



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
4204 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816

MINUTES

Hawaii Advisory Council on Emergency Management [HACEM] Meeting
Virtual [Microsoft Teams]

February 8, 2022

HACEM Members: Darryl Oliveira, County of Hawaii *[Chair]*
Ronald Cox, County of Honolulu
Gerry Silva, City and County of Honolulu
Glenda Nogami-Streifert, County of Kauai
Mona Curry, County of Honolulu

HI-EMA Staff: MG Kenneth S. Hara, Adjutant General
BG Stephen F. Logan, Deputy Adjutant General
Luke P. Meyers, Administrator of Hawaii Emergency Management Agency
David A. Lopez, Executive Officer of Hawaii Emergency Management Agency
Michael Vincent, Deputy Attorney General
Hiro Toiya, Director, City & County of Honolulu, Depart. of Emergency Management
Elton Ushio, Administrator of Kauai Emergency Management *[Acting]*
Chelsie Sakai, Kauai Emergency Management
Herman Andaya, Administrator of Maui Emergency Management
Talmage Magno, Administrator of Hawaii Civil Defense
Adam Weintraub, Communications Director of Hawaii Emergency Management Agency
Hollie Reina, Info. Specialist, External Affairs of Hawaii Emergency Management

Agency

Carlos Rowe, Logistics Branch Chief of Hawaii Emergency Management Agency
Matthew Wall, Operations Branch Chief of Hawaii Emergency Management Agency
Jonathan Levy, GIS Specialist, Operations Branch of Hawaii Emergency Management Agency
Kari Rachlin, Administrative Manager of Hawaii Emergency Management Agency
Lorinda Wong-Lau, Resilience Branch Chief of Hawaii Emergency Management Agency
Kelli Nicklaus-Cicccone, Private Secretary of Hawaii Emergency Management Agency

Guest(s): None

Public: None

Welcome/Call to Order Virtual Introduction

Open Remarks

Luke Meyers, Administrator | Acting Director – Called Meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Opening remarks and roll call/introduction of Members and Attendees.

Darryl Oliveira, Chairman – Thank you to everyone for making the time today to participate and to MG Hara and BG Logan in their participation. With the full agenda we look forward to hearing the updates. I think I speak for everybody that we definitely want to be a resource to Emergency Management in this state and are standing by for direction, guidance, or directives from all of you.

MG Hara, Director – Thank all of you for your Public Service. Thank you to the HACEM Members for continuing to serve the people of Hawaii and the HI-EMA Team and the County Administrators that have been going nearly 24/7 at 110%. The last two (2) years have been extremely tough, I thank you for your service and your sacrifice.

- Governor Ige requested to join the HACEM Meeting. This may be the first time that a governor participated in a HACEM Meeting and believe that was value added. Advise if you would like to continue, I do think it would be an opportunity for HACEM Members to engage the Governor.
- COVID-19, all the indicators are trending in the right direction with the case numbers and hospitalizations going down. The Governor announced today that he is not going to mandate the booster shot for up-to date vaccine status. In the event there is another surge, we want to posture for the future. Should the emergency proclamation be continued or end the emergency period; what are the implications towards our federal authorities? April 20th we got Stafford Act Public Assistance and direct federal assistance that are supposed to expire on April 1st. There has been confusion with ARPA funding referencing that most of it does not expire until 2024, working with the media for correcting messaging.
- Exercises - With FEMA understanding we couldn't do a full-scale exercise annually, primarily due to resources, funding provided, and executing within a year. It was discussed to approach as a crawl, walk, run type of methodology. Start with individual training, start building the team and certified with FEMA ICS courses or other, move towards a full-scale exercise in a year. All participants [state, county, military, FEMA, HHS, etc.] will need to request for additional funding. Since 2018, we had multiple different disasters (i.e., Kona Low Flooding, Volcano, Lane, Olivia, and currently COVID-19). At some point we all need, including the HACEM Members, will need to look at and go back to that three-year model. There may be an opportunity at the Nation Level Exercise 2024, this could bring in a bunch of federal partners/funding.

Darryl Oliveira - In mentioning the cycle your proposed, referencing the ramp up with the exercise, wondering if there is opportunity to maybe align it with the political schedules. It can be challenging when there's a change in administration and if not familiar with some of the Emergency Management operations. Maybe the coordination piece is if there is a way to align with schedule so the administration can have some stability and continuity as they move into the exercise schedule.

