



# Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency

Helping the Hawai'i 'Ohana prepare for and respond to disaster and emergencies

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA), formerly State Civil Defense (SCD), is the Emergency Management Agency for the State of Hawaii. In its headquarters in Diamond Head Crater, HI-EMA serves as the coordinating agency between the four county civil defense agencies (Hawaii County Civil Defense, Maui County Civil Defense, City and County of Honolulu Department of Emergency Management, and Kauai County Civil Defense) and as State Warning Point (SWP).

In accordance with the National Incident Management System, all disaster response starts with the county. HI-EMA responds to local requests for state assistance and supplements local emergency management efforts. When a disaster response effort exceeds the capabilities of a county HI-EMA may recommend a State Emergency Declaration from the Governor; this declaration can activate the State Emergency Response Team, which is made up of state employees, and/or allow the State Department of Defense to place Army and Air National Guard on State Active Duty. A Governor's emergency declaration may also suspend the State's laws, enabling a quick and effective emergency response.



HI-EMA supports local government in emergency response and recovery. If needed, HI-EMA can coordinate state assets, such as the Hawaii National Guard (shown clearing of roads after TS Iselle on left) or provide support to local government agencies such as the Hawaii County Civil Defense with the ongoing June 27th Kilauea Lava Flow event. (right)

Emergency response is only one of the functions of HI-EMA. The four mission areas that guide HI-EMA are mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. The sections and branches in the HI-EMA organization address these pillars. The sections include Special Planning Staff and Administrative & Support. The branches are Plans & Operations, Training, Education & Information, Telecommunications, and Disaster Assistance and Recovery.

Special Planning Staff review and comment on all emergency management plans for the State of Hawaii to ensure coordination and integration. HI-EMA planners also monitor all environmental assessments and impact statements for matters pertaining to public infrastructure improvements and proper consideration of hazards as a mitigation measure.

SWP uses the Hawaii Warning System (HAWAS) to transmit and receive emergency messages to and from the Emergency Operating Center (EOC) and warning point for each county. SWP is also part of the National Warning System (NAWAS), which connects over 22,000 emergency managers and the National Weather Service.



The State Emergency Operations Center activates during disasters to provide a central coordination point for officials from State, Federal, County, private and non-governmental organizations. (left) HI-EMA maintains the Statewide Outdoor Warning Sirens and is currently conducting a Statewide modernization project that should be completed in 2016. (right)