Maui Land Company on July 29, 2008 at the Kapalua Training Center in Lahaina, Maui.

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The Rapid Response Team is composed of staff from the DLIR's Workforce Development Division and Unemployment Insurance Division, Department of Human Resources Development, Department Human Services, Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism and Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. Board of Agriculture Chairperson Sandra Lee Kunimoto will also be part of this Rapid Response team and will be on hand at the job fair. Officials from the DLIR have been in contact with MLP management in disseminating information to their employees.

“We are please that in addition to the rapid response services that we can provide that we are also able to provide possible job opportunities to these displaced workers,” said Darwin L.D. Ching, Director of Labor and Industrial Relations. “We are thankful to the County of Maui, the Maui Farm Bureau and the local farmers on Maui for their proactive assistance in helping these workers with finding new jobs.”

The Rapid Response team will provide an array of services for these dislocated workers, including skills assessment, individual counseling, career planning, employment development, occupational skills training, on-the-job training, entrepreneurial training, job-readiness training and adult education. Participants will also be provided information regarding unemployment benefits, welfare assistance and medical benefits. Project participants may also receive out-of-area job search assistance, relocation assistance and other related supportive services. Support services may include childcare, transportation assistance and job related certifications, uniforms and equipment.

DLIR activated similar Rapid Response Teams to assist employees who were laid off by Kona Community Hospital, North Hawai'i Community Hospital, the Honolulu Advertiser and Sealife Park Hawai'i.

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