Mona Curry - New HACEM Member, participating for first time HACEM Meeting. Recently retired from the City of Los Angeles EM and one function was conduct exercises inclusive of full-scale exercises.

Gerry Silva – Would like to observe all scheduled exercises. Please provide him with a list of upcoming exercises.

MG Hara - HACEM Members are invited to everything we do, discuss with Luke and it will be set up through HI-EMA. Setting the participation does acknowledge from the training exercise we have a number of grant priorities that through the state training exercise plan and now the integrated preparedness plan that scripted us out for several years with some gaps due to disasters. We've had that crawl, walk, and run as with a number of different levels with the Administrators, the Governor, the Mayors, and the Director. There may be opportunity in the future to invite the HACEM Members to one of those exercises. We also have a full-scale functional exercise what will be walking through, providing opportunities in May in which we can extend. One of big challenges is there are a lot of competing priorities. Capabilities to test and coming out of COVID incident, is to ensure ready for hurricane season.

Approval of Minutes [8 February 2022]

Luke Meyers - The Minutes were approved virtually so all should have received and have been posted.

HI-EMA General Update / HACEM Member Status

Luke Meyers - A **January update** was sent that spotlighted some things that we were working on.

- **HACEM Status-** Darryl Oliveira and Gerry Silva's terms will be ending 30 June 2022. In speaking with the Director and the Governor's office, we had conversations with Darryl and Gerry, and both have expressed interest in reappointment. Their letters are being sent to the Governor; interest is to be submitted in through this current session. As part of existing legislative session, we have pending nomination for Maui that is still with the Governor's office, and it was with Civil Air Patrol. We do have open positions and they don't necessarily have to be county centric, but we would like to have that county footprint, especially with diversity in each county.
- **General update from HI-EMA**
- Document shared previously reflected on 2021 priorities, you will see some larger priorities from HI-EMA for 2022. We have new Leadership Team on board. Emergency Management Accreditation Assessment scheduled for week of March 14th. This will set up baseline for program. SCD went through this years ago, and 2016-2017 HI-EMA did start the process.
- EMAP standards discussed. HI-EMA may lack documentation to be accredited at this time, there is a lot of historical knowledge. This process will help to professionalize the organization and document core functions here that were required to do under state law.
- **Reorganization** – Continue work on. Leadership positions filled. Created Emergency Management classification series last year and all Civil Service positions in Civil Defense Series there is Officer and Planner. In process of converting those over to this series. Have obtained grant funds on Emergency Management side to use for some design and engineering to be part of the First Responder Tech Campus (FRTC). Funds are \$780K, might have \$2 million more in first half of year, resulting in \$2.5-3 million of \$12 million funding need for design and engineering.
- **Strategic Plan-** Update is almost complete. Executive Officer, David Lopez, has been working on this with our Leadership.
- **ArcGIS-** Working on several dashboards to build on some created last year in various branches.
- **Makani Pahili** – Training exercise is next week. Acknowledge there are multiple weeks in May that partners are participating in Makani Pahili Exercises and will do our best to participate in those. In coordination with FEMA, we've defined the week of May 9-13 for a series of exercises.
- **Resiliency Branch**– Working on open disasters and to be disasters. December Kona Low Incident that operationally we stood up for, we managed to get some SBA low interest loans for Maui and City and County. Working closely with both of counties, and are waiting to see if we get a Presidential Declaration for the FEMA Public Assistance Program.
- **Jan. 2022 Tsunami**– Some damage reported, very light impact. Oahu had business damaged. It does not look like will meet threshold for FEMA assistance. Working with SBA Disaster Loans potentially for impact on Kauai landslide, currently doesn't look likely for FEMA assistance.

- **Shelter Retrofit Program** - Challenge is that we don't have buildings that are actually rated for category high level hurricane. The position managing this project was vacant, State took the position, formerly Steve Yoshimura's position in the last session. Lorinda's Resilience Branch working with the Executive Officer in terms of taking an in-depth look at the shelter retrofit. Steadily working to retool program and trying to super-size with federal funding. Being transparent in what we lack, if buildings that are not rated for very high winds and do not have the capacity to shelter, it is probably best that people stay in their home.
- **Siren Program** - Challenge is it important responsibility to maintain all sirens that are put into place and modernize. Carlos Rowe, Logistics Branch Chief, put together reports reflecting that we have about 408 sirens, 288 are fully operational. Have three tiers of operations in operable due to maintenance issues and then fully operational. Sirens operationalized about 71%. Working closely with Logistics Branch to see how we improve siren program, including ArcGIS dashboard.

