



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE SALVATION ARMY READIES EMERGENCY DISASTER SERVICES TEAMS STATEWIDE
IN HAWAI'I AS THREAT FROM APPROACHING TROPICAL STORM LALA INTENSIFIES**

The Salvation Army Hilo Corps Shifts Overnight Safe Space Operations with Support from
Hawai'i County

HONOLULU (August 14, 2026) – The Salvation Army Hawaiian & Pacific Islands Division has readied its Emergency Disaster Services (EDS) teams to assist Hawai'i communities statewide as Tropical Storm Lala intensifies on its approach to the islands. A hurricane warning has been issued for Hawai'i Island, with a tropical storm warning in effect for Maui County. Working closely with state and county agencies to monitor the unfolding situation, The Salvation Army stands ready to assist areas of greatest need, anticipating a potential activation to support meal services at shelters across the state should the storm's current trajectory continue.

Regularly serving houseless members of the community, The Salvation Army's Hilo Overnight Safe Space is relocating as the island is facing the threat of hurricane-force winds. Following discussions with Hawai'i County Mayor Kimo Alameda's Human Services Task Force, of which The Salvation Army is a member organization, a decision has been made to relocate from the overnight shelter's tent structures to a temporary shelter building provided by Hawai'i County. This relocation will allow The Salvation Army's overnight guests to be safe from the storm and receive continuity of services. Case workers and partner organization outreach teams are canvassing the area for people who will need shelter from the storm, as county shelters open on Friday at 6 p.m.

"With Hawai'i Island facing a direct hit from Lala's high winds, heavy rains, and storm surge, our seasoned response teams are prepared to support feeding operations throughout our community and to assist first responders on the frontlines," said The Salvation Army Hawai'i County Coordinator Captain Sam LeMar. "We are grateful for the continued partnership with our Hawai'i County leadership for providing a space so that we may continue serving our Overnight Safe Space guests as we weather this storm together."

To learn more about The Salvation Army's Emergency Disaster Services supporting Hawai'i communities in the wake of Tropical Storm Lala, please visit hawaii.salvationarmy.org. Donations to The Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services provide meals, essential supplies, and emotional and spiritual care to neighbors in need: <https://fundraise.salvationarmyhawaii.org/HawaiiPacificDisasterRelief26>.



Please find visuals [HERE](#) (courtesy of The Salvation Army), including:

- Footage of The Salvation Army Hilo Corps exterior.
- Hilo Temple Corps officer Captain Sam LeMar pictured in March 2026 as he prepares breakfast bentos for Hilo residents sheltering from Kona Low events.
- Emergency Disaster Services support team pictured in March 2026 supporting Kona Low relief efforts at The Salvation Army's Camp Homelani.

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About The Salvation Army – Hawaiian & Pacific Islands Division

The Salvation Army Hawaiian & Pacific Islands Division covers the state of Hawai'i and the Pacific Islands including Guam, The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Republic of the Marshall Islands and The Federated States of Micronesia. The Division offers a wide variety of programs throughout the islands including: affordable senior housing; at-risk youth services and housing; camp & conference center; family stores; food distribution and feeding programs; homeless services; The Kroc Center – Hawai'i's largest community center; preschools & day care services; social services – emergency assistance; substance abuse treatment; and work therapy & rehabilitation services. For more information, call 808-988-2136, visit hawaii.salvationarmy.org, and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.