



Hawai'i
Emergency
Management
Agency

Laulima working together

A Quarterly Newsletter for Our Partners and Community | June 2023

Building (and Rebuilding) Bridges

by James DS. Barros
HI-EMA Administrator

HI-EMA's mission is to protect the people, property, and land of Hawai'i, and one of the most effective ways to do that is to help our communities help themselves.



We can't do that from inside our bunker at Diamond Head. We must take our messages to you—and listen to your stories. We need to connect with all the businesses, nonprofits, volunteer organizations

and neighborhoods who are committed to building resilient communities.

So one of my top priorities has been to supercharge our efforts to engage with our partners through preparedness events, climate fairs, educational presentations, and just plain "talking story." The restrictions on face-to-face meetings we all lived through during the COVID-19 pandemic made it hard to maintain those connections; we need to rebuild the connective tissue to make our communities more resilient.

Every 'ohana has its part to play. You'll be seeing some public service videos this summer urging every Hawai'i household to build up their emergency supplies to be "2 Weeks Ready" for a disaster, with 14 days of food, water, medicine and other items stockpiled.

The whole community will be challenged when a major hurricane or other disasters strikes; however, I believe in the power of the *kākou*. Together, with the spirit of 'ohana, we will overcome all challenges or obstacles. The better prepared each of us is—the stronger the community becomes.

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Videos Offer Tips on Getting "2 Weeks Ready"

New public service campaign aims to help Hawai'i residents get ready for disasters

The remote location and long supply chain for Hawai'i means a disaster could easily isolate our islands or communities from shipments of food, fuel and other vital supplies.

That's why the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency recommends that households should be "2 Weeks Ready," with 14 days of food, water, medicine and other supplies stockpiled for emergencies.

But some households are short on space or cash to build up an emergency stockpile. Others just aren't sure what to do.

That's where the video campaign comes in, urging residents to take the first step to get to "2 Weeks Ready" by buying one or two extra shelf-stable food items or other emergency items when they're on sale. Then make a plan to gradually get to "2 Weeks Ready" over time.

Even a few days of supplies is better than nothing! And over time, your 'ohana will be more prepared for a hurricane or other disaster.

For more information about emergency preparedness for your home, family or business, visit [ready.hawaii.gov](https://www.hawaii.gov) and click on the "Get Ready" tab. Or go to <https://www.youtube.com/@hiema347> to view the videos.



Video shows that becoming 2 Weeks Ready could be easier than you think! Buy one or two extra items on sale and add them to your emergency supplies.

Makani Pāhili 2023

As part of a training exercise, on May 4 HI-EMA personnel prepared for the approach and landfall of Hurricane Makani, an imaginary Category 4 storm that would wreak devastation across the Hawaiian islands. The exercise tested HI-EMA staff as they dealt with the onset and aftermath of the storm, including fielding calls for assistance from the community via official channels as well as social media, cleaning up debris, and mobilizing resources. Administrator James Barros addresses staff in the Emergency Operations Center during the exercise.



Hurricane Preparedness Week

L to R: County emergency managers Herman Andaya (Maui), Talmadge Magno (Hawai'i island), Elton Ushio (Kaua'i), and Hiro Toiya (O'ahu), HI-EMA Administrator James Barros, and John Bravender (NOAA/NWS meteorologist) listen as Gov. Green reads the proclamation declaring May 21 - 27 as Hurricane Preparedness Week in Hawai'i.

HI-EMA — Out and About



At the Kaneohe Marine Corps family fun fair, over 200 keiki and their families visited the HI-EMA booth, where they could play games while learning about preparedness.



The kids were having so much fun, our HI-EMA team decided to join them, tackling the word search activity page to see who could finish first!

FEMA's Manuel Centeno speaks at the dedication of Hawaii's first Primary Entry Point emergency broadcast facility, which will provide critical information to the public before, during, and after emergencies. HI-EMA administrator James Barros and O'ahu's emergency management director Hiro Toiya were among the guests attending.



Administrator's Message *continued*

We are reaching out:

- To businesses we may rely upon after a disaster to quickly provide relief goods and services;
- To volunteer organizations that will pitch in to assist after an emergency strikes;
- And, maybe most importantly, to communities that are organizing to improve their own resilience.

We are stronger together. The stronger our connections are before the disaster, the more prepared and resilient we'll be when those sirens sound.



Visitors stop by HI-EMA's table at May's Windward Coast Preparedness Fair. This was a busy weekend for HI-EMA; another team was at a climate fair in downtown Honolulu.