



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Note About the August 2023 Wildfires

In August 2023, as this State Hazard Mitigation Plan was being finalized, the counties of Maui and Hawai'i experienced extreme wildfires. As of late August, these fires had led to over 100 deaths, making them the deadliest U.S. wildfires in more than a century. The fires also damaged or destroyed thousands of buildings, including devastating damage in the city of Lahaina. The federal government issued one major disaster declaration (DR-4724) for these fires along with five fire management assistance declarations (FM-5474-HI, FM-5475-HI, FM-54-76-HI, FM-5477-HI, and FM-5478-HI). Hawaii's governor issued six emergency proclamations, including state of emergency proclamations and travel restrictions.

The wildfire event is still unfolding, and the State of Hawai'i continues to evaluate how to continually address wildfire across the state. As a living document, this plan will be updated to reflect updated wildfire hazard mitigation practices as they are identified.

As an island community, the State of Hawai'i is vulnerable to a wide range of natural and non-natural hazards that greatly impact lives, property, community lifelines, natural and cultural resources, and the economy. Between 2018 and 2022, our island community has experienced seven major disaster declarations, four emergency management declarations, two fire management assistance declarations, and numerous state declarations. The pace and scale of disasters will continue to increase due to the effects of climate change. Continued development and population growth also increase the risk profile from hazards. By updating the State Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP), the State of Hawai'i demonstrates its commitment to mitigate these risks and inform future decision-making.



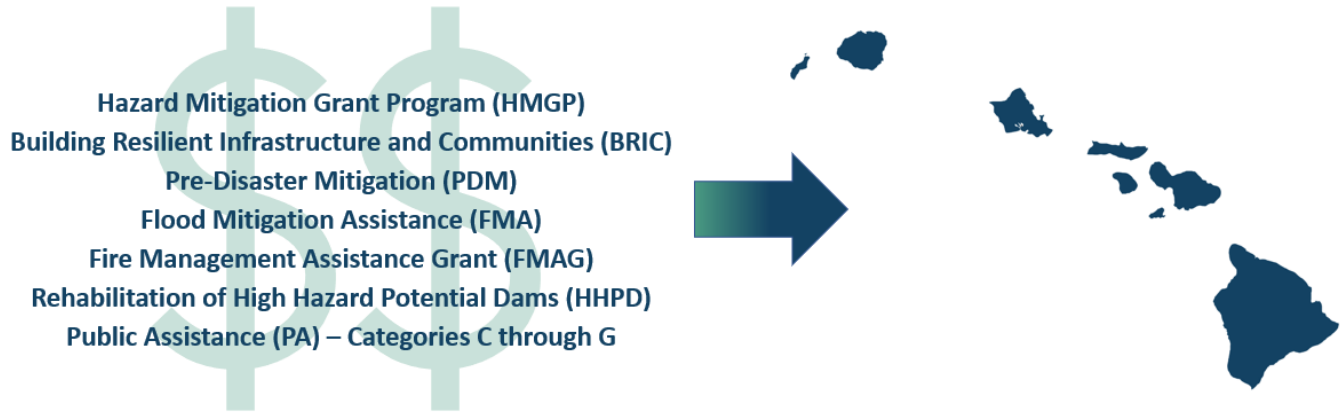
Hazard Mitigation Definition

Any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from hazards.

