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“Media and Emergency Response” To Be Topic Of Honolulu Community-Media Council Meeting

Honolulu, HI – The Honolulu Community-Media Council (HC-MC) will host a luncheon meeting open to the public on **February 27 at the Ala Moana Hotel** to examine the media’s capability to respond quickly to emergencies.

The program titled “**Media and Emergency Response**” will feature a panel discussion among representatives of print and broadcast media, State government and the public.

The event will begin at 11:30 in the hotel’s Carnation Room, followed by lunch and the program, which will conclude at 1:30. The lunch’s cost is \$20; reservations can be made until February 23 by calling Veronica at 596-2121.

HC-MC president Chris Conybeare said the panel will examine the difficulties experienced by government and the media on October 15th after two strong earthquakes rattled the state and prompted a major power outage on Oahu. At one point, 70 percent of the state’s broadcast stations were off the air, which restricted the flow of emergency information to the public.

Conybeare said the panel also will discuss measures taken since Earthquake Sunday to strengthen media operations and improve the chain of emergency communications from State Civil Defense and other authorities to the public.

Panelists confirmed as participants include **Mark Platte**, editor of The Honolulu Advertiser; **Chuck Cotton**, vice president and general manager of seven Honolulu radio stations owned by Clear Channel; **Michael Titterton**, general manager of Hawaii Public Radio; **Marsha Weinert**, the State Administration’s liaison to the visitor industry and co-chair of the Comprehensive Communications Review Committee that proposed communications improvements after the October 15th earthquakes, and Honolulu communications consultant **Doug Carlson**, writer of the Citizens Helping Officials Respond to Emergencies (CHORE) web log. **State Civil Defense** has been invited to send a representative and participate in the panel discussion.

Conybeare said the February 27th luncheon will be the first of several events this year as the Council resumes a regular schedule of communications-oriented programs. The HC-MC was established in 1970 and is the oldest of the three volunteer media councils that exist in the United States. The Council is composed of individuals from the community and media and is a non- partisan, non-profit, non-governmental independent group that seeks to improve public access to information, strengthen public support for First Amendment rights and freedoms, broaden public understanding of the role of the media, and promote accurate and fair journalism in Hawaii.

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