



STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**  
**KA 'OIHANA PILI KAUA**  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
4204 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4420

MINUTES

**Hawaii Advisory Council on Emergency Management [HACEM] Meeting**  
HI-EMA Building 303 - Business Recovery Center

July 11, 2024

**HACEM Members:** Darryl Oliveira, County of Hawaii [Chair]  
William C. Bergin, County of Hawaii [Regrets]  
Mona Curry, City and County of Honolulu  
Glenda Nogami-Streufert, County of Kauai  
Gerry Silva, City and County of Honolulu  
Lisa Vares, County of Maui

**DOD, HI-EMA,  
and State Partners:** MG Kenneth S. Hara, Adjutant General [Regrets]  
BG Stephen F. Logan, Deputy Adjutant General [Regrets]  
James DS. Barros, Administrator of HI-EMA  
Don Aweau, Executive Officer of HI-EMA [Regrets]  
Craig Iha, Deputy Attorney General  
Brenton Inouye, Deputy Attorney General  
Hiro Toiya, Director, City & County of Honolulu, Depart. of Emergency  
Management  
Elton Ushio, Administrator of Kauai Emergency Management  
Amos Lonokailua-Hewett, Administrator of Maui Emergency Management  
Talmadge Magno, Administrator of Hawaii Civil Defense  
Shirley "Kiele" Amundson, Communications Director of HI-EMA  
Ethann Oki, Special Projects of HI-EMA  
John Vierra, Community Outreach Lead of HI-EMA  
Kelsey Yamanaka, Acting State Hazard Mitigation Officer of HI-EMA  
Nathan Garrett, Informational Technology Specialist of HI-EMA  
Kelli Nicklaus-Cicccone, Private Secretary of HI-EMA

**Guest(s):** John Bravender, National Weather Service

**Public:** None

**I. Welcome / Call to Order Introduction - James Barros | Darryl Oliveira**

**II. Open Remarks - James Barros | Darryl Oliveira**

**James Barros** – Introduced and actioned the swearing in of HI-EMA HACEM Member, Ms. Lisa Vares (Maui). Thank you for willingness to volunteer and participate in this board.

**III. Minutes - Darryl Oliveira**

The March 14, 2024, HACEM Meeting Minutes have been reviewed and distributed. Request a motion to approve the minutes as distributed, minutes were approved as is by HACEM Members (Darryl Oliveira, Glenda Nogami-Streufert, Gerald Silva, and Mona Curry). The minutes will be signed and distributed.

In the future the minutes will be simplified to capture the main discussions points and decision-making action items.

**Action Items:** Obtain signatures and distribute the HACEM Minutes with supporting attachments.

**IV. Guest Speaker – John Bravender, National Weather Service (NWS)**

**Topic:** Dry Season | Fire Weather (See Attached Slides)

The dry season in particularly our fire weather program and will do red flag definitions. The red flag warning for weather watch is a program we developed back in 2008 to focus the most dangerous days. Red flag conditions/warnings are when we will use red flag templates with actions to be added in later in the month regarding the red flag warnings. Data Source: NWS warning database, there is a detailed forecast with specific forecasts (humidity, temperature, wind speed, other fire parameters – mixing level height). Dry conditions fuels grasses and brush, we tend to see large fires responding and we are using the portal at the airport as a proxy for the whole state. We want to capture those rare dates for five days per year.

**James Barros-** There is a National Fire Danger Rating System, a national program that looks at point forecasts for all their remote automated weather stations. These stations are fire weather specific observations that include temperature, humidity, and measurement of the soil moisture too.

**Glenda Nogami-Streufert-** Kauai has its own electric system, it is not part of Hawaiian Electric.

How will the National Weather Service (NWS) be collecting data for Kauai?

There are other options, like remote automated weather stations that draws the fire weather we have. There are a few out there now and in addition, to these from the private utility company, the state of Hawaii is also acquiring. DLNR is installing and maintaining for wildlife management.