Mona Curry – In terms priorities, what is it that the HACEM Board Members can do to support? How can we contribute to this, especially the sirens?

Luke Meyers – I would like to hear from some of the other HACEM Members or even the Director. Anything that we can promote support in for HI-EMA, we have been through a couple years of budget cuts and have had several vacancies. There are systemic changes here in HI-EMA that can be heavily supported with funding, preparations for next session if there is a way. Will provide all with support documentation on some programs so you can communicate with the Governor or elected officials.

Darryl Oliveira – The HACEM Members provide this body of support and assistance to the Governor, to The Adjutant General (TAG), and to HI-EMA for funding or to know other opportunities to just strengthen or harden the system altogether so we can build.

MG Hara – The best rhythm that we could get into as the department, starting from HI-EMA is submitting a budget forward to include our Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and the operating budget as that is being worked that you understand/inform, and the first touch point would be to try to engage with Governor. To know budget prior to in supporting the Department for next biennial would be helpful. In legislative session, the more testimony shows that you support the Emergency Management Agency. We, as Emergency Management professionals, know you pay now so you don't pay later. This has been evident through all major disasters, and it is very hard to convince the public that this could happen.

Mona Curry - Where are we with private sector support? Do we take in funds from private sector through a nonprofit or (i.e., big box stores, etc.)?

MG Hara – Generally for operating budget, the State cannot accept donations. There are limitations, but there are other ways to get different types of donations. During COVID incident, Liz Fischer and ESF 6 Partners, set up a donation management process for all types of resources.

Luke Meyers - I don't believe there's a special fund set up. Understand some States and other municipalities around the country set up a PNP that can be used as a shadow to fund outreach in some of those programs or even private sector. The HI-EMA Business Recovery Center was funded with some EDA funds. The position that worked with that function, has left the organization and that we lost the position. We could look at that model if it was eligible to set up a private nonprofit for that type of engagement. Pertaining to a pass through where commodity goods would come in, we try to find those needs specifically on the RFP or RFI side when we have those types of processes.

Glenda Nogami-Streufert -Pertaining to sirens, is there a breakdown of the # that are not working by County? Representatives respond to what is going on in their district and it makes it easier to convince them, therefore it is an important for them and their constituents. Advise on how a Member can assist.

Luke Meyers - Carlos does have report by County. Sirens provide its most value in areas where risk is at its greatest, with little warning, and so the State have built out a siren network. Sirens out of tsunami zones and out of hurricanes zones and placed in residential areas provide less value unless we have primary hazard. In 2022 the Logistics Team is assessing this current model. We have a siren breakdown by island. Monthly testing is ongoing and so we're trying to develop some business metrics. If I have 30

plus sirens inoperable sirens right now throughout the State, for me in supporting the director and the Governor, we need to know which sirens are in tsunami and/or hurricane zones. Some sirens were not in inundation zones and some were. We have a small group that maintains those and do take time to program out workload. We must be transparent with everyone about who maintains or tries to restore that siren capability. It will take some resources and some rethinking how to manage it.

Gerry Silva - I am more concerned about ability to reach people through cellular phones, we know from the False Missile Alert that cell phones reach people quickly. How do we link sirens and cell phones?

Luke Meyers - We have a EAS Plan, the Emergency Alert System. HI-EMA and partnership under Emergency Support Function 2 helps manage our State Alert and Warning System Plan (SAWS). Complimentary outdoor warning sirens, which sirens are either at the state level or more importantly, at the county level. All county emergency managers are involved, they have alert and warning notification systems that can share with your home phone, mobile device by text, email, or other.

COVID-19 Update (Priorities / Status)

MG Hara- Working with DOH on what are conditions for us to and the emergency proclamation is one of the things we are looking at. In regard to Safe Travels, transitioning to make it easier for the screeners to screen the travelers. One thing we're looking at is allowing the artificial intelligence to validate some of the text in the report rather than having a human physically verify due to time consumption. Transition as we move to also sun setting Safe Travels Hawaii altogether and it may be in conjunction with the end of the Emergency Proclamation, or sooner.

Last thing related to disaster response, there is confusion between the ARPA funding. Direct Federal Assistance, other Stafford Act reimbursement type programs and then also the Hawaii National Guard, they are on Federal status. It is title federal authority and funding that also, expires on 1 April.

