

GARDEN ISLAND  
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### Guard Families

# Many Sources of Financial Help Available to Dependents

Families of National Guardsmen will find several areas of help open to them in case of financial hardship, a citizen's committee was told Thursday. The group, headed by Burt Tsuchiya, heard from business, state and military spokesmen concerning the Guardsmen's problems and benefits.

Biggest source of help for families is the federal government which will provide medical assistance and a monthly allowance based on the soldier husband's rank and pay. Maj. John English cited tables of basic pay and said that dependents of enlisted men with less than four years service would receive extra allotment of \$60 to \$120 per month depending on size of family.

Hilda Inouye said that HMSA is willing to continue existing medical service contracts during the husband's absence provided the employer is willing and the dues are paid.

She said that a military medical assistance plan will be available to all dependents starting at the time of callup May 13.

The military program provides a \$25 deductible coverage of hospital and surgical bills and a \$50 yearly deductible plan for 80 per cent of outpatient and special non-hospital services.

An Army finance officer will be here May 4 and 5 to sign up dependent families for their

allotment and medical benefits.

In reply to a question, Maj. John English said that he doubts the Army will try to establish a commissary here since there are not enough people involved. He said, however, that there is a good chance the Navy may set up a PX at Barking Sands and Army dependents would be eligible.

Clyde French of First National Bank said it is possible in many cases to work out a lower schedule of payments on contracts, depending on the regulations involved and the borrower's other commitments. He suggested that any military personnel needing help call on their bankers and give them a full statement of bills and assets. He said it might be necessary for some to step down from a Cadillac to a Volkswagen.

Joe Vierra of Lihue Credit Union said it is often possible to arrange extensions and other assistance on loans to members.

Capt. Fred Debusca of Co. B was concerned that his men be able to vote. Deputy County Clerk Tatsuo Kato said that absentee ballots will be sent to the men at their request and suggested they be sure they are registered. The ballots must be returned by election day, he said.

Possible use of food stamps to help dependent families was discussed by Mrs. Andrew Hammond of the Department of Social Services. She said the use of the stamps depends on the family's income and suggested anyone interested call her.

Possible help in finding jobs for service wives can be obtained from the State Employment office. Deputy Takanishi urged that those who want this help register with that office.

Chairman Tsuchiya said that a fact sheet will be prepared to summarize the many facts developed by the committee's inquiry. This information will be available to anyone interested.