**Lisa Vares-** The Fire Weather Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) Trends – Is this information related to update daily?

**Talmadge Magno-** Advise how the KBDI relates with this model and the high winds, weather watch or red flag.

**Gerry Silva-** A fire at Kalaeloa could shut down the airfield, resulting in numerous impacts. Out of the current data available, does the drought monitor provide a better representation of wildfire risk than KBDI?

**John Bravender-** The downfall is with this regulating from the Oahu airport, we may not have a red flag warning even though this indicates. The same parameter with the extreme fire behavior of difficult containment, rapid growth, I think which is why expanding it beyond to normal as the proxy station.

The KBDI is a single observation, whereas the drought monitor I have on the map has meteorological parameter that we've see, but also inputs from observations and ground impacts (what are grass lines doing; what are ranchers reporting; what are they having trouble with?).

In referencing the slide pertaining to drought conditions, the hydrologists inputs drought impact statements each month and updates include detailed information on the reporting source (i.e., from the field; from agriculture; a rancher's standpoint).

**Hiro Toiya**- Create graded position descriptions (i.e., no off roading, campfire not permitted, restriction on specified activities, etc.). This may affect how the fire departments may posture, create, or make into policy.

**Lisa Vares**- Targeted messaging to specific locations and demographics.

**Glenda Nogami-Streifert**- There are complexities with having several different audiences, one is the public, a lot of communities have one way in and one way out, ingress and egress on roads, this should be kept in mind in developing these messages. The next level audience must propose/develop a plan in preparation to open other roads, on Kauai it would be the cane haul roads.

**Lisa Vares**- Those same locations you mentioned, it almost comes down to a single lane road and people must maneuver around each other. These areas are up against the urban areas and surrounded by the ranch lands and are all wood. Like Maui with its loss of Lahaina, but also Maui Meadows. Discussions need be had with the Skill Village and Paia areas, both are down wind of dry grass and are all wood neighborhoods.

## V. **Council Member Reports / Updates** *(reporting out of order)*

### a.) **Hawaii**

Darryl Oliveira

- Thank you to Mona for having a Laie Hau'ula Community Stakeholder participate in Vibrant Hawaii Resilience HUBS Summit. Any opportunity for all of us across the state to share best practices and help each other grow, build, and develop the programs on each island.
- Housing standards post-disaster. Assisting Maui with housing in relation to the building code. With every disaster trailers are deployed or different solutions are placed on the ground in the form of packaged/modular houses. Working to avoid a situation where after the disaster, the area is left with a mass of unpermitted structures that are questionable in relation to being code compliant. In discussions with Maui County on some code recommendations. At the State Building Code Council level, looking at the kind of temporary housing units that can be made available with some code provisions and standards to ensure the use post disaster. Do not want to create a problem with substandard structures, want to provide solutions for both short term and long term.

### b.) **Maui**

Lisa Vares

Introduced as new Maui Member.

### c.) **Oahu**

Gerry Silva

Communication- The two functions we need to look at are:

- Command & Control
- Communication with the Public (two-way communication with the public)

One of the tools that I believe is under used is the cable system, provides opportunity to update large volumes of data. The cable franchises allowing our agencies to connect through the systems that can add cable franchise, INET allows our agencies to connect through the cable system. There are more communications than the cable system that can add comms anywhere in the world.

I have been working with Ryan Hiraе whom has now retired from HI-EMA and I have requested for a HI-EMA contact.

**Action Items Completed:** DOD OHS advised Mr. Silva of the new point of contact and date of availability to contact in July 2024.

