



HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
Ke'ena Ho'omalu Pōulua O Hawai'i

Laulima

Working Together

A Quarterly Newsletter for Our Partners and Community September 2024

Preparedness: It's a Kākou Effort

Aloha,

As we conclude National Preparedness Month, I want to take a moment to reach out to all of you regarding our ongoing commitment to keeping our communities safe. Here at HI-EMA, our top priority remains ensuring that all kama'āina and visitors are well-prepared for the potential impacts of severe weather.



Tropical Storms Hone and Gilma showed us that hurricane season is a time when vigilance and proactivity are essential. Over the past few weeks, our team has been busy refining our emergency response plans, enhancing our communication systems, and conducting drills – including our successful partnership with FEMA – to hold our third and final National Level Exercise (NLE) on Port Restoration. This exercise has allowed us to

continued on page 4

“Sam Choy In the Kitchen” at HI-EMA

Chef Sam Choy and John Veneri stopped by in May to cook up dishes that could be prepared from items found in a “2-Weeks Ready” supply. Chef Sam prepared a Spam stir-fry dish, a warm veggie salad (which included squash and eggplant), and a surf-and-turf patty made with corned beef, Vienna sausage, and tuna.



◀ Fire Inspector Carl Otsuka provided safety tips for cooking with portable grills.

▼ The “Kitchen” crew gets notes from the Kitchen's crew...



▲ John Veneri, Chef Sam Choy, Administrator James Barros, Community Outreach Lead John Vierra, and Executive Officer Don Aweau prepare to sample the dishes Chef Sam created.



Lahaina Debris Removal Continues

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and their subcontractor ECC accelerated work on clearing debris, and by June 17, 50% of residential parcels in Lahaina had been cleared and passed soil testing, complete and ready for rebuild. About 25% of the historic and commercial districts in central Lahaina were completed by the commercial contractor team, Hui Huliau, by the end of June.

HI-EMA's right-of-entry (ROE) intake team—led by Tidal Basin specialists and aided by Maui County's Department of Public Works—continued to process and approve existing and new applications for the Consolidated Debris Removal Program. By June 18, 96% of ROEs had been approved and passed to USACE for assignment.

USACE contractors stop traffic on Honoapi'ilani Highway so a debris removal hauling truck can cross to the temporary debris site.

Thank You to Our Incredible Partners!

The response to the Maui wildfires has been a long and complex process, and we want to recognize some of the partners who have been with us since the beginning, providing guidance and expertise. We also thank their families for sharing them with us throughout this time!

Mahalo for your dedication!



TJ Dargan
Federal Coordinating Officer



Jill Pedley
FEMA Planning
Section Chief



Judith Amador
Senior Director,
Mitigation Resilience, Mitigation,
and Policy Group Tidal Basin



“Tsunami Awareness Month with the Gentlemen of Saint Louis School”

State and County Emergency Managers met on April 1, 2024 at the State Capitol to recognize April as Tsunami Awareness Month. Governor Josh Green presented a proclamation to HI-EMA and the Tsunami Ambassadors - to help raise awareness about the tsunami hazards and educate the public on how they can reduce their risk through knowledge and preparedness.

◀ Governor Josh Green, Administrator James Barros, and Gentlemen of Saint Louis School.

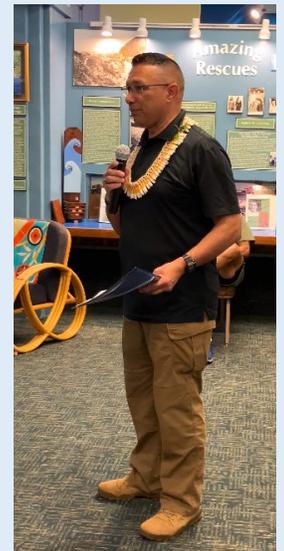


At the Tsunami Summer Jam in July, keiki and their families learned what to do before, during and after a tsunami through stories and activities.



Held at the Pacific Tsunami Museum in Hilo, the Jam featured readings of the book “Kaiona the Kia’i” in English, ‘Ōlelo Hawai’i, and Tagalog and appearances by two real-life Tsunami Superheroes.

Partners from FEMA, Hawai’i County Water Safety, and NOAA were also there to provide information on tsunamis and other hazards facing Hawai’i.



Building Bridges



▲ Lee Sang-min, Minister of the Interior and Safety of Republic of Korea, visited HI-EMA to discuss recovery, preparedness, and response efforts with Operations Branch Chief Matthew Wall, Administrator James Barros, and Deputy Adjutant General Stephen Logan.



▲ HI-EMA welcomed visitors from the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea. The delegation toured HI-EMA’s facilities and learned the history of the agency. From L to R: Deputy Consul General Sangwook Koh, Deputy Adjutant General Stephen F. Logan, Consul General Lee Seo Young, Operations Branch Chief Matthew Wall, and Consul Hyeyeon Park.

More Bridges on page 4

Administrator's Message
continued from page 1

evaluate and strengthen our response capabilities in the event of a storm impacting our coastlines, harbors, and beautiful islands.

We also held a productive Private Partner Forum, where we collaborated with local government agencies and organizations to ensure that essential resources – such as food, water, heavy equipment, and services – will be readily stocked and available in case of an emergency.

As we wrap up this month dedicated to preparedness, remember that it takes a community to be ready. *It's a kākou effort.* You can do your part – stay prepared, stay aware, and be ready! Assemble an emergency kit, develop a family emergency plan, know your evacuation routes, and lend a helping hand to your neighbors.

Together, we can create a resilient community capable of withstanding the challenges posed by hurricane season. Your preparedness not only safeguards your 'ohana but also strengthens the safety of our entire island community. Let's continue to work hand in hand to ensure we are all ready to face whatever may come our way.

Mahalo,

James DS Barros
Administrator

Building Bridges continued from page 3



HI-EMA welcomed the Commandant and members of Goh Keng Swee Command and Staff College of Singapore. The group toured and learned the history of HI-EMA's facilities and received a briefing on the Maui wildfires.



HI-EMA received a visit from members of Indonesia's Meteorology, climatology, and Geophysics Agency (Badan Meteorologi, Klimatologi, Dan Geofisika). The delegation was briefed on HI-EMA's roles and responsibilities in emergency management and disaster preparedness. After the briefing, they shared a shaka with Executive Officer Don Aweau and Operations Branch Chief Matthew Wall.



Photo: Dr. Laura Kong, ITIC



@Hawaii_EMA



Hawaii Emergency Management Agency



@hawaii.ema



Ready.hawaii.gov



(808) 733-4300

