



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

November 7, 2024

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

**DOD, HI-EMA,
and State Partners:** MG Stephen F. Logan, Adjutant General [Regrets]
BG Phillip L. Mallory, Deputy Adjutant General [Regrets]
James DS. Barros, Administrator of HI-EMA
Don Aweau, Executive Officer of HI-EMA
Craig Iha, Deputy Attorney General
Jennifer Walter, Acting Director, City & County of Honolulu, Dept. 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): Ian Keogh, Infrastructure, Mitigation and Recovery Staff Officer, City & County of
Honolulu, Dept. of Emergency Management

Public: Elizabeth Bryant, Dept. of House Finance

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

Darryl Oliveria, Chair– Welcome, thank you to the Members for all the support to our communities and in Emergency Management.

II. Open Remarks - James Barros | Darryl Oliveira

James Barros – Called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. on November 7, 2024.

Introduced and actioned the swearing in of HI-EMA HACEM Member, Dr. Glenda Streufert (Kauai) for a second term.

III. Minutes - Darryl Oliveira

The July 11, 2024, HACEM Meeting Minutes have been reviewed and distributed. A motion was made by Darryl Oliveira, seconded by Glenda Streufert, Gerald Silva, Mona Curry, and Lisa Osborn Vares to approve the July 11, 2024 HACEM Minutes. The minutes will be signed and distributed electronically post meeting.

Action Items Completed: Distribute the “signed” July 11, 2024, HACEM Minutes with supporting attachments electronically.

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

a.) Hawaii

Darryl Oliveira

An important topic, I shared with Administrator Barros and Craig Iha, Deputy Attorney General may be pertinent to the other counties. In the past, every county or every jurisdiction is looking at how to engage Community in support of our emergency managers. Glenda Streufert has teams on Kauai working to support and talking with Administrator Lonokailua-Hewett of Maui.

On the Big Island, Vibrant Hawaii recently had a mayor meeting with the Corporation Council and Administrator Magno of Hawaii Civil Defense to discuss a formal Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the county which has been in place. Recently, the Corporation Council wanted to request from the non-profit a certificate of insurance and statements or documents indemnifying the county of responsibility and liability. I provided the court counsel my interpretation of Chapter 127 which is clear on the legal responsibilities or indemnification of voluntary organizations assisting the state and the county. I bring to attention for awareness of all the different volunteer organizations that assist Hawaii County in times of disasters, I wanted to ensure there was going to be some consistency and standardization or if some groups may elect to not participate. The onerous is on them to protect government, I feel the statute was created to create the relationship and establish the legal responsibilities on the parties.

Conversations are still ongoing. My understanding is, that Craig Iha, your interpretation or impression of 127, is the government can still add additional requirements to protect themselves. I wanted to make sure that at least Hawaii County, we are acknowledging that the community will still stand up and respond and take care of the community but may not choose to engage with the government in a formal agreement but operate independently.

As I shared with Corp Council is the question I have is not only with their request indemnified a county, because in this case the county asked for the assistance. But, also in many times the situation is not meeting the threshold for a declared event to result in the resources that we would like to use. It will be dealt with at a local level, so it's my impression that if the county reaches out to the nonprofit for help and it is not a declared disaster, it is still covered under 127. Looking for legal opinion and guidance there from Craig Iha as well as the Legal Court Council.

Craig Iha- A lot of personnel from civil liability as a matter of law, it's a matter of documenting what they are responding to. There will be statements in the proclamation.

Eltan Ushio- We are cautious if the state or county officials accept services or volunteers, they become our employees, liability and responsibility. Historically we channel them through our

private partners (i.e., non-profits employed organizations, etc.) they go under the umbrella, and interesting in terms of their protections from civil liability.

John Vierra- Julien Canizzaro, is our HI-EMA, State Voluntary Agency Liaison (VAL).
Matt Glej, Chair of the Hawaii Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD).