FEMA State Mitigation Planning Policy Guide, April 2023

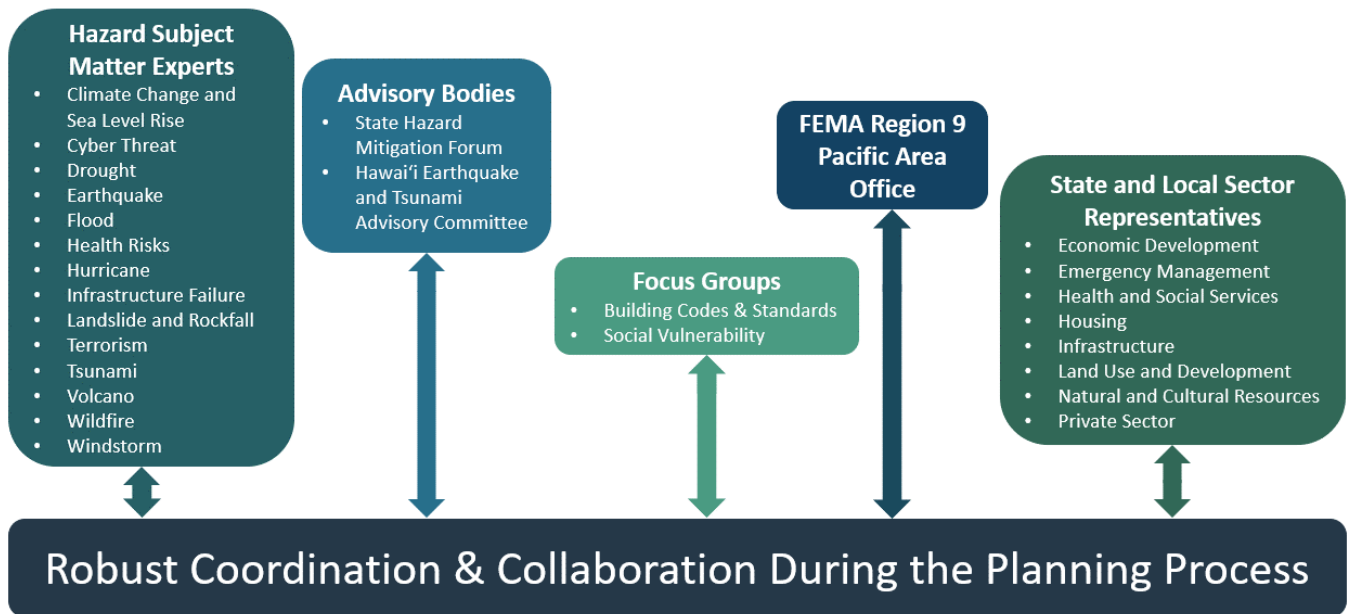
The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA) amended the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to include Section 322, which requires states to have a hazard mitigation plan approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to be eligible for non-emergency federal disaster assistance and hazard mitigation funding. A hazard mitigation plan is a state's plan to reduce damage to life, property, and the environment from future disasters. A plan must be updated every five years to ensure continued funding eligibility under certain Stafford Act grant programs, as shown below:





The Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) is responsible for coordinating disaster loss reduction programs, initiatives, and policies throughout the state. HI-EMA serves as the coordinating agency for the four county emergency management agencies and administers the State of Hawai'i's hazard mitigation program, with the State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO) serving as the official point of contact and leading mitigation efforts, including development of the SHMP and implementation of both state and local HMPs.

Over the course of a year, the State updated the 2018 SHMP through a robust process that stressed an integrated, multi-level, multi-sector, collaborative approach to risk reduction with an emphasis on building community resilience. Agencies and stakeholders involved in the update process are shown in the graphic below:



Additionally, HI-EMA engaged in outreach efforts on Kaua'i, O'ahu, Moloka'i, Maui, and the Island of Hawai'i by holding in-person public meetings to allow the voices of community members to be heard during the update process. Statewide virtual public meetings were also held.

The State of Hawai'i is committed to a long-term strategy to reduce risk and losses from future natural hazard events, as outlined in this 2023 SHMP Update. The SHMP is a living document that supports relationship building,



