HAWAI'I DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH USES $14 MILLION OF CARES ACT FUNDING TO SUPPLEMENT LOCAL STAFFING IN HOSPITALS STATEWIDE

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HONOLULU — The Hawai'i Department of Health is administering $14 million to provide more than 200 additional nurses and other specialists for hospitals statewide over the next four months. Some of the out-of-state personnel will begin arriving this weekend. Gov. Ige approved the award of funds from the Coronavirus Relief Fund earlier this week. The funding, provided through the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, will provide vital healthcare capacity.

The Department of Health, in collaboration with the Healthcare Association of Hawai'i, contracted ProLink Healthcare, a Cincinnati, Ohio-based healthcare staffing company, to provide specialized personnel for Kuakini Medical Center, The Queen's Medical Center, Adventist Health Castle, Hilo Medical Center, Maui Memorial Medical Center, Kaiser Permanente Moanalua Medical Center, Straub Medical Center, Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children, Pali Momi Medical Center, and Wahiawa General Hospital.

The majority — more than 85% — of the positions are for medical-surgical nurses, critical care nurses, and telemetry nurses. The remaining positions include respiratory therapists, emergency department nurses and dialysis nurses. The breakdown includes 70 critical care nurses, 61 telemetry nurses, 71 medical-surgical nurses, 17 respiratory therapists, nine emergency department nurses, and five dialysis nurses.

"As Hawai'i faces increases in hospitalizations due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, the Department of Health wants to be sure our hospitals have sufficient surge capacity," said Dr. Elizabeth A. Char, Director of Health. "During their time here, these experienced healthcare staff will be providing critical patient care as well as respite for our dedicated local healthcare workforce."

The supplemental staff will be deployed in two waves. A total of 134 individuals will arrive in the first wave from Sept. 26 and Oct. 4, and work in Hawai'i for two months. In the second wave, about 100 personnel are scheduled to arrive on Nov. 1 and will also be in Hawai'i for two months.

As essential workers, the out-of-state traveler nurses will be allowed to work with an exemption from the mandatory 14-day quarantine, and they will be regularly tested for COVID-19.

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About ProLInk Healthcare

ProLink Healthcare is dedicated to placing quality nurses, allied specialists and healthcare professionals with leading healthcare facilities nationwide. The organization offers a full-spectrum of staffing services, including contract, contract-to-hire (temporary to permanent), direct placement as well as managed services programs (MSP), which allows its clients to streamline their contingent workforce systems, reduce and control labor costs, and positively impact patient care. ProLink Healthcare is headquartered in Cincinnati, OH with offices in Atlanta, GA; Chicago, IL; Cleveland, OH; Columbia, SC; Columbus, OH; Dallas, TX; Dayton, OH; Indianapolis, IN; Louisville, KY; Nashville, TN; Phoenix, AZ; Pittsburgh, PA; and Tampa, FL. To learn more, visit prolinkstaffing.com/healthcare.

PDF: DOH uses $14M to supplement staffing in hospitals statewide