

The IRC Gazette

DR-4724-HI



FEMA

This Week in the IRC:

Community Assistance RSF

CA presented the synthesis of community public testimonies to two different groups this week: Philanthropic partners and the County RSF Leaders. Key discussions focused on issues related to public safety, rebuilding historic Front Street, inclusion, and protection of Native Hawaiian cultural sites, expanding water rights, land use zoning, and infrastructure policy. Maui County leadership will make the project public in the upcoming weeks.

Economic RSF

Effective 12/11, the SBA granted a 45-day grace period to help Maui residents and businesses apply for disaster loan assistance. This additional time was granted by SBA Administrator based on the unique magnitude of this event. The SBA is not requiring an explanation or any other documentation from survivors during the extended application period to request acceptance of their late application.

Health and Social Services RSF

Monitoring healthcare system and healthcare provider impact from Governor's latest proclamation. Continue communicating with county leadership about getting teachers placed in priority group for long-term housing solutions alongside other identified essential personnel (first responders, health care workers, etc.).

Infrastructure RSF

On 12/06 coordinated with Maui Dept of Planning and the coastal hazard POC for Maui County. Coastal hazard POC for Maui identified some critical infrastructure concerns with coastal flooding and is a resource for coastal erosion management as a part of the restoration.

Housing RSF

National Housing Coordinator attended Statewide Coordinator Meeting to Wildfire Update brief outs, listened to State provided report of State Housing lines of effort.

Natural and Cultural Resources RSF

NCR RSF worked with the FEMA GIS specialist to develop a map of the Lahaina burn area that records potential contamination "hot spots" based on GIS analysis and input from Lahaina local community members (e.g., auto body shops, dental offices, medical offices, hardware stores, hospitals, etc.). Map was transmitted to the Air\Water\Soil\Sediment Task Force and Ash Sampling meeting. This map can help inform debris removal and cleanup.

Volume 1, Issue 12 December 18, 2023

Who's Packing your Parachute?

Suzanne Marr, Michelle Moreno, and Walter Sarnoi have worked diligently with the Infrastructure Systems RSF to consolidate data through Microsoft Excel sheets and ensure they are linked with different programs and purposes.

- Tony D. Krause

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 facilitated an in-person cultural awareness pilot training on 12/13 at Maui IOF with contractor to precede FEMA's first hybrid in-person/virtual Maui-specific cultural training. CPTF outreached to non-profit organizations to amplify the Filipino Resource Fair and CPTF's local hire recruitment at DRC #3 from 12/08-12/09 and Binhi at Ani Filipino Community Center on 12/10. The team interacted with to recruit for CPTF's 9 open local hire positions. CPTF collected 6 resumes and identified 4 additional candidates for call backs over the 3-day event.

External Affairs Advisor

Produced and distributed two fact sheets: Beware of Fraud and Scams, and Rental Properties Wanted for Temporary Disaster Housing; two news releases: Kahului DRC to Close 12/15, Help Still Here, and Beware of Rental Scams Offering Too-Good-to-be-True Prices. On 12/11, Media outlets shared it is the Last Day to Apply for Federal Assistance; FEMA Invites Short-Term Rental Property Owners to its Direct Lease Industry Day; FEMA Recovery Information Warning Fire Survivors About Rental Scams; Closing of Kahului DRC on 12/15; and Updated Operating Hours at Lahaina DRC.



USACE's Evacuation Modeling to support Life Safety Resilience for Lāhainā

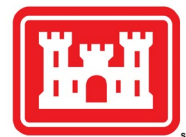
In the aftermath of the fire that struck the town of Lāhainā on the Western side of the island of Maui on August 8th, 2023, the need for rebuilding and improving evacuation routes and resiliency became prevalent. Notable concerns with the evacuation were identified post-disaster analysis including trouble with warning systems, defined evacuation routes, and limited egress on these routes. This event emphasized an opportunity to evaluate the life safety concerns related to evacuations.

In response, the County of Maui has taken coordination effort with United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to bolster its resilience and future planning efforts. The Office of Recovery is leading a comprehensive coordination effort to address immediate challenges such as improving emergency preparedness through both structural (increasing roadway capacity) and non-structural (improve warning messaging) measures. The USACE life loss modeling software LifeSim was identified as a tool that can help quantify the performance of the county's measures. Its objective is to determine the effectiveness of alternative evacuation strategies specific to the Lāhainā area.

The evacuation planning effort extends its scope across wildfire-impacted areas in Lāhainā and stretches mauka of the Lāhainā bypass road. The goal is not only to identify evacuation routes but also to assess and plan for necessary acquisitions or easements crucial for the creation of effective and safe routes.

Evacuation planning will evaluate post-incident challenges, addressing necessary infrastructure for the safe evacuation of residents and tourists. Importantly, the evacuation plans will adopt an all-hazard approach, encompassing infrastructure and route planning for a range of potential hazards requiring the movement of people away from dangerous conditions.

Additionally, a modeling effort will assess existing road conditions and a modified rebuild alternative aimed at enhancing the life safety resilience of Lāhainā. This alternative includes designated evacuation routes with wider roads, and the modeling will evaluate its capacity to improve life safety through enhanced evacuation effectiveness. This technical assistance will involve collaboration with other agencies such as Maui County EM, Maui County DPW, and Maui County Planning, aligning with their recovery strategies, solutions, mitigation, and opportunities for resilience and sustainability. Through these collaborative initiatives, the county aims to fortify its resilience and enhance future planning for Lāhainā and beyond.



TIP FROM CULTURAL PROTOCOL

As we approach the end of 2023 and bid *aloha* (farewell) to those we've worked alongside and with whom we've created *pilina* (relationships, a 3-syllable word pronounced [pee-LEE-nah]), here's a beloved Hawaiian phrase to add to your growing Hawaiian vocabulary. This commonly-used expression acknowledges your connection to Hawai'i and is imbued with the hope of a future reunion: *A hui hou*, a 4-syllable phrase pronounced [ah-WHO-ee ho] means "until we meet again." Use the phrase liberally in lieu of "goodbye" with your peers, community partners, and survivors, as an aloha-filled expression that speaks to enduring connections and anticipated reunions.

- Summer Lee Haunani Sylva

Public Assistance

Completed site inspection for Maui County Department of Parks and Recreation. Completed Recovery Scoping Meetings with the following Applicants: Maui County Finance Department. Completed Exploratory Calls for the following Applicants: Aloha United Way, Valley Isle Fellowship

Philanthropic Advisor

On 12/08, had a Funders Tour with representatives from eight foundations, HI Emergency Management, the Maui County Recovery Office, FEMA External Affairs, FEMA Community Assistance.

Unified Federal Review Advisor

Hosted UFR kickoff calls with OPSP's Environmental Review Program and Coastal Zone MGMT Program to educate OPSP on the UFR process and obtain new state UFR partners. Delivered a UFR training to FEMA and IRC during the optional lunch and learn series hosted by IRC on 12/14.