



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**News Release**

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GOVERNOR

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**DOH AND HAWAI'I AIR NATIONAL GUARD PILOT MEDICAL  
INNOVATIVE READINESS TRAINING PROGRAM**

HONOLULU – The Hawai'i State Department of Health (DOH) and Hawai'i Air National Guard launched the state's Medical Innovative Readiness Training (HI-MIRT) program, *E Malama Kakou*, (*To Care for All*) this week. The collaborative program provides essential training for National Guard personnel while at the same time addresses local community health needs.

"We are glad to be part of this innovative partnership with the Hawaii National Guard," stated Health Director Chiyome L. Fukino, M.D. "It's a win-win situation, with our local communities benefiting from free health services, and National Guard Medical Groups maintaining their skills and readiness for humanitarian assistance and disaster response."

The Wai'anae Coast is the first community to be served by HI-MIRT. Members of the Ohio Air National Guard 179<sup>th</sup> Medical Group (MDG) hosted by the 154<sup>th</sup> MDG, Hawai'i Air National Guard are conducting a 10-day exercise serving students and the public at various schools in the community and at the Wai'anae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (WCCHC). Guard members will also assist WCCHC staff in outreach to homeless individuals and families. Services offered include vision screening, physicals and CPR and First Aid classes.

The scope of E Malama Kakou extends for the next five years, with the 154<sup>th</sup> MDG, Hawai'i Air National Guard, serving as host unit to other National Guard and Reserve Component Medical Groups/Companies to provide clinical support in underserved areas on all islands. The Medical Groups will provide free preventative health assessments, wellness referral to outpatient clinics and community disaster preparedness awareness training.

The project will be expanded to other communities and adapted to address specific community needs.

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