The Counties have been advised that 17 March is last day that the soldiers and airmen will actually be supporting the County, supporting the State for COVID response. Reason is because we have to take them back. They need to execute their leave inventory, the equipment due maintenance, and turning everything in will take a couple of weeks. The end date for the National Guard is 17 March.

Luke Meyers – Common Operating Picture (COP) walk through on what we send out. This is in ArcGIS, the Team does a great job in synthesizing this information on a daily basis and distributing. (See Attachment). Kauai County is mirroring their other trend. Kauai has not had a lot of ventilators use throughout the incident, but their ICU's have mirrored the hospitalizations of basically the last seven months of being elevated.

Safe Travels, as Director Hara mentioned, has been one of the big mitigation measures besides the vaccine. After the quarantine or travel number come down; we will have a shorter travel quarantine window for everyone. Anticipate as we move to March travel numbers will pick up. Information to support homes tests results are not included in daily number positivity count. Have not seen any state to try and include home tests in numbers. If there's an underlying issue with bunch of more people getting sick, then reflected in more the hospitalizations, then will need to figure out how to best sustain the public health measures and how we best protect the population. At home tests are a much more cost-effective way for detecting disease early on to isolate themselves or to notify others for quarantine purposes or for those in more vulnerable population groups with underlying health conditions.

Darryl Oliveira - Accessibility to testing done outside of labs, numbers do change. Test kits, from professional or business standpoint made it easier for working with to prevent workplace exposures by doing detection before they come into the workplace and able to guide them to get proper testing.

Legislative Session Update

Luke Meyers - Receiving match for our Hazard Mitigation grant program funds from COVID, the Governor did include a 20 to 25% match. If holds, this would be the first time in state that we have a 25% match for that money.

Shelter Retrofit Program have obtained funds that lapsed and coupled with current CIP to total \$6 million, idea to match with monies mentioned above. DOE plans to retrofit 1-2 buildings to higher hurricane standard and support our county partners. 127 – Will have some administrative updates of multiple sections. Moving Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) out of 128 to 127 to align it to the larger Emergency Management authorities, and we have a holdover bill, which is the Hazard Mitigation Special Fund. Representative Ichiyama bills – Hurricane from DCCA, Storm Act- a revolving loan funds, and intra-state mutual aid.

Tsunami Incident Discussion

Darryl Oliveira - In relation to Tonga explosive incident that triggered as a small tsunami across the Pacific, I shared in the post-event, I've been in contact with members of the science community here. Questions being asked are if there is a known system that recognizes and acts quickly on seismic events. However, an explosive event may present difference challenges with being able to detect, measure, and monitor what has been generated. I have advised that I would bring to this Forum to ask.

Luke Meyers- Initial conversation with Pacific Tsunami Warning Center about advisory and alert warnings, appears to be a two - three-year window to update and it recognized that this incident was rare.

Talmadge Magno - There is infrastructure that's on the bottom of the sea floor. An option could be to place more sensors, but it is costly. In evaluating, it will depend on the risk and what we want to protect.

County EM Partner Reports

Hawaii

- Talmadge Magno - Completing several plans - initiated last quarter and undertaking of some new.

Oahu

- Hiro Toiya - COVID response continues. Working both internal and external issues. Continued operations for city, but also additional safety and mitigation measures for city workforce, we continue to be heavily involved in those discussions and efforts. External- policies that affect the rest of the population as well as our operations for coding response and currently supporting testing/vaccination. Running isolation and quarantine support facilities, DOH was doing this until the end of last year, have couple of facilities that are running in support of the general population.
- Kona Low December - Thanks to Luke/Team for coordinating with on assistance programs.
- Funding - Primarily using ARPA funding. Activated Small Business Administration low interest loans and also have a couple other city programs to provide assistance with permit fee waivers for repairs, etc. Property Tax remission for those who have damage to their homes.
- Administratively, had some people leave the agency over last year and with HR system and the Civil Service system it takes longer that you might expect to fill positions. Have some internal recruitment but will be posting a position publicly for our Plans and Operations Officer Position.

Maui

- Herman Andaya - Our Code Response continues with local DHL office, but we provide support testing, vaccinations, and other functions. Recently, state DH transferred responsibility for quarantine/isolation sites to respective counties. MEMA assumed management of isolation site.
- Thank you to National Guard for their continued assistance during COVID, the Guard was instrumental in # of functions (testing, vaccinations, contact tracing, PPE distribution, etc.).
- Heavy rains caused flooding and damages. Worked with HI-EMA to collect data and believe will qualify for public assistance. Understand Federal Disaster Declaration for incident is pending.
- Active Shooter Tabletop Exercise- Partnership with DOE, NEMA, and Homeland Security was conducted last month. In attendance Administrators from every public school.
- Civil Support Team (CST)- Having exercise with CST Team of National Guard next week.

