

# Guard to help at Kauai polls

By William Kresnak  
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Members of the Hawaii Air National Guard 154th Composite Group will serve as poll workers on hurricane-ravaged Kauai so residents can cast ballots in Saturday's primary, Lt. Gov. Benjamin Cayetano announced yesterday.

All 17 precinct polling places on the island will be set up for voting, although some of the voting will be done in tents instead of buildings, said Cayetano, the state's chief elections official.

"We want to help citizens on Kauai return to a state of normalcy as quickly as possible, and their right to vote is an important part of their lives," Cayetano said.

There are 26,389 registered voters in Kauai County.

Cayetano said it would take about 150 workers to run the polls and he asked state Adj. Gen. Edward Richardson to provide the personnel, who will be trained on Oahu. Randy Obata, Cayetano's press secretary, said most of the workers will come from the 154th Composite Group.

Cayetano also said he is urging Kauai residents to cast absentee ballots through tomorrow.

Structures at six polling places were either demolished by Hurricane Iniki or are being used to service evacuees, so tents will be erected at those sites for voting, Cayetano said.

They are the Kilauea Neigh-



borhood Center, Anahola Hawaiian Homes Clubhouse, Koloa Neighborhood Center, Hanalei District Courthouse, Hanapepe Neighborhood Center, and the Waimea Neighborhood Center, he said.

The other 12 precincts will operate at or near their normal polling places, he said. In some cases the regular voting site, such as a school cafeteria, is being used as an emergency shelter. Cayetano said that in those instances, nearby classrooms or offices will be used for voting.

Niihau also is a precinct of Kauai but the island's 123 registered voters already voted by absentee ballots, Cayetano said.

After the last Kauai votes are cast, the ballots will be flown to Honolulu for tabulation at the Oahu County Center at McKinley High School, he said.

The Kauai results are to be released in the final election report at about midnight, he said.

Cayetano said the ballot-counting equipment from Kauai has been shipped back to Honolulu for use in the Oahu Counting Center. Ballots can't be counted on Kauai because of a lack of utilities, where the ballots normally would be counted, he said.