

FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE: Oahu Coastal Community Tsunami Evacuation Sign Installation Project with Community Alert and Education Component, Honolulu County, Hawaii | HMGP-4365-007-007

<https://www.fema.gov/disaster-federal-register-notice/dr-4365-hi-public-notice-003>

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) proposes to provide federal financial assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to the City and County of Honolulu Department of Emergency Management in Honolulu County, Hawaii, to mitigate impacts from tsunamis by increasing the total number of evacuated individuals by providing life-saving information to residents and visitors in the evacuation zone in the event of a tsunami (proposed action). Pursuant to Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management) and FEMA's implementing regulations at Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 9, FEMA hereby provides interested parties with a notice of its final decision and an explanation of the alternatives that were considered.

The purpose of the proposed action is to reduce tsunami hazards. The proposed action consists of 1) the installation of 174 tsunami zone notification signs in tsunami evacuation zones and beach parks on existing poles or on new or existing signposts; 2) the development of a public information campaign to educate the public on what the tsunami signs mean and how to prepare for and respond to a tsunami warning.

Many of the proposed signs would be in the 100-year floodplain as depicted on the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Numbers 15003C0165F, 15003C0110F, 15003C0020F, 15003C0085F, and 15003C0135F, effective date September 30, 2004; FIRM Number 15003C0135F, effective date June 5, 2005; FIRM Numbers 15003C0030G, 15003C0080G, 15003C0090G, 15003C0105H, 15003C0177H, 15003C0191H, 15003C0194H, 15003C0213H, 15003C0255G, 15003C0301G, 15003C0312G, 15003C0317G, 15003C0334G, 15003C0336G, 15003C0353G, 15003C0354G, 15003C0361G, 15003C0362G, 15003C0366G, 15003C0368G, 15003C0385G, 15003C0387G, 15003C0388G, 15003C0391G, and 15003C0395G, effective date January 19, 2011; FIRM Numbers 15003C0183H, 15003C0192J, and 15003C0045H, effective date November 5, 2014; and FIRM Number 15003C0369H, effective date November 15, 2014.

The FIRMs show that the signs would be within the following FEMA-designated flood zones: Zone AE, an area that has a 1-percent probability of flooding every year and where predicted floodwater elevations have been established, Zone VE, an area that has a less than 1-percent probability of flooding every year, with additional hazards due to storm-induced velocity wave action, and where predicted floodwater elevations have been established, and Zone D, an area that has possible but undetermined flood hazards. A few signs would be within other FEMA-designated flood zones with a 1-percent probability of flooding each year, including one within Zone AE (floodway) and two within Zone AO (sheet flow flooding with an average depth of 1 to 3 feet).

A map of the project area and its location within the floodplain is available for public inspection. Parties interested in receiving a copy of the map should contact the FEMA Region IX Environmental Officer using contact information provided in this notice.

Two alternatives to the proposed action were considered: Alternative 1, No Action, and Alternative 2, Evacuation Signage Only. Under Alternative 1, no tsunami evacuation signage would be installed and an outreach campaign would not be conducted. This Alternative is not recommended because it would not provide visual tsunami hazard signage to promote life-saving measures and would not educate the public on how to prepare for and respond to a tsunami warning. Alternative 2 included only the installation of tsunami evacuation signage and did not include the public outreach campaign. This Alternative is not recommended due to its limitations in spreading live-saving information, as many residents and visitors rely on smart devices and would benefit from digital tsunami evacuation information. FEMA has determined that the proposed project is the only practicable alternative available; therefore, the proposed action must be located in the floodplain. The proposed action would have no significant adverse impact on the floodplain. Therefore, measures to minimize impacts on the floodplain are not necessary. The City and County of Honolulu Department of Emergency Management has declared that the proposed action conforms to local floodplain standards, and would be responsible for the management, construction, and maintenance of the proposed action.

Additional information about FEMA's proposed action may be requested by writing the FEMA Region IX Environmental Officer at FEMA, 1111 Broadway, Suite 1200, Oakland, California 94607, or fema-rix-ehp-documents@fema.dhs.gov, or calling (510) 627-7027. All requests should be received no later than 15 days after publication of this notice. No action will be taken before this date.