



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

News Release

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**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ATTAINS
\$501,402 NATIONAL EMERGENCY GRANT TO ASSIST DISPLACED
WORKERS FROM MAUI AND HAWAII COUNTY**

Funds to be earmarked for Workers Dislocated from Hawaii Naniloa Resort
and Kapalua Bay Hotel

HONOLULU – The Hawaii Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) has been awarded a \$501,402 National Emergency Grant (NEG) from the U.S. Department of Labor. The NEG will enable DLIR to assist approximately 170 workers who were dislocated by the closing of the Hawaii Naniloa Resort and the Kapalua Bay Hotel. The Hawaii Naniloa Resort is located on the Big Island in Hilo, while the Kapalua Bay Hotel is located in Lahaina, Maui. The DLIR applied for the NEG in order to provide urgent assistance to employees who were laid off .

On Oct. 25, 2005, the Hawaii Naniloa Resort issued a Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) announcing the sale of the hotel to Hawaii Outdoor Tours and the displacement of 150 employees. In response to that notification, the DLIR dispatched State Rapid Response teams that met with the employees of the Hawaii Naniloa Resort on Dec. 20,

2005, to inform them of the available employment services. Layoffs began on Feb. 1, 2006, and Rapid Response teams again met with employees on Feb. 10 to offer assistance.

On February 1, 2006, the Kapalua Bay Hotel issued a WARN notice announcing the closing of the hotel due to renovations and the displacement of 271 employees. The DLIR dispatched State Rapid Response teams that met with the employees of the Kapalua Bay Hotel February 10, 2006, to inform them of the available employment services. Layoffs began on April 07, 2006.

The total number of employees laid off by both hotels was 341. However, only 170 of them have indicated that they are in need of the DLIR's assistance. The NEG will be used to 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 may also be provided training in high-demand industries to include health care, construction and commercial truck driving. 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.

"We have an obligation to these workers to ensure that that they are given every possible opportunity to find meaningful employment and to have the ability to provide for themselves and their families during these tough times," said Nelson B. Befitel, Director of Labor and Industrial Relations. "The Lingle-Aiona Administration appreciates the federal government's willingness to partner with us in proactively addressing the needs of those who are displaced due to circumstances beyond their control."

"These workers need skills training to help them find new jobs," said Elaine L. Chao, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Labor. "This half-million dollar grant will provide employment services to help workers build new careers in growing industries."

NEGs are discretionary awards from the Workforce Investment Act that must be approved by the Secretary of Labor and are intended to temporarily expand service capacity at the state and local levels by providing time-limited funding assistance in response to significant dislocation events. Significant events are those that create a sudden need for assistance that cannot reasonably be expected to be accommodated within the on-going operations of the formula-funded Dislocated Worker program, including the discretionary resources reserved at the state level.

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