



Protecting communities through planning and resilience efforts



HAWAII'S DISASTER PREPAREDNESS: STRATEGIES, CHALLENGES, AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

COMMON NATURAL HAZARDS AFFECTING HAWAII



Hurricanes and Flooding

Hawaii experiences hurricanes bringing destructive winds and heavy rainfall, causing flooding and damage across the islands.

Volcanic Activity

Active volcanoes like Kilauea and Mauna Loa produce lava flows, ash fall, and gas emissions threatening local areas.

Tsunamis and Earthquakes

Tsunamis from distant earthquakes or underwater landslides pose significant risks to Hawaii's coastal communities.

Landslides and Preparedness

Landslides occur due to heavy rain or volcanic activity, requiring tailored hazard preparedness strategies across the islands.

Wildfires

Wildfires burn a similar percentage of Hawaii as the Western states of the continent. Lahaina and Kula fires were a wake-up call for many communities in Hawaii.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCIES AND THEIR ROLES



Agency Roles Overview

HI-EMA leads planning, coordination, training, and public education for disaster preparedness in Hawaii.

County Civil Defense Functions

County agencies manage localized disaster response, recovery, and public alerting tailored to their communities.

Coordination Challenges

Island separation creates communication challenges, requiring clear chains of command and inter-agency cooperation.

Preparedness Enhancement

Inter-agency drills and private sector agreements improve disaster preparedness and response effectiveness.

H.H.A.R.P. [Hawaii Hazards Awareness & Resilience Program]

A community-focused initiative aimed at enhancing resilience to natural disasters. educate residents on risk, develop local emergency plans, and foster self-reliance to reduce the burden on emergency responders.

EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS AND COMMUNICATION NETWORKS

Integrated Warning Technologies

Hawaii uses sirens, mobile alerts, weather radios, and social media to provide comprehensive early warnings.

Redundant Communication Networks

Multiple communication channels ensure warnings reach people even if some systems fail during disasters. HAM Radio is also an option on all islands.

Challenges in Messaging

Reaching transient visitors and non-English speakers remains a key challenge in early warning dissemination.

Community Partnerships / Resilience Hubs

Collaboration with communities helps tailor warnings to local needs and improve message effectiveness.



PREPAREDNESS PROGRAMS FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS



Government Preparedness Initiatives

State and local governments conduct workshops and provide multilingual materials to educate on disaster risks and responses.

Visitor Safety Briefings

Visitor centers and hospitality businesses include safety briefings to inform travelers about emergency protocols and risks.

Personal Readiness and Evacuation

Programs promote personal readiness kits, evacuation planning, and hazard-specific protocols for effective disaster response.

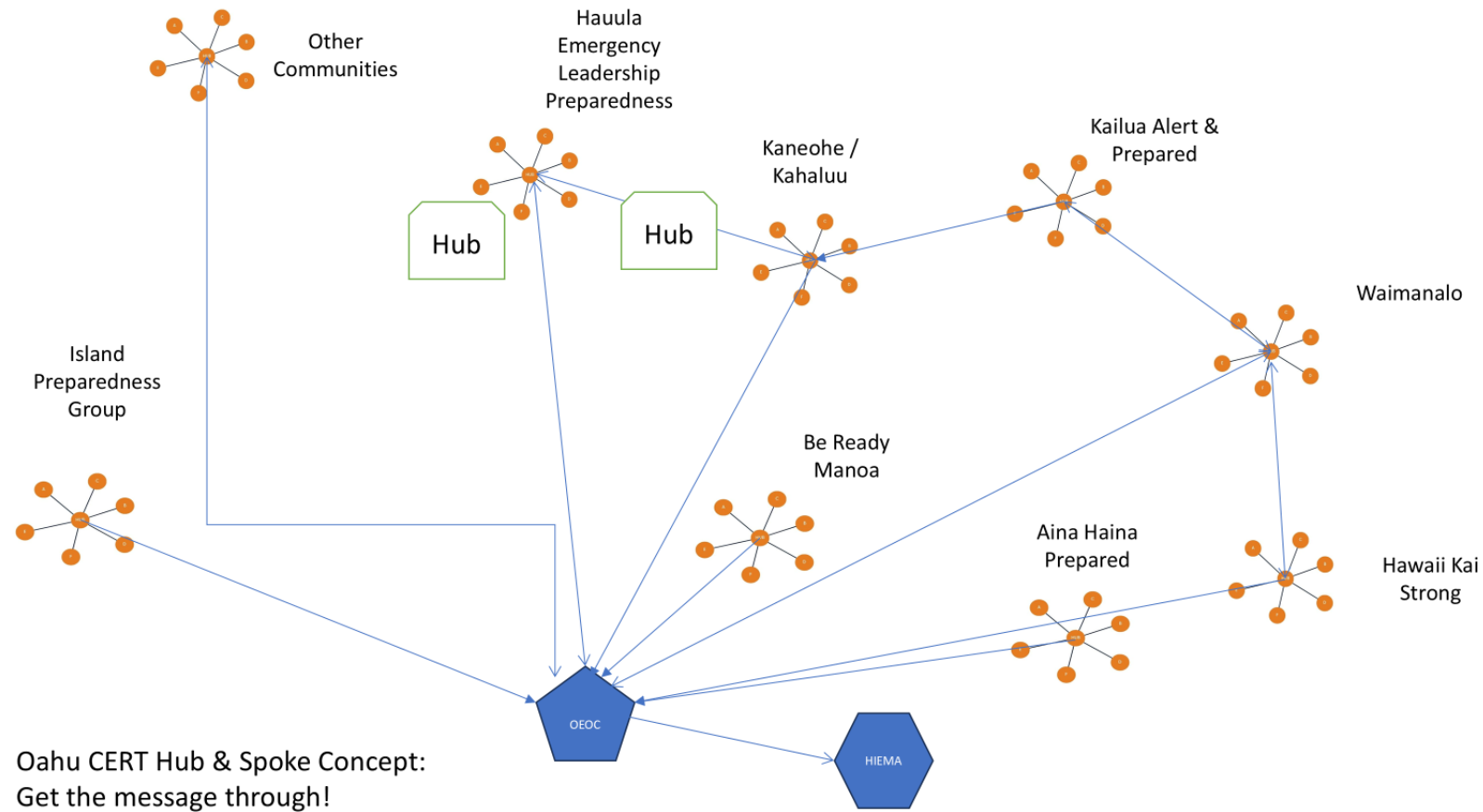
Community Emergency Response Teams

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may occur where they live. Basic disaster skills:

- Fire safety
- Light search and rescue
- Team organization
- Disaster medical operations



OAHU CROSS-ISLAND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE NETWORK



RESOURCES AND TOOLS FOR HOUSEHOLD READINESS



Emergency Kits Essentials

Households should maintain emergency kits with water, food, medication, and communication devices for immediate needs.

Online Disaster Planning

Online toolkits help families create customized disaster plans including evacuation routes and emergency contacts.

Mobile Alert Applications

Mobile apps provide checklists and send real-time alerts to keep households informed during disasters.

Resilience Hubs / Community Support Networks

Resilience Hubs & Community networks offer tailored support to vulnerable residents to improve overall household readiness.



Questions?