

# Kauai residents return home; progress of restoration slow

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LIHUE — Residents separated from family and homes on hurricane-battered Kauai began returning to the island Tuesday for their first look at the devastation.

Officials resumed some commercial flights to the island, where limited phone service was restored Monday for some of the 52,000 residents, and portable generators were pumping running water to about 70 percent of it.

But electricity remained out. And health officials warned people to bury perishable food and issued instructions on how to build trench latrines.

Duette Rochelle, a 67-year-old retired nurse who left her house in Wailua Homestead last week, was on one of the first flights back. On the flight she pressed her hands together, nervously wondering what she would find.

When she got to her house, she found the hurricane had ripped off her carport, leaving a soggy welter of household possessions in what had been a garage.

"I am just sick. It is 10 times worst than Hurricane Iwa," Rochelle said, referring to a storm that struck Kauai in 1982.

"I just don't have the heart right now to do anything about this," she said.

Restoration of telephone service was set back late Monday when a construction crew clearing debris from the roadway severed a trunking cable between Lihue and Kapaa. Calls to and from the island now are possible only from the Lihue area, said Hawaiian Telephone spokesman Mark Doyle.

He said the company shipped 170 pay telephones to Lihue so that people in other areas can go there to place calls.

Residents lined up before dawn at Honolulu's airport for the first flights.

"This guy called me at 3 a.m. and said, 'I'm the first one in line,'" said Civil Defense spokes-



—National Guard Photo

**MASS DESTRUCTION** — Homes in the Poipu area were torn to shreds as Hurricane Iniki's 165-mph winds slashed through the resort area of Kauai.

man Glenn Soma. "These guys have been waiting since Saturday to get there so I don't think it's too early for them."

Because Lihue Airport's control tower is damaged, only daylight flights are allowed. General aviation craft and helicopters are still forbidden.

Before the flights could start going in, more than 2,000 stranded tourists had to come out, said state transportation spokeswoman Marilyn Kali.

Officials warned that island resources are scant.

"We would hope that people who visit the island have a real good reason for being there," said Roy Price of the state's Civil Defense.

A sense of order was returning to Kauai. Homeowners carted trash, tree limbs, palm fronds, and aluminum siding to their curbs and stacked rubble in neat piles 6 feet high. People lined up outside banks, which reopened Tuesday, and at markets and drugstores, and neighbors exchanged Iniki stories.

Streets have been cleared of power lines and poles, and there was heavy traffic congestion with

people trying to find water, propane gas and open markets.

Electrical power was expected to be restored in Lihue, Kauai's largest town, by Monday, although officials said full restoration would take months.

Iniki struck Friday, flattening sugar cane fields, battering the island's 70 resort hotels and seriously damaging almost half of Kauai's 21,000 homes. Damage has been estimated at \$1 billion on Kauai alone.

A Hawaiian Air National Guard Guardsman died in a storm-related accident on the island late Monday, said Army National Guard Maj. Bud Bowles. Tech. Sgt. Dennis Dalen, 46, of Honolulu, was pinned under a truck that flipped when it got entangled in cable along a rural road.

Three people died during the weekend, one on Oahu. Coast Guard officials suspended the search for two missing fishermen Monday.

Relief supplies and federal troops poured into the island Monday, replenishing a hospital and restocking bare cupboards.