

## □ Federal disaster aid is promised as damage estimates add up to \$1 billion

By Gregg K. Kakesako

Star-Bulletin

**L**IHUE — For a second time in a decade, nature has dragged Kauai's 51,000 residents through hell. Now, they must dig their way out, most of them without electricity, full telephone service or even ice to keep their food edible.

Hurricane Iniki — the most devastating storm in state history — left an estimated \$1 billion in damage, triggering a federal disaster declaration by President Bush.

Amid the destruction, two people died: a 91-year-old Kilauea man fatally injured by flying debris and an elderly Kapaa woman who died after her house collapsed.

Several dozen people were treated at Wilcox Hospital for cuts from flying glass and other debris.

Those who survived may feel lucky, but in this case luck carries a heavy price: They will spend months, maybe years, rebuilding their shattered homes, businesses and lives.

Just 10 years ago, they had to pick up the pieces after the rampage of Hurricane Iwa.

Kauai officials provided this grim overview of the Garden Island:

■ 90 percent to 95 percent of the island's 25,000 houses and condominium apartments were damaged or leveled.

■ Power won't be restored islandwide for at least 30 days. One optimistic estimate was that some people will get power in five days.

■ Residents can now call out but still can't receive telephone calls.

■ Only limited airline service is available. Damage to the navigational aids system at the Lihue Airport's control tower initially closed the airport and stranded an estimated 7,000 tourists.

■ All of Kauai's 395 miles of roads were open by mid-morning yesterday, but some roads were down to one lane as motorists weaved around fallen trees, utility poles and other debris.

■ Tap water service will be restored to 80 percent of the island in a few days.

■ Several garbage and green-waste dumps will be set up around the island, in addition to one now open at Kekaha.

■ The Red Cross was helping more than 7,000 people in 14 emergency shelters established at pub-

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lic schools. By last night, only four schools were still being used as shelters, the Department of Education reported.

■ Mass feeding sites will be set up.

Kauai Mayor JoAnn Yukimura acknowledged that providing the shelters with food, water and sanitation has been a major problem.

At the Koloa School shelter, evacuees were forced to dig a pit toilet; when water service was restored, many of the toilets overflowed with sewage.

Westin Kauai officials today estimated damage to their beach-front facility at Nawiliwili Harbor at \$30 million to \$40 million. They do not expect to reopen this year. The hotel employs 1,100 people.

Long lines formed outside businesses that were expected to open today. One Lihue gas station line was more than a mile long. A group of residents formed outside a Longs Drugs store two hours before the store opened.

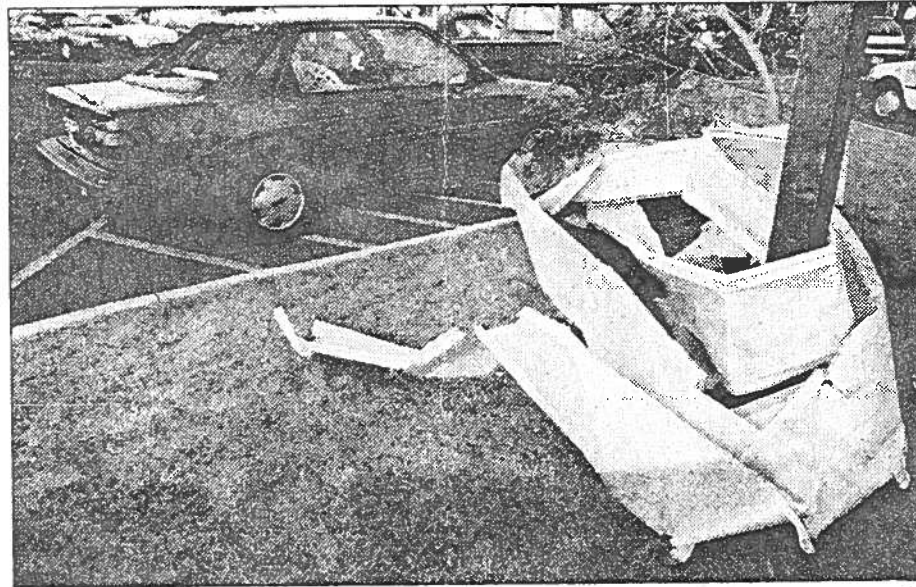
### More troops arrive

Several hundred more **National Guard troops** from Maui and Oahu were flown in today to help distribute supplies and to be available for county use.

"We're doing whatever anyone asks us to do. You name it, we'll do it," said **Army National Guard** Maj. Mel Tamaye, one of the 250 soldiers from the Big Island.

Yukimura described the reconstruction and cleanup task as a "formidable challenge."

It is hampered by loss of both electrical power and communication



By Cory Lum, Star-Bulletin

That's not paper wrapped around a light pole at Lihue Airport; it's strips of corrugated aluminum roofing.

throughout the 30-mile-wide island.

Yukimura yesterday said "runners" were the only means of communication after the county's radio system was knocked out.

Roads were being cleared of debris by county and military crews, but they were becoming more congested as motorists either headed for Lihue Airport or to service stations to fill up with gasoline. There were lines of cars waiting to gas-up at stations as early as 5 a.m.

At Lihue Airport, attempts to fly stranded vacationers and others out seemed to be getting more organized. An Army soldier reported that a single line was being formed at the main terminal for flights out on both military and commercial planes.

Yesterday, an 11-person "mobile emergency response support detachment" from the Federal Emergency Management Agency arrived from

Homestead, Fla., where they were providing communication links for disaster officials dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew.

With them on the Air Force C-5 cargo plane was a 43,000-pound truck that provides a satellite phone system, with 24 lines, capable of making both local and international calls, said FEMA radio supervisor Jim Leacock.

Kauai Electric officials today said it may take up to 60 days to restore electricity to the entire island.

### Running water slowly returns

Yukimura said drinking water should be flowing to 80 percent of the island within a few days.

But she said the county still needs water tankers to truck drinking water to remote areas.

Yukimura said the reason it has taken so long to restore water is because of "the many leaks in the system"

which lowered water pressure.

Besides water tankers, Yukimura said, the county needs portable generators, tarps and other plastic material to help residents build temporary roofs.

Hawaii's congressional delegation plans to push for passage of an \$850 million federal disaster appropriation to help Hawaii recover. The amount, to be included in a Senate appropriations bill, will include \$350 million for private businesses and individuals and \$500 million for FEMA, SBA and other federal allotments, said Rep. Patsy Mink.

Kauai's storm damage is estimated at \$1 billion. If one-third is covered by insurance, the federal assistance could be about \$700 million, Sen. Daniel K. Inouye said.

He, Sen. Dan Akaka and Reps. Mink and Neil Abercrombie rushed back to Washington Saturday to support the appropriations bill after meeting with Yukimura and getting a first-hand look at Kauai's devastation.

### High praise for relief work

The four praised the Federal Emergency Management Agency for doing a good job in Hawaii's catastrophe. FEMA was criticized for its performance in Florida's recent Hurricane Andrew disaster.

Inouye said FEMA consulted the congressional delegation before the hurricane arrived and already had people en route here before it struck. He said he can't comment on FEMA's actions in Florida, "but here, I have nothing but praise."

Mink said the destruction was "far worse than anything you could imagine . . . What I saw was so overpowering. Not a single house was spared in some of the places we saw."

"I can't say how fortunate Oahu is," Abercrombie said.

Star-Bulletin reporters Helen Altonn, Mike Yuen, Tim Ryan and Lester Chang contributed to this story.