**Mona Curry** (See Attached Slides)

- Dotty Kelly Paddock, a community stakeholder in Hau'ula applied for and received a grant to purchase five (5) Starlink systems to help support communications in the Ko'olauloa area when all other forms of communications are not functioning. One Starlink will be placed in each of the five Ko'olauloa communities which includes Hau'ula, Laie, Ka'a'awa, Kahuku and Kahana.
- Additional funding was also secured to personalize the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program for Ko'olauloa. We will be reaching out to the Mayor to help facilitate support for the CERT program in Ko'olauloa.
- The Resilience Hub planning committee invites public response agencies, such as Fire, Police and both state and local emergency management agencies to partner with the Hub and utilize the future facility as a resource in the Ko'olauloa area to help coordinate services and response locally. Please contact me if you are interested in obtaining response space in the new resilient facility.
- The slides distributed reflect the current rendering, summary, layout concept, renewable power strategies, and program elements of the Ko'olauloa Community Resilience Hub (KCRH).

**Action Required:** None.

**d.) Kauai**

**Glenda Nogami-Streufert**

- KEMA is working on the Fire prevention information and wildfire outreach. Referenced using AI to lessen manpower and aide in building documentation timely.
- Maui housing – People living in FEMA housing (condominium/hotel room) have been received notifications of 24 hours or less to move. If they do not move or do not accept, they are removed from the program. It is difficult for people with families residing in one apartment, is there some way to mitigate some portion of the process or to allow more space or time?
- Kauai is isolated from the rest of the United States, last month there was 47 successful hacks into the medical system throughout the United States. Kauai has only a few medical systems, it would be difficult to recover if the system was hacked or if ransomware was introduced. On the mainland, some of the hacks/ransomwares have had an impact upon treatment for cancer and lifesaving.
- Does HI-EMA have any role in this? It is an Emergency Management situation, it is a natural disaster, and potentially a hazardous thing for the work in Hawaii.

**James Barros** – There is a network of all health care throughout the state along with the Office of Homeland Security (OHS). OHS is the lead for cyber effort. Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH) is the healthcare network that is exist in Hawaii, and on the cyber side there are many efforts with protecting critical infrastructure.

**Action Required:** Mr. Barros will follow up with OHS and HAH regarding their cyber piece of the network and what levels are currently being used to protect the networks. An update will be provided at the November meeting.

**Gerry Silva** – Our Ops Plan has 20 annexes in it, and one of the annexes is Mass Care Emergency Assistance.

**James Barros**- I am aware of the annexes. The health care network and Homeland Security help to fill this on the State side. The HI-EMA Team is working to manage the updates, as there are 80+ annexes.

## **VI. County EM Partner Reports**

### **Hawaii -Talmage Magno:**

- Similar to other counties, Hawaii County had the rain events. Have submitted requests for small business loans due to the damage assessment findings.
- Upcoming events: Preparedness Fairs and the Puna Community Event.
- Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS)- Internal Planning with the county and it's departments. The departments are working on their own strategy to mitigate issues. Water supply is a focus and maintaining supply for both firefighting and domestic use.
- Participated in a tabletop exercise for Hawaii County. Working towards a successful resolution to mitigate issues with vulnerable populations. This is a result in community outreach into communities that are designated for this program.
- Continue to work with Hawaii Volcano Observatory (HVO) regarding Kilauea, in monitoring summit area within National Park, impact to us seems minimal at this time. Finishing a two-year project working with HVO on our Interagency Eruption Plan, will be completed and signed off on soon.
- Tsunami Evacuation Plan (TSP) – Continue to work on our island TSP.
- Staffing- One vacancy, Staff Officer (Planning).  
**Action Required:** None.

### **Maui –Lisa Vares on behalf of Amos Lonokailua-Hewett:**

- Monitor for any changes that could be proposed or requested to the State Fire Code. Some of Maui's Fire Prevention Division is initiating, items to being proposed. Subject could in relate to overgrown vegetation management for landowners of small and large parcels. It is a lengthy process to have fire code change implemented.  
**Action Item:** For situational awareness, monitor State Fire Code for updates.