Action Items: Craig Iha to provide legal clarity on 127. Create a policy memo to clarify discussions with Chair Oliveira, Elton Ushio, etc.

b.) Maui

Lisa Vares

- Wildfire mitigation on a community level and on a country wide level.
An action I think we can all look at is HACEM Members meeting with a firehouse and have a community conversation.
- Property ownership changes, structures built/removed, need to familiarize together as a community. If there are council members actively engaged in your own areas that would be ideal.
- The Pi'ihana community in early July there was a month-long Maui fire, no access to water, tanker to fill and transport up to fire, helicopter assisted with water transport too.
- August 24 had a fire warning day, fire department staffed up, two additional engines and a tanker. Were fortunate no issues, all stood back down.
- Alert warning program, Hawaiian Electric is adding cameras (15 on Maui), the site conditions are along the transmission lines and are maintaining/monitoring their own. HECO has an AI program that is continuously learning the additions of each.
- The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is also able to add their own cameras in the dry problematic areas. With more access points and then the entire program is maintained 24/7.
- Maui Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)– Is upstaffing and will be moving into some new facilities next year.
- The Haleakala fire was believed to have started from/by a cabin on location, the exact cause has not been determined at this time.

c.) Kauai

Glenda Streufert

- The Statewide Wireless Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) position has not been filled. A Statewide coordination might me something that we could benefit from.
James Barros- The SWIC position now resides within the Department of Law Enforcement (DLE).
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program – An opportunity, but the 25% match creates a problem for some. Is there a legislative bill pending or has it been rejected? Is there an update on our legislature? Funding is of \$20 + million?
- A problem that exists on all islands is one entry and exit point in too many locations. In Kauai's recent wildfires the road was closed for safety reasons, resulting in people being completely cut off from the west side to the east. Is there a way we can do a statewide coordination or a different system alerting people?
- Suggesting consideration of a statewide agreement with landowners instead the current practice.
- Elton Ushio- In reference, in the state of Oregon there are wet and dry seasons. There are regulations in place for specific seasons that the landowners are subject to. During the fire season, even at the lowest level of risk, there are restrictions on activities at certain times of the day from low, medium, high, and extreme. There are restrictions for both, the public and industrial. Basic actions to not act on are no cutting, welding, burning, heavy machinery that can spark, and a complete ban at the high-risk level. When it is allowed a one-hour Firewatch or have a on scene fire suppression capability.

In Hawaii we don't have a true fire season, but we do have a fire weather watch now. The mayor's emergency proclamation included emergency rules that restrict certain activities (i.e., no burning, cutting, welding, etc.). The only means is by proclamation. If through legislative action, rules would be created statewide that trigger for fire weather watch or red flag. Something statewide

Action Item: James Barros and Elton Ushio advised to have the Legislative Team provide awareness.

d.) Oahu

Mona Curry

- Dotty Kelly Paddock, a community stakeholder, was able to support five (5) Starlink systems for our communities in and around Hau'ula. A Starlink will be placed in each community to be used only during disasters when the communications are down. We will be meeting soon to discuss Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) and Starlink activation during this time due to the isolated locations.
- Resilience hub planning is in the process of writing a grant for the EPA while coordinating multiple grants. Trying to formalize ourselves into a solid body to be able to manage the project.
- Tracking action items- Is there a system being used to ensure items will be tracked?
Darryl Oliveira- The HACEM Chair will be responsible for tracking and provide the Members. Not just tracking the action items that come out of each meeting, but discussions that may occur outside of the organized quarterly HACEM Meetings too. Mr. Barros wants to put a request for some assistance from HACEM with a project going forward we will need to track. I will review prior and current action items.
- Thank you to John Vierra, Community Outreach Lead/HI-EMA, for visiting last month, the community did benefit.
Action Items: HACEM Chair to track action items and coordinate with Members with a product. Mr. Barros is requesting assistance from HACEM with a project moving forward, we will need to track actions/status.

