

The IRC Gazette



FEMA

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This Week in the IRC:

Community Assistance RSF

Met with Maui County Community Planning to frame out a short-term community engagement & communication strategy and timeline. County had decided to put out an RFP for Community Engagement services, focusing on facilitation, communication, and outreach to support the build out of a long-term Recovery Plan.

Economic RSF

EDA EDR participated in a Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs visit to Maui. Members of the visiting party to Maui included Congressional Staff, Congressional Research Service Staff, and FEMA Congressional Affairs Staff. EDA, along with other RSF federal agencies provided recovery updates and answered questions from the committee. The visiting party seemed pleased with the visit and seemed to understand the severity of the disaster. The main comments to FEMA were to also be sensitive to other minority populations in addition to the Native Hawaiian community to ensure that members of the impacted communities do not slip through the cracks. Examples of additional communities to target included the Filipino Community, the Tongan Community, as well as the Micronesian Community/COFA Migrants.

Health and Social Services RSF

HSS outlined a process to collaborate with USDA to reinstate free student meals. American Red Cross interest has been rekindled in engaging in state-offered domestic violence training for Shelter Resident Transition personnel which includes a cultural training component.

Housing RSF

Permanent Housing Subcommittee Meeting had its first meeting with State and County Housing RSF and stakeholder. Discussed the process for long term housing.

Infrastructure RSF

Identified opportunities for local advocacy groups in coordination with the Maui Mayors Advisory Board for NCR to employ bioremediation techniques in the burn scar post-debris removal and aligned that group to USACE project manager.

Tip from Disability Integration Advisor

"Don't judge a book by its cover":

If you think someone needs assistance, ask first. Give them the grace not to need the assistance.

Recovery Support Functions Overview Housing RSF

The Housing Recovery Support Function (RSF) works toward addressing disaster housing issues, focusing on solutions that are feasible, sustainable, and resilient. As states and communities look to the federal government for assistance in housing both disaster survivors and others who choose to live in recovering communities, the Housing RSF coordinates and effectively integrates available housing related resources, addresses conflicting policy/program issues, and identifies gaps in service and assistance delivery.

The housing RSF addresses pre- and post- disaster housing issues and coordinates and facilitates the delivery of federal resources and activities to assist local, state, and tribal governments in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of destroyed and damaged housing, whenever feasible, and development of other new accessible, permanent housing options. *NDRF, 2016*

Natural and Cultural Resources RSF

NCR RSF participated in the weekly meeting on Maui County NCR issues which included Maui County NCR leads, Maui County Community Advisory Team, Chairman of the Maui County Arborist Committee, local farmer, and scientist, Ridge to Reefs. Community participants from Maui's Bioremediation Team urged the use of bioremediation techniques of contaminants in the Lahaina burn area. Discussion focused on bioremediation approaches for the Lahaina burn area, and what steps need to be taken to fashion a specific proposal incorporating a Statement of Work, cost estimates, and timelines.

Unified Federal Review Advisor

Developed and populated the UFR Outreach and Engagement Tracker to capture and monitor unique UFR datapoints of national and regional significance which can be used to perform UFR trend analyses and inform future UFR disaster specific planning/support.

Cultural Protocol Task Force Advisor

CPTF participated in its third Funder Hui Meeting to further socialize the federally funded National Dislocated Worker Grant administered by Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. with the fourteen nonprofits in attendance.

Disability Integration Advisor

Continuing outreach efforts; this includes working with American Red Cross, VALS, Direct Housing Supervisor, IA teams, Mass Care Teams, Civil Rights, and our community partners. Objective is to support and share information, identify unmet needs, and provide/vet resources.

Packaging Hazardous Materials by Judy Provitch

United State Department of Transportation (USDOT) coordinated with the State, Local, and Federal Agencies to discuss the safe packaging and transportation of hazardous materials. Electric car battery components are being sorted, packaged and prepared for shipping at a temporary Hazardous Materials packaging operation, which is temporarily operating at the firing range, in Maui. Hazardous Materials transported in vehicles must be properly packaged, labeled and even placarded, when required.



Photos show a Flammable Hazardous Material Placard on an intermodal trailer, the temporary hazardous materials packaging operation at the firing range, packaged lithium ion from electric car batteries in barrels, packaged prismatic battery hazardous materials in barrels, a Marine Pollutant Hazardous Material Placard on an intermodal trailer.

Spotlight on Small Business Association

by Adrion T. Perez

SBA is here supporting FEMA, the State of Hawaii, and the County of Maui's long term recovery mission focused on leveraging cross-agency resources to troubleshoot persistent economic recovery challenges. The Business Resource and Assessment Center in Kihei is a one-stop hub for this collaboration to occur between SBA, SBA Resource Partners, and business representatives from across the islands.

SBA is working extensively with state and local community partners to identify major recovery barriers or challenges, derive potential courses of action, and then working collaboratively to help work through those recovery challenges.

Thus far, since SBA first deployed to Hawaii, we achieved the following milestones and are eager to continue progress alongside our partners:

- Approved over 250.5 million low-interest federal loans for recovery from the wildfires
- Opened at least one Business Recovery Center in every county
- Opened our first Business Resource and Assessment Center in Kihei, Maui

- Achieved total deployment levels of over 75 staff across the Hawaiian islands supporting the disaster loan program and long-term recovery efforts
- Issued multiple internal policy changes to ease the recovery process, including streamlining the initial damage verification process to allow desktop verification for initial disbursements up to \$25,000; and expanded Economic Injury Disaster Loan eligibility to previously excluded counties
- Supported more than a dozen recovery strategizing engagements with SLTT partners, with focus towards multiple RSF missions including Economic and Housing
- Engaged more than 163 survivors and small businesses through community outreach, with targeted emphasis on reaching traditionally underserved communities
- Translated disaster loan fact sheets, press releases, and other pertinent information into 6 languages besides English.

External Affairs Advisor

Completed the first issue of Housing Newsletter aimed at helping survivors find long-term temporary housing and focusing on utilizing a distribution method that could work for both paper and online versions.

Philanthropic Advisor

Had a briefing with the Congressional staff to update them on the philanthropic engagement progress and resources.

Who's Packing your Parachute?

A big MAHALO to all of my office mates at the IRC office. I am new to FEMA, and I live in Napili. As a member of the Lahaina community, I can say that everyone who lives here was impacted by the fire. Some by a heartbreaking loss of life, others by loss of their homes, property or jobs. Others are sharing their homes, money and time to support community members who need help. I want to thank ALL of you for coming to our isolated island and giving us your time and talents to help Lahaina and Kula heal and rebuild. As a local hire, and the only one in my cadre on Maui, you have taken me in and answered my inane questions. Mahalo on behalf of myself and my community!

Mahalo
MaryBeth Chin

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