### **Kauai -Elton Ushio:**

- Kauai had a major flood disaster in April. Thank HI-EMA, National Guard personnel, and all our partners who assisted with the initial response and damage assessment.
- An Applicant Brief was held July 10<sup>th</sup> for DR4793HI Public Assistance. In addition, we received a Small Business Administration Disaster Declaration. Providing physical loans and economic industry disaster loan programs.
- Working on a second year of partnership with Department of Defense (DOD) Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) Program. A second deployment of engineers and emergency managers viewed shelter facilities for refuge area assessments. Viewed private facilities that could be used as alternate sources (i.e., new structures, new gymnasium on a DOE campus, etc.). Another deployment will take place later this summer on Phase 2 with focus on strengthening the Dam Safety Annex and the ESF4/Fire Fighting Annex in terms of wildfire response.
- Telecom- In the procurement phase of doing retrofits to make our 800-MHz public safety radio system more resistant to tropical cyclone. We continue our migration to Firstnet with purchase of radios (800 megahertz) and seamlessly connect to AT&T and Firstnet. Improves responder safety because each person is tracked on the map. Will be in receipt of CRD and mini-CD devices, is satellite based, the range is less than a cell on wheels (COW).
- Reserve Core – KEMA has five (5) new members part-time positions, funded at 40 hours per year, will have seasoned experienced trained Emergency Management public safety types, retired and on call. Because these positions are County funded, if positions are needed more than the 40 hours, the funding can be managed to help with position depth during activations. The Reserve Core funding is for training/exercise. Emergency Management has an exemption under 127A.

- Dams | Levees- Army Corps of Engineers and FEMA were on site for inspection and walk throughs of the multi-year project. FEMA Scoping Meetings took place last week regarding flood plains and modifications to firm maps. Continue to work with Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Dam Safety Program through FEMA's Dam Safety Collaborative Technical Assistance Program. DLNR have been providing regular deliveries of sessions, a tabletop exercise will be held on 8 August.  
Action Required: None.

#### **Oahu –Hiro Toiya:**

- Kona Low- Had minor impacts and some landslides. The Emergency Operating Center (EOC) was activated. The Wahiawa reservoir presented challenges.
- In the last meeting I discussed building code adoption, the process for moving code is adopted through City Council, a variety of perspectives were presented, along with the concerns over construction of homes. The building code currently in effect in Honolulu has no additional requirements for protective windows for single family homes or for tsunami design. The State has two years after each iteration of international code gets published to adopt or it will default. The county has two years from the State election of the Code, for us to adopt. We went through the process to adopt the building code, it went into effect June 2024 and with a short shelf life, it will default into the state's code as of October 2024.
- PSPS – How to mitigate the impacts, we have a concern about what infrastructure and how to mitigate impacts. At this stage we do not have a backup medical facility, the concern is how it may affect people that do not have alternative power sources or a generator of their own. PSPS in relative to Maui and the Big Island, the potential impact area for Honolulu is relatively small with a count of 2,700 as opposed to 27,000 to Maui. The affected area is mostly the West side of Oahu. The healthcare facilities are not in the PSPS area, but some communications are.
- Debris clearance and debris alert planning, working with the department on partnering. Coordinating road clearing as a primary, staging personnel at base yards for direct and timely access to equipment, therefore expediting debris clearance.

Mona Curry- Suggest reviewing on how New York City responds. The subjective is based on the disaster. Personnel are told to respond locally to the nearest fire station, police station, etc., until able to safely reach the area originally assigned.

Lisa Vares- Another concern is having space to store not only the equipment, but all the trailers used to transport the equipment, etc. Knowing how to prioritize what, where, and accessibility are all are critical.

James Barros- We are working to coordinate safe staging somewhere where it does not take days to remove debris. Fire stations that are not in the inundation zone would be that hub. Prior to Puerto Rico MG Hara's thoughts were soldiers/airman stay home, and report in after impact. After Puerto Rico, it was realized it is best to activate some parts of the National Guard pre-impact as is relative to specific skilled individuals.

Elton Ushio- In the 2008-2009 timeframe there were two bills in the legislature required us to have pet friendly shelters and alternative care sites. The Statewide Coalition, State Civil Defense (before renamed HI-EMA), all the Counties and Department of Health (DOH) met to discuss. DOH tried to implement a plan, it never reached final form to be implemented. Uncertain of what a solution might have worked for a small area?

