

C.4 Criteria for Prioritizing Planning and Project Grants

The following criteria are used by the State Hazard Mitigation Forum (Forum) to rank planning and project proposals for FEMA mitigation grant funding programs. Past practices of the State have been to give the highest priority for funding for HMGP opportunities to the county where the event occurred and to give additional weight to those projects that propose a higher contribution of cost-share. All counties are considered to be equal priorities for other mitigation grant programs and projects are evaluated on their individual merits.

It should be noted that, at the time of the update of the 2018 HMP Update, the HI-EMA was working on revisions to the ranking protocol and criteria described below. Further, the State Strategic Plan will be updated later this year and may result in modifications to these priorities. It should also be noted the HI-EMA Director has the final authority on those projects that submitted for grant funding after the Forum review and ranking. See Section 5 (Capability Assessment) for more details.

Projects are assigned a numeric value from 1 to 5, where 1 is the lowest and 5 is the highest, for the following ranking criteria:

- **Environmental/Historic Preservation**—Must be environmentally sound and in conformance with Floodplain Management, Historical Preservation, and Protection of Wetlands and Endangered Species laws and regulations.
- **Resolve Significant Problems**—Addresses a problem that has been repetitive or a problem that poses a significant risk to public health and safety if left unresolved.
- **Long-range**—Solution should be long-range.
- **Cost-effective**—Be cost-effective and substantially reduce the risk of future damage, loss, hardship, or suffering from a major disaster.
- **Priority in State Plan**—Types of projects which have been determined high priority for the State of Hawai'i
 - Hardening or retrofit of essential facilities such as fire station, EOCs, communications facilities, schools, shelters, hospitals, etc.
 - Public awareness/education
 - Flood control and floodplain management to include the reduction of repetitive and severe repetitive loss properties
 - Development and/or improvement of warning systems.

C.5 Local Capability Assessment Detailed Table

County policies, programs, funding, and other capabilities are used to support and accomplish hazard mitigation goals and objectives. A list of foundational capabilities for hazard mitigation was developed based on FEMA local mitigation planning guidance, professional judgement, and suggestions from the State Hazard Mitigation Forum. This list was not intended to be inclusive of every capability discussed in the local HMPs or every capability that may be used to support hazard mitigation at the local level.

Table C.5-1 includes a summary of foundational capabilities relevant for hazard mitigation in the State and if these capabilities were identified and discussed in the County local HMPs. The text included provides details on how the

capability was discussed/addressed in the local plan and does not account for inaccuracies in this discussion. It is important to note that the absence of a capability does not mean that the capability does not exist in the county. It simply means that no discussion was found describing or identifying the capability in the local HMP. This suggests that the capability may not be used to its full potential to support mitigation within the County or it may suggest that the department or agency responsible for implementing the capability may not have been fully involved in the local HMP planning process. In addition, it is important to note that codes, regulations, and/or plans may have been updated since the time of their publication. Notes are provided below the table on some such updates. In addition, please note that some of the capabilities included are local level capabilities, while others are state programs and/or regulations.