Kauai

- Chelsie Sakai- Still involved in COVID operations. Recently distributed at home test that DOHC had, five boxes per household and well received. Demand on test centers has gone down.
- Recently some staff left. Will do internal movements first and recruit from external. Some of the same issues, we are not competitive as far as compensation goes.
- Mass Notification System- Currently going through the solicitation and should receive all the proposals by the end of the month. Our current contract is expiring.
- Continue to work with the Army Corps of Engineers on our levy projects.
- Recently mitigation funding to nonprofit here on Kauai. Will take majority of funding and push it back out to other nonprofits, particularly in the North Shore area that was impacted by April 2018 floods. Rockslide Incident may have enough damage to go after federal declaration. Additional heavy rainfall does pose a threat for more erosion of the hillside.
- Planning - Working on distribution management plan and looking at sheltering plan prior to hurricane season. Starting to look at update for our EOP and CEMP updates.

Council Member Reports

- **Hawaii | Darryl Oliveira** - Trying to support Emergency Management or with COVID pandemic response. Home tests are helping to reduce impact on test sites and response community. FMAG Program- were there any issues and/or lessons learned?
- **Oahu | Gerry Silva** - Working with AARP to coordinate a series of four webinars that focus on preparing for a hurricane. One of those will address preparing for a hurricane if you live in a high-rise. According to Civil Beat, high-rises can be difficult to evacuate, especially for older people and those with disabilities. During an emergency, elevators often shut down and evacuation becomes a serious challenge for anyone with shaky mobility. The elderly are disproportionately affected by disasters. In Waikiki, where people 55 years and older comprise about 30% of the resident population, high-rise condominiums are common. Hawaii is one of the top states for condominium living, with 148,450 units dispersed across the islands in 2015. In 1990, 21% of all housing units in Hawaii were condominiums – the highest percentage in the nation. The presentation will be done by John Cummings of Honolulu’s Department of Emergency Management.
- **Ron Cox**- Nothing to share
- **Mona Curry**- In sharing my background briefly so you can get a little bit of confidence about who you know. Recently retired last year in April. I have joined ranks of retired from the city of

Los Angeles Emergency Management Department. I worked for city for 28 years. Currently, I am reservist with FEMA as a division supervisor and have gone on a couple deployments so far. My background is in exercises, I am also an active shooter trainer and worked with LAPD for a while and have numerous skills I bring to the Emergency Management table. Look forward to providing any help you may need.

- **Kauai | Glenda Nogami-Streifert-** Thank you for updates. Appreciate information about this tsunami, it was interesting because I don't think we saw very much of impact on Kauai. Did see footage from Lanai with yacht on top of the pier. Interesting due to situation of closed cove with break water in front.

Focus Areas and Issues

- **Operations Branch| Matthew Wall -** Doing rework with the EMAP process in terms of defining and of establishing the business.
- **Resilience Branch| Lorinda Wong-Lau -** Resilience consists of public assistance and mitigation, believes this will make HI-EMA even stronger.
- **Logistics Branch| Carlos Rowe -** Siren program is vital part of State Emergency Warning System. Looking forward to reprioritizing it and being as transparent as possible as we work towards public safety.
- **External Affairs| Adam Weintraub-** As mentioned, in legislative session at moment, External Affairs includes managing some legislative process. Other items turning attention to will be restarting and revising some of public outreach approaches; addressing long standing issues with language access that are vital to ensure we are serving the whole community.

Closing Remarks

Luke Meyers - Wanted to say from HACEM Members to County Emergency Managers, February 25th is when we first activated the EOC for COVID in 2020. Actually, first email went out around January 25th as were trying to figure out what was going on in Asia before the cases increased. Just proud of the Counties. From garden variety Kona Lows to seismic activity in the middle of night, geologic activity over on Bid Island, and now hurricane season. You know there's this shadow force working behind the scenes and on the front lines.

The next HACEM Meeting will be held, July 12th [1:30-3:00 pm], 2022 [Virtual – MS Teams].

Announcements / Adjournment

Darryl Oliveira - Motion to adjourn, Meeting adjourned at 3:26 p.m.

Darryl J. Oliveira

DARRYL OLIVEIRA
Chair

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LUKE P. MEYERS
Administrator of Emergency Management