- DEM have procured the Everbridge system of mass notifications.

James Barros- HI-EMA is considering Everbridge. The Department of Education along with a couple other State Departments are currently using.

Action Required: None.

## **VI. HI-EMA Update** (See Attached Slides)

### **James Barros, HI-EMA Administrator**

#### **(a.) Special Issues**

- **New Inventory Management System**

Salamander Live (Web-Based Resource Management | Event Management

Presentation by [Anthony Finney](#), Planner | [Logistics Branch](#)

- **Hazard Mitigation Update**

HI-EMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Project Cycle (Sept. 2023 – Feb. 2029)

Presentation by [Kelsey Yamanaka](#), Acting State Hazard Mitigation Officer | [Resilience Branch](#)

- **Exercise Updates**

-State DOC Activations (01 Aug. 2024)

-Port Restoration / Port ROC Drill (27-29 Aug. 2024)

-Tsunami Exercise (24 Oct. 2024)

-Tsunami- Local Exercise (Apr. 2025)

-Makani Pahili (09-13 June 2025)

- **Education – Training Community**

- **James Barros, HI-EMA Administrator**

- One of the initiatives that we have is with the community colleges in how do we recruit the next generation of emergency management? A lot of the community involved are retirees. We are leveraging the community colleges, and eventually the community colleges will be a HI-EMA hub or staging area. The Leeward Community College (LCC) is going to take the lead on developing an emergency management training program and will provide both credit and non-credited classes, The idea is for LCC to provide us with a classroom space that can be used as a hot EOC.

- What started the conversation with LCC Vice Chancellor is he started the workforce development with Division of Forestry and Agriculture, they received funding through Ways & Means program funding.

- Windward Community College (WCC) Chancellor discussed due to their location with the mental hospital close to their location, they have created a curriculum for the workers at the hospital to be more trauma informed, an understanding of how to deal with this type of population. The training was non-credited for the basic that everyone takes and one elective. This model is now being shared with the prison guard program.

- **John Vierra, Lead | Community Outreach Branch**

- The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training is training with the option to form your own team. The idea is for people with basic skill sets to take care of themselves, their families, and potentially their immediate neighbors. It is because the CERT has been a training program rather than actual community volunteer program that works for us. We recognize there is some disconnect within some of the communities.

- Hawaii Hazards Awareness Program (HHARP) – Foundational level of emergency management.

Mona Curry– Is there a paid internship? Maybe next steps us holding exercise in the community, for the community.

James Barros- Yes, we have hired several paid interns from multiple sources (i.e., Hele Imua).

Action Required: John Vierra to provide updates on the CERT Program at the November meeting.

### **VIII. State Hazard Mitigation** (See Attached Slides)

**Kelsey Yamanaka, Acting State HI-EMA Mitigation Officer**

- **Hazard Mitigation Update**  
HI-EMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Project Cycle (Sept. 2023 – Feb. 2029)

### **IX. HACEM Status / Update**

Darryl Oliveira, Chair | James Barros, Administrator

- Discussed in the last meeting we had a draft the Governor reviewed and what the HACEM Board will look like moving forward. Will follow up with Chair Oliveira regarding.  
Action Item: Mr. Barros will follow up with Chair Oliveira regarding the HACEM Member's responsibilities and update in the November Meeting.

### **X. Closing Remarks**

Attendees / Council Members

- Nothing heard.

### **XI. Announcements / Adjournment**

Darryl Oliveira, Chair

- Next HACEM Meeting, November 7, 2024 (10:30 am - 1:30 pm).
- Darryl Oliveira - Motion to adjourn, Meeting adjourned at 2:04 p.m.

*Darryl Oliveira*

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DARRYL OLIVEIRA  
Chair  
Hawaii Advisory Council on Emergency Management

*J. D. Barros*

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JAMES DS. BARROS  
Administrator  
Hawaii Emergency Management Agency