County honors National EMS Week

LĪHU‘E – In a ceremony held Monday at the Līhu‘e Civic Center, Mayor Derek S. K. Kawakami along with Council Chair Arryl Kaneshiro honored the vital members of Kaua‘i’s Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and declared May 19 through 25 as National EMS Week.

This year marks 45 years of this annual nationwide recognition, which serves to honor and celebrate EMS practitioners and the important lifesaving services they provide as medicine’s “front line.”

In his presentation, the Mayor highlighted the ongoing work of all EMS personnel and thanked them for providing quality emergency care for the island’s residents and visitors.

“I’ve seen first-hand the courageous and valuable work of our EMS providers,” said Mayor Kawakami. “I wish to express our sincere appreciation for your countless hours of specialized training to provide important, out of hospital care, which has proven time and time again to dramatically improve the survival and recovery rate of those in urgent need.”

Council Chair Kaneshiro echoed the Mayor’s sentiment, and further thanked all EMS providers for their continuous service.

“The Kaua‘i County Council recognizes and thanks all of Kaua‘i’s EMS personnel during National EMS Week 2019,” he said. “Our community has remained resilient through the support of our EMS personnel who provide 24-hour, 365-days-per-year services in times of need. We thank all of these professionals for going ‘beyond the call’ each and every day.”
EMS providers consist of first responders, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, emergency medical dispatchers, firefighters, police officers, educators, administrators, pre-hospital nurses, emergency nurses, emergency physicians, trained members of the public, and other out of hospital medical care providers.

Approximately 15 personnel from the American Medical Response, Kaua‘i Fire Department, Kaua‘i Police Department, PMRF Fire Department, and Kaua‘i Emergency Management Agency attended the ceremony on Monday.