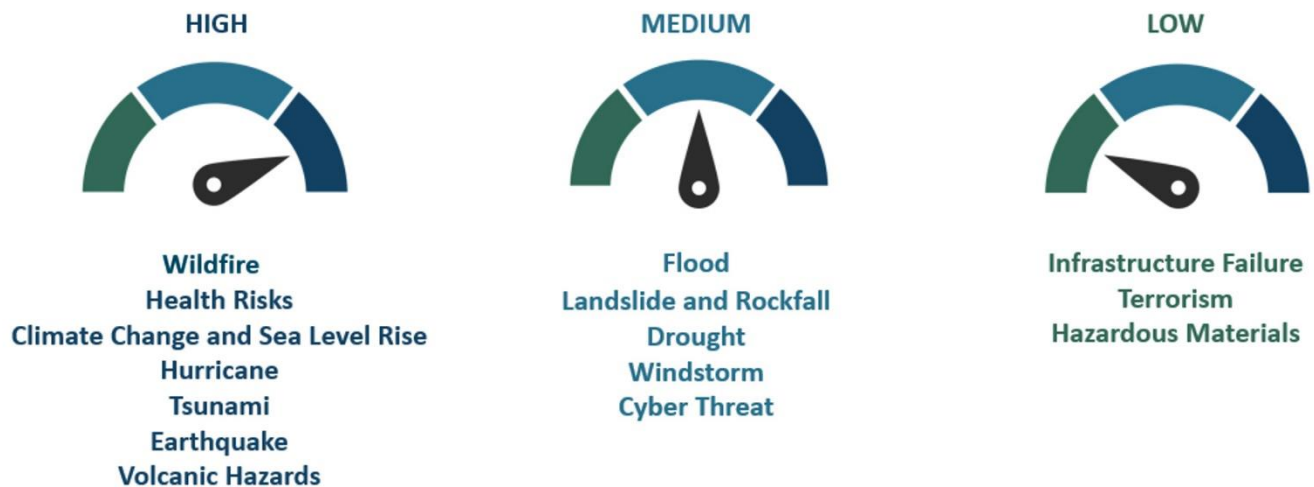


promotes resiliency and sustainability, aids in consistent evaluation, and provides a means to reduce the costs associated with disaster response and recovery. It will continue to be updated according to a maintenance process outlined in the plan.

OVERVIEW OF THE 2023 SHMP UPDATE

ASSESSED HAZARDS

The 2023 SHMP Update includes 15 natural and non-natural hazards that align with HI-EMA's 2022 Hazards and Vulnerability Overview and Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA). Each hazard is assessed by describing the hazard location, extent, previous occurrences and losses, probability of future hazard events based on overall probability and climate change impacts, and vulnerability of state and local assets, including socially vulnerable and total populations, community lifelines, general building stock, economy, and environmental and cultural resources. Assessed hazards and their statewide relative risk ranking include:



The 2023 SHMP Update will serve as a technical reference as each county updates its local HMP, including a robust risk assessment that integrates best available data and climate science.

STATE AND LOCAL MITIGATION CAPABILITIES

Mitigation capabilities provide the means to accomplish desired mitigation outcomes. Capabilities include laws, regulations, policies, programs, administrative and technical staffing and resources, funding, and people-powered capabilities, such as volunteer groups. Existing State and local capabilities were reviewed and updated to determine the current capability of the State of Hawai'i and counties to implement mitigation strategies and challenges that can be overcome during the next five years. Part of this review included a summary of State and local building codes. Additionally, the success of the Community Rating System (CRS) was reviewed. Hawai'i is the first state in the nation with all the counties participating in the CRS program, which is a voluntary program within FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) that encourages floodplain management activities that exceed minimum NFIP standards. Residents of CRS communities receive discounted flood insurance premium rates.





MITIGATION STRATEGY AND GOALS

The State of Hawai'i has identified a mitigation strategy to reduce or eliminate long-term vulnerabilities from hazards of concern. The strategy, developed through a multi-stakeholder process, sets the State's mitigation priorities and assists local governments in updating local HMPs. The mitigation strategy, which includes 84 mitigation actions, is based on the following goals that reflect the State's current priorities:

- **Goal 1**—Reduce the long-term vulnerability of Hawai'i's people, property, and jurisdictions, including state-owned or operated buildings, infrastructure, and critical facilities, to natural hazards while conserving Hawai'i's natural, historical, and cultural assets. This includes High Hazard Potential Dams and high-risk properties such as repetitive loss (RL) and severe repetitive loss (SRL) properties.
- **Goal 2**—Promote actions designed to ensure long-term resiliency to natural hazards and climate change impacts.
- **Goal 3**—Strengthen partnerships and leverage existing resources and capabilities to identify, assess, and reduce the impact of natural hazards.
- **Goal 4**—Utilize state-of-the-art methods and technology and local knowledge to identify and analyze natural hazards and assess state capabilities to reduce the impact of those hazards.
- **Goal 5**—Promote public awareness of natural hazard risks and public action to reduce long-term risks.
- **Goal 6**—Provide a framework for robust local hazard mitigation planning and mitigation strategy implementation in alignment with this plan.
- **Goal 7**—Build capacity and capabilities to increase disaster resiliency among historically underserved populations, individuals with access and functional needs, and in communities disproportionately impacted by disasters and climate change.





The seven goals were developed as guidelines for mitigation. Fifteen objectives were also developed to measure the success of the mitigation strategies. During the five-year performance period of the 2023 SHMP, the State of Hawai'i will work to implement mitigation strategies to reduce hazard impacts to our community members, property, the economy, and the environment.

