

## □ Mayor Yukimura has turned down offers from Oahu and the military

By Gregg K. Kakesako

Star-Bulletin

LIHUE — The overwhelming support for the 51,000 residents of the Garden Isle is turning into a logistical and public relations nightmare for Mayor JoAnn Yukimura.

One of the most persistent questions dogging Yukimura this week: Is she snubbing offers of badly needed help, particularly from the military?

There are an estimated 2,700 military and Hawaii National Guard troops on the island, and the military is offering to send an additional 2,000. Helicopters shuttle food and equipment around the island.

Yukimura said she wants to limit the number of troops on Kauai so they can be properly coordinated, and won't strain the island's limited resources.

But the military says it's only responding to requests from the Yukimura administration. "We are wired to their needs," said Army Maj. Joe MacDonald of the 25th Infantry Division.

MacDonald says top task force commanders meet with county officials every day to brief them on the military resources available.

"It is up to the civilian authorities to identify their priorities and tasks," MacDonald said.

The military isn't the only organization willing to lend a helping hand that has been turned down.

Honolulu Managing Director Jeremy Harris, a former Kauai councilman, yesterday offered city buses, public work crews and equipment.

Kauai has already accepted firefighters and police officers from Honolulu, but Yukimura politely rejected the latest offer. Instead, she kicked off the "Iniki Express," which now covers the island from Barking Sands in the west to Haena in the far northwest.

The daylong bus service will run daily and Yukimura hopes to keep it going.

Neither Yukimura nor Gov. John Waihee criticized the

See **HELP**, Page A-2

HAWAII CLIPPING SERVICE  
P.O. Box 10242  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816  
PHONE: 734-8124  
Victoria Custer Elaine Stroup

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## HELP: The cry is for coordination

Continued from Page A-1

massive support effort already on the island.

But Yukimura said: "The island's skeletal system is stretched and barely offering the basic needs."

Without coordination, "more problems will occur and tax an already stressed system."

Waihee yesterday said "there is a lot more cleaning up that needs to be done and the more hands the merrier."

Waihee did acknowledge that coordination is the key, however.

He added that the only future military resources that should be deployed are those that can be sustained under the current conditions without causing further harm to the island.

Coordination also is the key word used by Yukimura when she discusses this sensitive issue.

For instance, Yukimura said the only request she turned down from the active duty military during the early moments of the disaster was the offer of a search and rescue team complete with dogs.

Yukimura said that to some people, her desire to be more selective may "seem ungrateful . . . but without this

coordination, there will be so many more problems."

That coordination is now being provided on Kauai by Hawaii Army National Guard Col. Edward Correa.

Commanders say the Guard will probably be on duty for the duration, which could be as long as mid-October.

The Guard's task is to beef up the island's tiny police force, collect and remove debris and run the emergency food and supply distribution centers.

Maj. Wayne Yoshioka told reporters yesterday on Oahu that 1,000 ice chests are being used by National Guard troops to deliver at least 10,000 pounds of ice daily to Kauai residents. Guardsmen also are going door to door with plastic sheets and hammers, nails and tape, he said.

In comparison, Civil Defense officials said 50,000 pounds of ice is going to Waianae every day.

Roy Price, Civil Defense vice director, said Kauai residents are no longer the happy campers they were immediately after the storm.

"At the beginning, it was like camping out, but now we are at Day 6, and it is getting kind of old. Emotions are pretty fragile and tempers are frayed."