



TRIPLER ARMY MEDICAL CENTER

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Dec. 11, 2006

Local EPA applauds Tripler for positive environmental impact

Story and photo by Mark Jackson, Tripler Public Affairs Office

Honolulu – “I was surprised to hear of how many great things the Army is doing to care for the environment,” said Hawaii State Senator Gary L. Hooser, Vice Chair of the Energy and Environment Committee. Tripler Army Medical Center was recognized with the 2006 Hospitals for a Health Environment (H2E) Partners for Change award for its significant contributions in caring for



Front -- Claire Yee, environmental quality and Marlene Ephan-Cruz, environmental protection specialist and chemical minimization coordinator. Back – Col. Thomas Brown, chief, Logistics Division, TAMC; Rich Vaille, associate director, EPA Region IX; Zac Appleton, project officer, EPA Region IX; Gideon Rabanal, environmental protection specialist and hazardous waste coordinator, TAMC.

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the environment Dec. 6 at Schofield Barracks during the Hawaii Environmental Forum.

The H2E Partners for Change award recognizes facilities that have initiated waste minimization and pollution prevention programs in ways that are measurable, sustainable, and contribute to the goals of H2E, which includes virtual elimination of mercury, reduction in waste and increase in recycling.

Rich Vaille, associate director, Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, praised Tripler and told others in attendance to use Tripler as a model.

“The Tripler team has worked long and hard for the reduction of wastes at Tripler. Along with the entire Logistics Division, under the leadership of Col. [Thomas] Brown, [chief, Logistics Department, TAMC,] they have accomplished removal of 3,300 pounds of mercury at TAMC, resulting in a virtually mercury free facility in 2006,” Vaille said. “They have reduced solid waste by three percent, recycled 32 percent of their waste, eliminated 3,600 pounds of hazardous waste and saved \$384,000 in the past year with their Waste Minimization efforts,” Vaille said.

The Tripler team was comprised of Brown, Gideon Rabanal, Marlene Ephan-Cruz, and Claire Yee, all environmental protection specialists.

“This is precisely the sort of success the EPA would like see more of in Hawaii, and we are available to help you achieve it,” Vaille said.