



## **Maximizing a Growing Resource through the Implementation of an Adapted Teen CERT Program**

Presented by: **Nancy Ooki, Extension Agent, University of Hawaii at Manoa**

**Presentation Abstract:** Embracing the inclusion of teens into any CERT program can greatly improve membership numbers, team capabilities, and improve stability in the program. This presentation will discuss the benefits of a strong Teen CERT program, share insights based on experience, and outline the steps to developing the program.

**Learning Objectives:** Participants will:

- Understand the importance of adapting the program for youth.
- Recognize ways Teen CERT can be integrated into CERT teams.
- Value an active Teen CERT membership.

**Speaker Bio:** Since 2015 Nancy Ooki has been an Extension Faculty member with the University of Hawaii at Manoa as a Maui County Youth Development Agent. In this role she has developed and delivered a multitude of research-based educational intervention programs on the

islands of Maui, Molokai and Lanai, as well as statewide, based on community needs.

For the past several years, a disaster preparedness training for teens has been a primary focus in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the wildfires on Maui, to provide youth with the skills and knowledge to both prepare for potential future disasters and to combat the sense of loss of control and the uncertainty of the future. The program has trained more than 500 youth to date and is currently recognized as the Maui County Teen CERT program.