

Tropic Care 2018 will bring no-cost health care to residents

This year the U.S. military, State of Hawaii Department of Health and County of Maui will once again be bringing no-cost health care to our residents.

Tropic Care 2018 will be taking place next month in all county districts, including Central, South and West Maui, as well as Hana, Molokai and Lanai.

The professionally trained members of the military will offer physicals, eye exams, dental exams, fillings, extractions and even make eyeglasses for those who need them. No medical insurance or even identification is needed. Just stand in line and wait to be helped.

We are still working out all of the details with the Department of Defense and State Department of Health but here is what we know, the locations will include the University of Hawaii Maui College campus,



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Waiola Church, St. Theresa's Church, Hana Old School cafeteria, Mitchell Pauole Center and the County Gym on Lanai.

The clinics will begin on Aug. 11 and run until Aug. 18 or 19, depending upon the needs of each district. Hours of operation will also be announced at a later date.

What we need right now though, are volunteers. While military personnel will be doing the medical, dental and vision exams, we need community volunteers to help out with everything else.

Volunteers need to be at least 18 years old. That's it. If you or your organization are interested in helping out there's a volunteer sign-up link at signup.com/Group/962851380090/ or you can call the Mayor's Office at 270-7855 and ask for Chief of Staff Lynn Araki-Regan for more details.

For those who don't remember, Tropic Care came to Maui County the first time back in 2013 and assisted hundreds of people by providing no-cost care. It's a win-win situation because the military gets to do some readiness training and our community benefits from the services they pro-

vide while training.

So please, help them help us if you can.

A few things to mention. Please note that the military will be providing no-cost health care and not health care insurance.

Also, when the time comes to stand in line it is up to you to bring any paperwork you think they will need, such as past exams or physicals. The military will not be able to communicate with your regular doctor while providing services at these on-site clinics.

Otherwise come as you are. There will be much more information from my office about this event next month so be on the lookout for it in the media. If you don't see any information between now and the Tropic Care event, contact Maui County Communication Director Rod Antone for more details at rod.antone@maui-county.gov or 270-8222.

■ "Our County," a column from Maui County Mayor Alan Arakawa, discusses county issues and activities of county government. The column usually appears on the first and third Fridays of the month.