

JULY 29, 2025 TSUNAMI ADVISORY OVERVIEW AND RESPONSE Testimony

MISC. COMM. 485

*PUBLIC SAFETY & ECONOMY (PSE)

***PUBLIC SAFETY & ECONOMY (PSE) Meeting**

Meeting Date: Sep 25, 2025 @ 01:00 PM

Support: 1

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 3

Name: Adriel Lam	Email: adriel.lam@outlook.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Sep 20, 2025 @ 12:10 AM

Testimony:

Given that Windward Oahu (or any other region on Oahu) could be cut off from regular services during a disaster, what incentives are there to build local capacity to be self-sustaining for period of time?

Can we provide incentives to local businesses to stockpile sufficient capacity, beyond just-in-time, but have enough rolling stock for supplies, (i.e. lumber, non-perishables) to last the expected 14-21 days.

Can the city/town evaluate what is needed and establish a baseline, such that local businesses or organization that can contribute to this baseline are provided tax breaks, exemption, etc.? This relieves the burden on central planners, and allows local regions to independently generate capacity. Same goes with power generation and water resources.

Name: David Laeha	Email: dlaeha@cfohawaii.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Sep 22, 2025 @ 08:58 AM

Testimony:

I'm testifying as an individual but I am the Committee Chair of the Kailua Neighborhood Board's Public Safety, Public Health Committee.

The July 19th Tsunami warning raised the following concerns:

- 1) The projected impact of the tsunami on our different communities was unclear even up to the time the tsunami was to hit shore. There should be better tracking and forecasting of the impact/damage to specific communities. Ideally, there should be a range of scenarios impacting specific shoreline communities based on projected wave heights through the time of impact. Overly cautious residents jam roadways and cause delays in traffic which could prove deadly to resident living in areas expected to be specifically affected. We need better forecasting tools and timely communication available to the public.
- 2) The traffic jams throughout the island prevented people from evacuating from high-risk areas on a timely basis. Like Lahaina fires, the evacuation process of evacuating so many vehicles was poorly organized and contributed to the deaths of those fleeing the fires. In the event of tsunamis, there should be clear plans and police assisted routes to move vehicles out of the most vulnerable areas. This should include police directing traffic at least at the major intersections, especially at the Castle Hospital intersection of Kalaniana'ole and Pali Highway.
- 3) Public parks should be kept operable. Restrooms, water and electrical should be kept on for emergency use in event of damage. The facilities at Sandy's Beach park were shut down in the early afternoon on the 19th. This may be the only

facilities available to people in need.		
Name: Neil Fleitell	Email: neilfleitell@mac.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Sep 23, 2025 @ 12:33 PM
Name: angela melody young	Email: alohadivinedesign@gmail.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: CARES	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 25, 2025 @ 12:36 PM
Testimony: support		

Emergency Preparedness and *Standard Operating Procedure*

We live on an island (group of islands) exposed / isolated in the middle of the ocean. We do not live in Dayton, Ohio, or some other city in a county on the mainland. (pick most any county and - no offense to Dayton)

This difference in location and isolation must inform our version of emergency preparedness.

Since our last declared emergency, the Tsunami that thankfully did not develop, what have we heard from our Emergency Preparedness professionals?

The Kaneohe Neighborhood Board Emergency Preparedness Committee asked both the HPD and HFD for a report about their actions - a postmortem if you will. Both have responded with the same answer: "We followed the SOP that we have in our operations guidelines." Nothing more.

We have not heard from the Oahu County DEM nor the state's HIEMA - silence. Ultimately, we will probably hear something similar - they followed their SOP. Their guidelines have been developed based on their training and the copious documentation available thru FEMA.

There is nothing wrong with the FEMA guidelines; there is nothing wrong with the course work one can take over the internet to become a Certified Emergency Preparedness professional. However, these courses and the other available documentation should not be the end all; it should not simply be: I get my certification and then I follow the SOP as provided by FEMA. (FEMA is a great agency and has helped many during many disasters; I know this first-hand)

Instead, the training, certification, and documentation one gets from FEMA should be the beginning; it should provide the basis for the development of A Comprehensive Plan; this plan needs to take into consideration the specifics of our island world.

Given our existence in the middle of the Pacific on these islands it is not unreasonable to assume that there might be some significant circumstances that would cause us to need to "customize" our operations and create our own customized comprehensive emergency plan.

Emergency Preparedness and *Standard Operating Procedure*

For over two years we, members of the Kaneohe Emergency Preparedness Committee, have been actively trying to get Oahu County - The Mayor's office, the City Council, and DEM to listen - and in large measure what we have said whether in person, in writing, or in multiple power point presentations has fallen on deaf ears.

We submit that the County lacks a Comprehensive Plan for emergencies.

We submit that in advance of an emergency telling the residents of Oahu County that they need to have a 14-day supply of food and water and stay home is beyond insufficient! It shows a complete and utter lack of pre-emergency planning that is tantamount to negligence. It is most certainly NOT an example of ***Effective Governance***.

We live on an island where many people live at sea level or not high enough to be out of harm's way with any type of flooding event.

We live on an island where many of the homes are too old to weather any type of actual wind event.

We live on an island where many Aunties and Uncles are isolated and fearful of what will happen during an emergency.

We are not told what to do if we need to evacuate. Where are we supposed to go?

We are not told how to reach our first responders in case of emergency. The phone lines are down; then what?

No one knows what action to take, where to turn, or who can actually help.

Given the specific needs of our island communities:

WE need to develop a customized pre - disaster plan; pre-disaster mitigation

WE need to develop a during the disaster plan; A Kupuna Plan

WE need to consider the urban center of Kaneohe and Windward Oahu.

WE need You all to do better!

Neil Fleitell
Kaneohe Neighborhood Board