



National Weather Service Forecast Office Honolulu, HI
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Amateur Radio Operators Reach Far and Wide During SKYWARN Appreciation Day 2011



Every year amateur radio operators make a tremendous difference making communication possible during both natural and man-made disasters. These radio operators are highly trained individuals, many of whom volunteer countless hours of their time helping a wide variety of public safety professions. This, of course, includes the National Weather Service.

The National Weather Service Forecast Office in Honolulu utilizes amateur radio operators during hazardous weather events to gather weather information and reports from around the state of Hawaii. Radio operators are able to use their skills to reach far and wide for information, and their communication systems work when other forms of communication are lost due to power outages and other infrastructure damage. Many public safety oriented organizations such as civil defense, emergency management, FEMA, USCG, and the military, utilize amateur radio as part of their redundant communication systems.

Each December the National Weather Service celebrates the contributions of amateur radio operators around the nation by organizing SKYWARN Appreciation Day. During this event radio operators gather as many "contacts" as possible around the world. This year 11 community volunteers and radio operators occupied the NWS Honolulu radio post for a 24 hour period running from 2pm Friday December 2nd to 2pm Saturday December 3rd. The group made contact with folks in 20 states, 15 NWS offices, and people in Australia, Canada, Russia, and French Polynesia. In total, operators made 124 contacts during the event.

We here at the NWS office in Honolulu would like to extend our deepest mahalo for the amateur radio community of Hawaii for all of their support, and say congratulations on a successful event!



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