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HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII AND HAWAI‘I DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CALL FOR COVID-19 MEDICAL VOLUNTEERS

Licensed retired professionals, out-of-state professionals, and licensed non-clinical healthcare workers asked to register with the Hawai‘i Department of Health

HONOLULU – [HAH.org](http://HAH.org) – The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH) and the Hawai‘i Department of Health (DOH) are asking healthcare professionals who are not currently working in clinical roles to register with the [Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)](http://Medical Reserve Corps) as potential volunteers.

Corps volunteers can include doctors, nurses, physician assistants, pharmacists, epidemiologists, and other medical and public health professionals. Adult community members (age 18+) can also support the Corps in positions that include interpreters, chaplains, office workers, and legal advisors. Accepted volunteers are given liability protection.

The Corps is managed by the health department, which vets and assigns volunteers to participating organizations. Once such organization, Hawaii Healthcare Emergency Management, is a wholly owned subsidiary of HAH and tasked with healthcare emergency management and response.

Healthcare professionals, not currently working in a clinical role, are invited to register at [www.nlk.doh.hawaii.gov](http://www.nlk.doh.hawaii.gov).

Volunteers in the following groups are sought:

- Retired health professionals
- Hawaii state healthcare professionals in administrative capacities
- Out-of-state professionals, with or without Hawaii licenses
- Hawaii state healthcare non-clinical professionals who are not currently employed

Those without a medical background may also register as volunteers for non-clinical roles.
“The community has shown that they will be there in times of need; we’ve seen this again and again,” said Judy Kern, chief of the DOH Office of Public Health Preparedness. “We are deeply grateful to all the volunteers for stepping forward to help our community in this time of crisis.”

Each person who registers will undergo a background check that will take approximately two to three weeks. “Registrants might not be contacted right away, and, depending on the community need, some registrants may not be activated at all, but all are appreciated,” Kern said.

Hilton Raethel, HAH’s president and chief executive officer, said, “Hawaii, as an island state, needs a deep bench from which it can draw volunteers. The Healthcare Association of Hawaii is working to ensure that the statewide healthcare delivery system has as many resources as possible in preparation for the anticipated surge of COVID-19 patients in the weeks and months ahead.

“This is a statewide effort, and we are working with all the stakeholders. I would like to thank Lt. Gov. Josh Green for reaching out to the medical community about this opportunity. We need all hands on deck to meet the demand created by this unprecedented worldwide pandemic.”

HAH’s Hawaii Healthcare Emergency Management (HHEM) is a statewide healthcare emergency management coalition providing comprehensive, all-hazards healthcare emergency management and response. Chris Crabtree, the Coalition’s executive director, said, “There will be potentially many opportunities for our volunteers, and not all will be helping with direct patient care. We are looking for volunteers in other capacities, from specialists to those who can help deliver food or even support administrative roles,” he said.

As of today, there are needs for the following licensed professionals:

- Physicians
- Nurses
- Respiratory Therapists
- Certified Nurse Assistants
- Nurse Aides
- Pharmacists
- Radiologic Technologists
- Surgical Technicians
- EMTs
- Medical Assistants
- Community Health Workers

**About the Medical Reserve Corps**

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is a national initiative, organized into community-based units located throughout the United States and its territories. The program is directed at the local, regional, state, and national levels.
In Hawaii, each Corps unit is led by an MRC Unit Coordinator, who matches community needs—for emergency medical response and public health initiatives—with volunteer capabilities. Local coordinators are also responsible for building partnerships, ensuring the sustainability of the local unit, and managing the volunteer resources. Learn more at health.hawaii.gov/prepare/mrc.

About the Healthcare Association of Hawaii

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH) is the nonprofit trade organization serving Hawaii’s hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, home care companies, and hospices. It is the state affiliate for national organizations that include the American Hospital Association, the American Health Care Association/National Center for Assisted Living, and the National Association for Home Care and Hospice. For more information, go to HAH.org. Like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter (@HealthcareHAH).

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