



**American  
Red Cross**

Hawaii State Chapter

*Hawaii State Chapter  
4155 Diamond Head Road  
Honolulu, HI 96816-4417  
[www.hawaiiredcross.org](http://www.hawaiiredcross.org)*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Contact:** Jennifer Walter  
**Phone:** (808) 368-3069

# **HAWAII RED CROSS VOLUNTEER DEPLOYS TO ALABAMA FOR TORNADO RELIEF EFFORTS**

**HONOLULU, April 28, 2011** - Esther Lau, a Hawaii Red Cross volunteer from Honolulu, is flying to Alabama this evening to assist with the disaster relief operation set up in response to the devastating tornadoes that tore through the South.

Lau, a registered nurse, has been assigned as a Manager of Health Services on the operation. Health Services workers make sure those affected are able to replace essential medical supplies such as prescriptions and medical equipment, provide health monitoring in shelters and make condolence visits to families who lost loved ones in the disaster. Lau has deployed on multiple Red Cross relief operations over the past 10 years.

Hardest hit by the severe weather was Alabama, where Governor Robert Bentley has activated National Guard troops to help in the devastated areas. The Red Cross is sending disaster workers, materials, blood products and equipment into the state. Nearly 40 emergency response vehicles are on the way, along with 25,000 ready-to-eat meals. Red Cross Blood Services is moving hundreds of blood products into the area, and Red Cross nurses and mental health workers are being deployed to help people cope with the aftermath of this disaster.

More than 1,600 people sought refuge in 65 Red Cross shelters Wednesday night as the storms forced them from their homes. Red Cross shelters are open in Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, Missouri, Indiana, Kentucky, Arkansas, North Carolina and Texas.

More than half of the country has been affected by this continuous band of damaging weather, disrupting people's lives from North Dakota to the East Coast. In the last several weeks, Red Cross disaster workers have provided thousands of overnight stays in shelters, distributed thousands of clean-up and comfort kits and served hundreds of thousands of meals and snacks.

Lau is part of a national network of Red Cross disaster volunteers who are trained to deploy to large relief operations for up to three week assignments. Community members interested in becoming disaster volunteers should contact their nearest Red Cross office or visit the chapter's web site at [www.hawaiiredcross.org](http://www.hawaiiredcross.org). All Red Cross disaster training is open to the public and offered at no cost.

The Red Cross depends on financial donations to help in times of disaster, both here in the United States and around the world. Those who want to help can make a donation to support American Red Cross Disaster Relief. To make a donation, visit [www.hawaiiredcross.org](http://www.hawaiiredcross.org) or call 1-800-RED-CROSS. To send a contribution, mail your check to:

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