

Iniki wrought a rough routine

Many are settling in for a long, hard haul without shelter, other essentials

By MICHELLE LOCKE
The Associated Press

KOLOA, Kauai — The school is a Red Cross shelter. The beach is off-limits. The electricity is out, and there are long, snaking lines for water and gasoline, but Lani Nollan's biggest challenge is entertaining her children.

"It's really roughing it," she said, resting awhile at the Koloa Elementary School shelter as Angie, her 11-year-old, drummed her fingers on a long table where National Guardsmen laid out egg salad and dumplings for lunch.

Most of Nollan's five children are school age, but Hurricane Iniki has kept them at home, and off the debris-strewn beach they love. "They're really water babies," their mother explained, flashing lively brown eyes.

A week ago Friday, Iniki bore down on Kauai, shredding thousands of homes and disrupting life for months if not years to come on Hawaii's northernmost island. Those left homeless are settling in for the long haul.

Much of Nollan's rented house in the sugar plantation town of Koloa on the worst-hit south coast is standing. But electricity is out, water is distributed at a street fire hydrant and food is scarce.

"This is my routine since the

storm — we get up, we're in the gas line for two hours, we go to wait for water, then we come to the shelter for lunch," Nollan said. "It's going back to the old days."

The days of primitive man, she added.

As she spoke, the shelter throbbed to the hum of a diesel generator. Guardsmen mashed dozens of eggs into salad and boiling up gallons of dumplings. The lunch crowd ranged from large families to a smartly dressed couple who pulled up in a shiny BMW.

The American Red Cross does not have an exact tally of homeless, although they served about 2,000 people at their various centers Tuesday night. "When people show up at a shelter to be housed or fed, we're accepting everyone," said spokesman Tom Thompson.

As of Wednesday, more than 3,000 troops have shipped in excess of 2.5 million tons of supplies to Kauai, the Army said.

The USS Belleau Wood, an amphibious assault ship, cruised offshore Wednesday while landing craft and helicopters ferried trucks, bulldozers, portable toilets, water purification equipment and food to the hurricane victims.

See INIKI WROUGHT
on Page A4

HAWAII CLIPPING SERVICE
P.O. Box 10242
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816
PHONE: 734-8124
Victoria Custer Elaine Stroup

MAUI NEWS

SEP 17 1992

Iniki wrought a rough routine

Continued from Page A1

"This ship is doing what it was designed to do, but in this case we're doing it in a friendly manner," said Army Maj. Joe MacDonald.

MacDonald is part of Joint Task Force Garden Isle, comprising Navy, Marine and Army personnel hellbent on helping the island's 52,000 residents.

"We want them to work us to death to get this place up," MacDonald said.

MacDonald predicted that life would get back to normal within a month with the help of the military.

The storm was believed to have damaged or destroyed 10,000 of the island's 21,000 homes and damaged 70 resort hotels, causing more than \$1 billion in damage.

In Lihue, the main town on the 30-mile-wide island, Danny Tolentino stretched out in a small tent pitched on the lawn of the Kauai War Memorial Auditorium and listed things to do: Get a job, an insurance check and then a home for his girlfriend and their 7-year-old son.

Looking for sympathy wasn't on the list. "The only person who can help us is ourselves," he said.

A few miles north in Kapaa, Tracy Kuhaulua, 28, a mother of six with another on the way, was making plans to move to a room

in her mother-in-law's two-bedroom house. "Until we can get some help, we're just going to have to make it," she said.

By midweek, low-pressure water was restored to about two-thirds of the island, but there was almost no power and phone service off island was limited to Lihue and Kapaa.

All traffic lights were dead, causing a few minor accidents Wednesday. Lines for gasoline twisted around the few stations open and garbage was piled up in some areas as residents waited for service to resume.

"People, please be patient," appealed Mayor JoAnn Yukimura.

For now at least, Kauai's homeless seemed to be doing just that.

When Iniki landed, Kuhaulua and her husband ushered their children to a Kapaa church and hid them under tables.

"All their school clothes went right out the wall," she said. "We're going to have to get more."

Her husband, an electrician, was laid off days before the storm, but probably will have plenty of work fixing up storm damage, she said.

"My husband's a survivor," she said. "He's a hunter and a fisherman. I'm not worried."