Gerry Silva

- Looking into the possibility of improving HI-EMA's communication capability through access of Hawaii's cable television system. Trying to coordinate with the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC), the position has been moved to the Department of Law Enforcement. If unable to coordinate through the SWIC, I will make contact directly.
- Developing a proof of concept with Ashley Kierkiewicz, CEO/Na Leo TV, on the island of Hawaii.
- Darryl Oliveira- Ms. Kierkiewicz is also one of our County Council Members and was instrumental in helping Hawaii County update our county code with regards to Civil Defense. She is passionate with assisting Emergency Management, has been a very progressive and engaged Council Member.
Action Items: Provide status on the capabilities of access to HI cable television system and proof of concept with Na Leo TV.

V. County EM Partner Reports --- *(reporting out of agenda order)*

Kauai

Elton Ushio

- July 2024 several large fires broke out (West Kauai; Hanapepe-Kaumakani area; near Kapaa bypass road; Poki'i Ridge, Koke'e, and Wainiha). In the afternoon, an Alii helicopter crashed, resulting in a multi-agency/multi-day After Action Review (AAR). All the coordination and participation were helpful.
Jennifer Walter- In making improvements, we discussed the studying of other

jurisdictions. In review and will summarize later some of the products we were seeing before Hiro Toiya left DEM. Some California products and I really liked Oregon's ready, set, go messaging and content of the message (*i.e., Persons with special medical or ambulatory needs consider leaving now; If you feel uncomfortable now, this may be your final warning -briefed in the "ready" phase*).

- Innovative readiness training program. We did have the second round of plan updates and Bora assessments. We have completed these missions with our military partners, we are still finalizing internally.
- Kauai April severe weather event, still coordinating FEMA follow-ups on Public Assistance and discussing the telecom blend, the statewide wireless interoperability coordinator. We do have challenges with ongoing coverage issues on the North shore.
- Reserve Corps Personnel– The personnel will be seasoned, trained personnel, but retired. The 89-day contract is based on the 127 A section for HI-EMA's Reserve Core requiring them to have a minimum of 40 hours per year training exercise and that they're up to date on their ICS training. We send them through the basic all hazards incident management.
- Staffing- Have filled three of the five positions. Looking
- The Collaborative Technical Assistance (CTA) Program for dam safety with FEMA and DLNR. Completed the program this year. There are benefits to our local dam operators, state, county and other partners on the island.
- Ni'ihau first Outdoor Warning Siren is installed and operation, the dedication was last week.

Oahu

Jennifer Walter, Acting

- Department of Emergency Management (DEM) Administrator recruitment status is ongoing, working through the Civil Service process.
- Introducing new DEM Team Member- Ian Keogh Infrastructure, Mitigation and Recovery Staff Officer in attendance.
- Hazard Mitigation Plan update is due in February, currently in the outreach phase. The hazard planning is interesting because we are trying to use food instead of the general outreach standard.
- For Wildfires, we have re-established a county-level working group. We are reviewing the Hawaii County working group as support.
- Had a focus group with all the federally qualified health centers. Discussed the population base, their understanding of hazards, and their own readiness.
- Meeting with the Pacific Islander Ministers Group to obtain thoughts of how to better our outreach that population and will have senior service providers. The hope is it will lead to ongoing engagement partnerships with these groups.
- Hazard Planning- Wet season storms, we are having numerous rescues with people living along streams and the canals. In general, we work with Partners in Care who consist of different providers.
- Evacuation Routes- Working to engage efforts we had on the North Shore due to private agreements.
- Tsunami Planning- We have inserted language to encourage the public without having our Department of Facility Maintenance help with clean up.

Looking at internal accommodations, established procedures, who has the authority to request evacuation results, tsunami check lists, facility maintenance, etc.?

We are trying BORA, Croc Center for Salvation Army, and the non-profits at their facilities for hurricane sheltering.

Darryl Oliveira- Plan development is helping the contractor take advantage of organizations that have Community networks to improve. Participation, wanting the Community to support and buy into the plan, we need to have them involved upfront.

