



**County of Maui
Public Information Office**

200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawai'i 96793-2155
Phone: (808) 270-7855
Fax: (808) 270-7870

Rod Antone

Communications Director

Ryan Piros

Asst. Communications Director

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

August 15, 2014

Media Contact:

Jennifer Hawkins
Kuha'o Business Center
Mayor's Office of Economic Development
(808) 553-8100

Mayor's Office Helps Moloka'i Businesses Renew Expired Credentials, Access Freight

WAILUKU, MAUI, Hawai'i – The Mayor's Office of Economic Development announced today that its Kuha'o Business Center in Kaunakakai, Molokai has secured funding to bring a mobile Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) unit to Moloka'i on August 26-28, 2014. The mobile unit will allow more than 140 transportation workers with expired credentials to apply for renewals of their TWIC cards.

TWIC cards are issued by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and the U.S. Coast Guard; they are required for all workers who need unescorted access to secure areas of maritime facilities and vessels. All U.S. credentialed mariners are required to have a TWIC.

On Moloka'i, many business owners send employees to pick up freight in secured areas on a regular basis. Without these cards, businesses cannot retrieve supplies, products or other items that are vital to their operation.

The mobile unit will enable Moloka'i residents to collectively save an estimated \$60,000 in airfare as the only TWIC offices available for card renewals are on Maui and O'ahu. Without the mobile TWIC unit, a single card renewal requires two round trips off-island: one to apply for the TWIC, and one to pick up the cards. The three-day visit by the mobile unit will allow all current TWIC card holders residing on Moloka'i to renew their credentials on-island.

"Moloka'i receives many deliveries through freight services at the harbor, and these cards are essential for doing business there," said Mayor Alan Arakawa. "By bringing the TWIC unit here we can get these access cards out to the community quickly so that the flow of business is not delayed. It may seem like a minor detail, but on Moloka'i, this can make or break a local business."

Maui County Councilmember Stacy Crivello said that "Moloka'i appreciates the utilization of Maui County funds to bring TWIC enrollment and renewal services to our island for over 140 applicants. Support from the Office of Economic Development and the Maui County Council will provide an opportunity to assist Moloka'i businesses and individuals to be in compliance with federal requirements. More importantly, the on-island process will help curtail exorbitant costs and delays that may be incurred from off-island travel."

The mobile TWIC unit will be coming to Moloka'i August 26 to 28, 2014; an appointment is required to enroll or to renew an existing TWIC card. To schedule an appointment, call the Kuha'o Center at (808) 553-8100.

The \$5,000 cost of bringing the mobile TWIC unit to Moloka'i is being paid for through the Moloka'i Economic Development Fund. The cost of cards and renewals is paid for by the individuals or businesses applying for them. Applicants must arrive 15 minutes prior to their scheduled appointment, and must bring proper documentation with them.

Individuals who meet TWIC eligibility requirements will be issued a tamper-resistant credential containing the worker's biometric (fingerprint template) to allow for a positive link between the card and the individual.

For more details on the costs and requirements for TWIC enrollments and renewals, visit www.tsa.gov/twic.

#