



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

News Release

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**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ACTIVATES
RAPID RESPONSE TEAM TO ASSIST FORMER
HAWAI'I SUPERFERRY EMPLOYEES**

HONOLULU - The Hawai'i Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) announced that it has activated its Rapid Response Team to assist Hawai'i Superferry employees who will have their last day of work on Friday, March 20, 2009. The Rapid Response Team is composed of staff from the DLIR's Workforce Development Division and Unemployment Insurance Division, the Department of Health and other State agencies. Officials from the DLIR have been in contact with Hawai'i Superferry management in disseminating information to its employees. The affected employees are from O'ahu, Maui, and Kaua'i.

The Rapid Response Team will hold two meetings on Friday, one on O'ahu and one on Maui, to provide information on an array of available 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 welfare assistance

and medical benefits. 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.

"The Administration is working to ensure that the soon-to-be former Superferry workers are given every possible opportunity to find meaningful employment and to have the ability to provide for themselves and their families during this difficult time of transition," said Darwin L.D. Ching, Director of Labor and Industrial Relations.

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