



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE SALVATION ARMY MOBILIZES MEAL SERVICES TO HAWAI'I SHELTERS IN WAKE OF HURRICANE LALA

Relief Efforts Bolstered by Community Partners; Hilo Walmart Donates Starlink to Aid Disaster Response Communications

HONOLULU (August 16, 2026) – The Salvation Army Hawaiian & Pacific Islands Division has deployed Emergency Disaster Services (EDS) teams across Hawai'i in the wake of Hurricane Lala. Activated to provide meal services at county-run shelters and focusing on communities where storm impact is greatest on Hawai'i Island, The Salvation Army is navigating operational complications compounded by washed-out roads and widespread power outages to serve remote and rural-area needs. Hundreds of thousands of people statewide are currently without power, including nearly 70% of Hawai'i Island residents.

Together with the County of Hawai'i, The Food Basket, Vibrant Hawai'i, Walmart, World Central Kitchen with local restaurant partners, and The American Red Cross, The Salvation Army will service county-determined distribution hubs in impacted areas of Hawai'i Island beginning Monday as conditions allow. The collective disaster relief effort will include meals and boxes of food, shovels, rakes, tarps, and industrial garbage bags for affected residents. The Salvation Army Hilo Overnight Safe Space Shelter served 245 meals out of its temporary building location provided by the county and will return to its regular location at Hilo Temple Corps on Monday.

Additionally, The Salvation Army provided 172 meals to individuals seeking refuge in four emergency shelters on Maui and 250 meals to support the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and Joint Operations Center (JOC) on O'ahu from Saturday to Sunday. While Lala was downgraded to a tropical storm on Sunday, Hawai'i continues to be battered by strong wind gusts, dangerous surf, heavy rain, and regional flash flooding, with reports of at least 100 homes lost. EDS teams will remain nimble to support immediate needs and recovery strategies as the situation evolves in real-time.

"We know a storm system this devastating and widespread brings moment-to-moment uncertainties for communities—from where to find a warm meal to how to rebuild what was



lost,” said Major Troy Trimmer, Divisional Commander for The Salvation Army Hawaiian and Pacific Islands Division. “Together with dedicated state and county agencies and our compassionate community partners, we are steadfast in the face of Lala to bring statewide relief and resources for as long as it takes to heal Hawai‘i.”

Local community partners play a vital role in strengthening The Salvation Army's disaster response capabilities, and support from generous donors helps ensure no one faces the storm alone. Hilo Walmart has donated a Starlink unit to The Salvation Army to provide reliable satellite internet connectivity for emergency response teams operating in areas where cellular service and power infrastructure are disrupted by the storm.

“In our disaster responses, communication challenges are greatly amplified when power lines are downed and when serving remote areas,” said Captain Sam LeMar, The Salvation Army Hilo Corps Officer and Hawai‘i County Coordinator. “This new Starlink unit will greatly enhance our capacity to keep connected with our emergency response teams with the most updated information so we can get support to the people who need it most.”

Logistics are in development to move kits of cleaning supplies from O‘ahu to Hilo on Monday. Additionally, The Salvations Army’s EDS teams are actively seeking restaurant partners to help supplement some of the upcoming statewide meal services for the community and first responders.

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

Visuals, courtesy of The Salvation Army, are available [HERE](#), and include photos of:

- Hilo Walmart Store Manager Mark Roberts and Frontend Coach Wendel Dait presenting a new Starlink unit to Captain Sam LeMar, The Salvation Army Hilo Corps Officer and Hawai‘i County Coordinator.



- Building provided by Hawai'i County serves as a temporary shelter for guests from The Salvation Army 's Hilo Overnight Safe Space, relocated due to Lala's hurricane-force winds.
- Volunteer from The Salvation Army supporting LaLa relief efforts in Hilo.

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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.