

HO'OMAIKA'I AWARD



AHUWALE KA PO'OKELA I KAU HANA IA HA'I

It is through the way you serve others that your greatness will be felt.



Karlson Pung, AMR Hawaii County

Karlson Pung Recognized for His Many Contributions to the Hilo Community

Karlson Pung was a professional musician until he got married and decided he needed to get a "real" job. Today, Karlson is Operations Manager for American Medical Response (AMR) in Hawaii County, and AirMed's November Ho'omaika'i recipient.

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Working in Hilo his entire career, Karlson was set to become an RN when he took an EMT course during one of his summer breaks. It was this course, and his volunteer work with Hilo Medical Center's Emergency Department and with Hawaii County Fire that exposed him to patients in need and left him wanting to do more. He became an EMT for International Life Support (ILS) in 1990 and when AMR absorbed ILS, Karlson was appointed to the position of Operations Manager.

After 19 years in the business, Karlson still enjoys shifts on the ambulance, but his primary focus these days is on the improvement of EMS service for the community. Karlson says "in these tough economic times, with minimal access to specialized care, especially on the neighbor islands, we EMS providers throughout the State need to look for ways to work together and maximize the resources that are available to us. This is the basis to insure a quality driven EMS System for the State of Hawaii."

His dedication and heartfelt concern for the community have earned Karlson Pung AirMed Hawaii's Ho'omaika'i award. Karlson has selected the American Cancer Society of East Hawaii as the recipient of the \$100 donation made in his honor.



AirMed Now Stationed in Hilo

AirMed is now stationed at Hilo International Airport to provide transports for patients of Hilo Medical Center and other Big Island hospitals.

"We are pleased to provide immediate transport capabilities to those in Hilo and the neighboring communities," said Sandy Apter, AirMed Hawaii Vice President. "Our crew of two pilots and a team of nurses and paramedics are on standby in Hilo daily."

AirMed has also started training courses at Hilo Medical Center on specialty care for transport patients. "Our Hilo education program is an extension of the quarterly training and AirMed's on-going commitment to share our knowledge with other healthcare professionals in our community," said Apter.

The Hilo base extension was the result of numerous requests from area hospitals and medical professionals, and the feedback from the community so far has been overwhelmingly positive.

AirMed Staff Receive CFRN and FP-C Certifications

Six AirMed team members recently received their Certified Flight Registered Nurse Certification (CFRN) - Alan Agodong, Alan Bremmer, Jason Haynes, Peter Hughes, Jon Kane, and Geraldine Robles. This important certification provides the consumer and the patient with the knowledge that their health care provider is competent and responsible. This translates to a stronger belief in the ability of the nurse and in the credibility of AirMed.

Three AirMed flight paramedics also received their Certified Flight Paramedic certifications. They are Kelly Garringer, Tim Hess and Bradley Royer.

AirMed Hawaii is proud to have the largest percentage of medically certified staff providing air ambulance care in Hawaii.



Garfield Arakaki, Finalist for 2008 Tim Hynes Awards

Garfield Arakaki, MICT with AirMed Hawaii, was one of nine worldwide finalists for the 2008 International Association of Flight Paramedics Tim Hynes Award. The award recognizes exemplary abilities in Leadership, Education and Safety within the paramedic profession. "We are so proud of Garfield's great work. He certainly deserves this honor and recognition," says Denise Treadwell, Executive Vice President of AirMed International.



Surfers in the Sky: AirMed's crew pose with their surfboards for an editorial that will appear in a future issue of Business & Commercial Aviation magazine.



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