Maui

Amos Lonokailua-Hewett

- Staffing to re-establish the agency. Hired 9-12 staff and still actively recruiting. Hiring specialists for three communities that are isolated to some extent. A Logistics Technician hired and will be assisting Hana. Training Specialist and Administrative Assistant have been hired. Hazard Mitigation Specialist and Executive Officer recruiting is in movement.
- Consulting with Tetra Tech, working on COOPS, HMP, annexes, and training plans.
- Evacuation software was procured. Working through the training process and identifying the zones of various threats, the primary arteries, etc. The Evacuation Planning Group will include Department of Planning, Public Works, Police and Fire with licenses to utilize the evacuation modeling.
- Corrective Action Planning Meeting with all partners 13 November to identify the gap of providing recommendation and includes action.
- Working with PSPS to simplify the HECO message, was to be shut down after 13 minutes, but was never shut down. In relation to that we have had concerns with police and fire, focusing more on their jobs rather than informing the Public. Have discussed a unified command training curriculum with MEMA's involvement. Pushing reasonable measures to protect all involved may not come from ground.
- Community Preparedness- New Comms staff in December. CERT training at the teen level.
James Barros– The Director has discussed having Civil Defense in the Philippines, creating a Civil Defense Boy Scout.
Darryl Oliveira– Last October, 100 teens participated in Statewide CERT training on their fall break. They were placed in teams with members from all the islands. Maybe partner through multi-agency.
Mona Curry- Would HI-EMA be interested in having a National CERT Conference?
Action Items: Chair Oliveira will source and distribute non-profit agency that hosted the CERT Training event for the teens.
Discussed potential interest if HI-EMA and another agency were to host a CERT Conference.

Hawaii

Talmadge Magno

- No report.

VI. HI-EMA Update

James Barros, HI-EMA Administrator (See Slides Attached)

- **Statewide Sirens Program**: Community ownership with the sirens. Sirens are vandalized, repair expense recurrence, are looking into how socialize with communities through neighborhood boards, discuss potential options of siren adoption.

Siren Status and Outage Maps:

Yellow – some issue with communication (HI-EMA's sirens)

Green – good

Black – not good will be replaced

Red –

Map – will reflect where we are proposing the siren

Sirens by County and Costs: Specified sirens are to be done in 90 days. Funding was given to DAGS, see attached maps by island.

Mona Curry- A Punalu'u Siren was mentioned at a neighborhood board meeting, the board member referenced it has not worked for two years and was to be fixed immediately.

James Barros- There is a process. The contract should be received this month (November) and in 90 days it should be completed.

Action Items: James Barros will provide siren updates at the next HACEM Meeting.

- **Hazard Mitigation Program**– Briefed by James Barros *(See Slides Attached)*
We are prepared to brief the Governor on our Hazard Mitigation grant funds, recommendations, and the hard deadlines that will need to be met.
 - HI-EMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Project Cycle- Discussed status and timelines for HI-EMA, Subapplicants / Subrecipients, FEMA.
 - HI-EMA DR4724 Primary Projects Statistics
 - HI-EMA DR4724 Backup Projects Statistics

- **Exercise Update**- Briefed by James Barros *(See Slides Attached)*
TY25 HI-EMA Exercises
 - Review and validate the 2015 Catastrophic Hurricane Plan
 - Complete and validate the HI-EMA Port Restoration Plan
 - Align MP2023/NLE2024 AARs/lps capability gaps (Distro Management, Port Restoration, Resilience, Recovery, and incorporating in future Exercises.
 - Identify and set preparedness priorities and schedule preparedness activities for the multi-year Integrated Preparedness Plan.

- **HI-EMA Community Outreach** *(See Slides Attached)*
 - HHARP Focus Communities
 - Public Private Partnerships
 - Business Emergency Operations Center (BEOC)

- **2025 Legislation**
 - **Governor / Administrator Package Bills (Two Bills)**
 - DEF-01 (2025)
 - DEF-02 (2025)

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, February 12, 2025 (10:30 am – 2:30 pm).
- Darryl Oliveira - Motion to adjourn, Meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Darryl Oliveira

DARRYL OLIVEIRA

Chair

Hawaii Advisory Council on Emergency Management

J. Barros

JAMES DS. BARROS

Administrator

Hawaii Emergency Management Agency