

The IRC Gazette

DR-4724-HI



FEMA

Volume 1, Issue 11 December 11, 2023

This Week in the IRC:

Community Assistance RSF

At the request of the County Recovery Manager, CA has consolidated potential recovery projects that match with RNA needs under each RSF. These potential projects are sourced from previous county plans including West Maui Community Plan, Capital Improvement Projects and more. CA is dispersing this list to RSF leads.

Economic RSF

SBA along with FEMA IA began supporting Non-Congregate (NCS) teams on 12/1 to provide intensive local community directed outreach at Red Cross staffed survivor distribution sites established at hotels housing survivors.

Health and Social Services RSF

Federal Health & Social Services RSF personnel successfully conducted outreach and connection meetings with HSS RSF counterparts at the state and county levels. This engagement was met with much appreciation from local HSS leaders and resulted in invites to the federal HSS RSF for standing local HSS RSF coordination meetings for continued collaboration.

Infrastructure RSF

Established interagency team to explore support programs and funding sources with federal, state, and county partners to rebuild resilient power supply including power generation plant exposure.

Natural and Cultural Resources RSF

On 12/7, NCR RSF participated in the weekly Lahaina-Maui County NCR meeting led by Maui County NCR. Local community members explained that they feel shut out, don't know what's happening, and would like to contribute to the disaster recovery by sharing their knowledge, input, and ideas. At this point their greatest concerns are preventing stormwater migration of contaminants into the nearshore environment, the temporary landfill site, and the debris clearing/cleanup operations. They and Maui County NCR want to meet (regularly) with FEMA, USACE, DPW, and HA State decision makers to improve communication and coordination. The HA NCR lead NCR indicated DLNR is focused on the Olinda fire burn area for "re-greening" plans, working with NRCS programs. Meanwhile, burn areas are experiencing natural grass regrowth of non-native plant species. HA needs increased capacity for native seed banks for revegetation of burned areas.

USDA Advisor

On 12/07, USDA hosted an informational meeting with federal, state, and local partners engaged in watershed recovery efforts to educate on the programs and resources USDA has available. NRCS has approved approximately \$15.9 million for EWP in Upcountry and has requested an additional \$5 million for EWP in Lahaina.

Who's Packing your Parachute?

"Compliment for Linda Landers in support of our HSS RSF. She forwarded situational awareness to us on two important health topics (pharmacy and health center meetings). This is just a small example of how valuable she's been as a part of our team. Her ability to have eyes and ears throughout the IRC and greater FEMA landscape and patch us in seamlessly to needed contacts is vital to our success.

Getting the IA and SBA out to the schools was her idea which we then executed. Huge win due to her knowledge of who's who in the zoo.

She is our Argus and she's excellent at it."

- Patrick Harper

If you would like to recognize someone who has packed your parachute, send info to annie.sebastiani@fema.dhs.gov.

Cultural Protocol Task Force Advisor

CPTF attended Tongan Resource Fair on 12/2 to provide CPTF support, outreach, and culturally sensitive resources/services for impacted Tongan/Samoan survivor community. CPTF's outreach to Tongan Community leaders facilitated a LIVE post and recording that helped to drive estimated attendance numbers from 50+ on 11/29 to 513 on 12/2 (i.e., 163 1st time Tongan visitors to the DRC). Ongoing outreach to support Filipino Resource Fair on 12/08/2023-12/09/2023 to maximize attendance and participation by impacted communities and service providers.

Disability Integration Advisor

Team participated in Recovery Scope Meetings and Exploratory Calls to support Public Assistance throughout this week; our participation allows us to offer support and to provide subject matter expertise when needed dependent on the category(ies) the application falls under.

External Affairs Advisor

Conducted a media blitz for a FEMA-sponsored direct housing leasing event in Maui: Industry Day. Products sent to the media included a media advisory, an information graphic and a fact sheet describing details of FEMA's leasing program, an effort to generate more housing for wildfire survivors. Media outlets publicized the media advisory.

Mitigation Advisor

406 Team supported the PA mission by attending Recovery Scoping Meetings (RSMs), Follow Up Meetings (FUMs) and Exploratory Calls (ECs)

Spotlight on the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) Advisor to Infrastructure Systems RSF

By John Weeks



U.S. Department of Transportation

The United States Department of Transportation is one of the executive departments of the U.S. federal government. It is headed by the Secretary of Transportation, Pete Buttigieg, who reports directly to the president of the United States and is a member of the President's Cabinet. USDOT's mission is to deliver the world's leading transportation system, serving the American people and economy through the safe, efficient, sustainable, and equitable movement of people and goods.

USDOT has eleven operating administrations, including the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA); the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA); the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA); the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA); the Federal Transit Administration (FTA); the Great Lakes Seaway Development Corporation (GLS); the Marine Administration (MARAD); the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA); the Office of the Inspector General (OIG); the Office of the Secretary (OST); and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA).

In the National Disaster Recovery Framework, during emergency response, USDOT operates as ESF-1 (Transportation). Later, in the recovery phase, USDOT becomes a primary agency supporting the infrastructure RSF, with the infrastructure systems coordinating agency being the U.S. Army Core of Engineers. USDOT is also a supporting organization to both the Health and Social Services RSF. and the Community Planning and Capacity Building RSF. USDOT supports the FEMA led Interagency Recovery Coordination efforts through engagement with community stakeholders, and the USDOT Field Coordinator provides federal coordination and advisement to RSF coordinating, primary, and supporting agencies.

While working with FEMA's Interagency Recovery Coordination center, for the recovery phase of the Hawaii Wildfires disaster, USDOT has coordinated between local, state and federal agencies on many efforts. USDOT has coordinated meetings, projects and activities regarding the safe transportation of Hazardous Waste, Hazardous Materials and Marine Pollutants; solutions to the Maui and statewide school bus driver shortage; rebuilding of the damaged Lahaina ferry terminal; the addition of public bus stops and bus routes; the construction of a temporary housing facility for displaced residents on a federal highway right-of way; the creation of emergency evacuation routes; the protection of stormwater and wastewater runoff, and many other transportation related projects.



The USDOT Advisors desk can be easily found at the IRC, in the Infrastructure section. USDOT is readily available to assist you with any questions or efforts regarding transportation. The USDOT Advisors desk is a great initial contact point to initiate coordination between any of its eleven agencies and other local, state or federal agencies.

TIP FROM CULTURAL PROTOCOL

IT'S A KĀKOU THING

"It's a phrase we heard HI-EMA Administrator James Barros say repeatedly at FEMA's last FCO All Hands Meeting. In Hawaiian, **KĀKOU**, pronounced [KAH-koh], is the inclusive "we" pronoun. **Kākou** emphasizes the importance of community and family bonds. **Kākou** fosters unity, inclusivity, empathy, and aloha. When you hear or use the phrase, "**It's a kākou thing,**" soak in its meaning. Let it remind us that we are all in this together; and that our **kākou** efforts are key to Maui's healing and recovery."

- Summer Sylva

Public Assistance

Completed site inspection for Lahaina Harbor. Completed Recovery Scoping Meetings with four different applicants.

Philanthropic Advisor

On 12/06, toured of the Kula area debris mission and stabilization efforts with funders and IRC partners to provide information on recovery progress and needed support.

Unified Federal Review Advisor

Engaged with NRCS to obtain more information on their Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) which they're tiering from to develop site-specific EAs for work funded under EWPP in the up-county burn scar areas. This may contribute to the overall inventory of relevant federal NEPA documents in play that could be used to support future disaster specific programmatic NEPA documents.