



**American
Red Cross**
Hawaii State Chapter

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NEWS RELEASE

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7 TOTAL HAWAII RED CROSS VOLUNTEERS TO DEPLOY FOR HURRICANE IRENE

HONOLULU, August 31, 2011 – A total of seven local Hawaii Red Cross volunteers are deploying to assist victims of Hurricane Irene, and over 50 more volunteers are on standby to deploy, if needed, within 24 hours.

Bill Berg, Christina Bell, Renise Bayne, and Trevor Keetch who will be leaving for Boston tomorrow to assist with bulk distribution of emergency relief items.

In addition, registered nurse Donna Goldsworthy from Big Island will be deploying to Connecticut today, and nurses Esther Lau and Lucille James will deploy on Friday. Esther Lau is a veteran disaster services volunteer whose first deployment was to 9-11. That experience was so profound that 10 years later, she still deploys to large disasters several times a year, most recently to Joplin for the tornadoes. Esther will be deploying to New York for Hurricane Irene. Lucille James has deployed twice before, most recently to Alabama as part of a condolence team that visited families who had lost loved ones. She also deployed to American Samoa, where she went village to village providing health care services to victims of the tsunami. Lucille will be deploying to Connecticut for Hurricane Irene.

Thousands of people from North Carolina to New England have turned to the American Red Cross for help in the aftermath of Hurricane Irene, as flooding, widespread power outages and wind damage have devastated many communities. The footprint of Irene is huge and the cost of Red Cross response is estimated at \$10-\$15 million.

Since Friday, the Red Cross has provided about 52,000 overnight shelter stays. On Saturday alone, 500 shelters were open for tens of thousands of people to seek refuge along the East Coast. Ten kitchens, capable of serving over 100,000 hot meals each day, are operating or being set up in North Carolina, Virginia, and New York. So far, over 500,000 hot meals have been served. About 260 feeding vehicles - every Red Cross feeding truck east of the Rocky Mountains - has been mobilized to support recovery efforts. Over 23,000 relief items such as clean-up kits, rakes, ice chests and tarps have been distributed to disaster victims.

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People who can help are encouraged to click, text or call to donate to American Red Cross Disaster Relief. Visit www.redcross.org , call 1-800-RED CROSS or text the word REDCROSS to 90999 to make a \$10 donation. Contributions may also be sent to the American Red Cross, Hawaii State Chapter, 4155 Diamond Head Road, Honolulu, HI 96816, or to the American Red Cross, P.O. Box 37243, Washington, DC 20013.

The Red Cross is a non-profit humanitarian organization which provides assistance to meet the immediate emergency needs of those affected by disasters. All Red Cross assistance to disaster victims is free. The Red Cross is not a government agency; it depends on public contributions to help others. Your gift supports the lifesaving mission of the American Red Cross in your community, across the country and around the world.

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