

Hawaii 2018: An Eventful Year for Disaster Response



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Timeline of Events

Hawaii Disaster/Emergency Response 2018

- April: Kauai and Oahu Flooding
- May - July: Kilauea Volcano Eruption
- August:
 - West Oahu Wildfires
 - Hurricane Lane
 - Maui Wildfires
- September: Tropical Storm Olivia

Inter-Agency Response Effort (Partial List)

Federal

FEMA

EPA

US Geological Survey

Health and Human Services

State

HI-Emergency Mgmt Agency

DLNR

DOT

DOH

DOE

County

Civil Defense/
Emergency Mgmt.

Police

Fire

EMS

Boards of Water Supply

Non-Profit/NGOs

American Red Cross

Humane Society

Salvation Army

Volunteer Orgs. Active
in Disasters (VOAD)

Private Sector

Utilities

Businesses

HAH/HHEM



What is the Health Department's
Role During a Disaster?

Pre-, during, and post- disaster,
DOH provides:

- Environmental health services
- Mental health services
- Medical surge
- Laboratory testing
- Disease surveillance and investigation
- Assistance and resources for vulnerable and at-risk individuals
- Public health messages, advisories
- Subject matter expertise to assist emergency management
- Post-event assessments

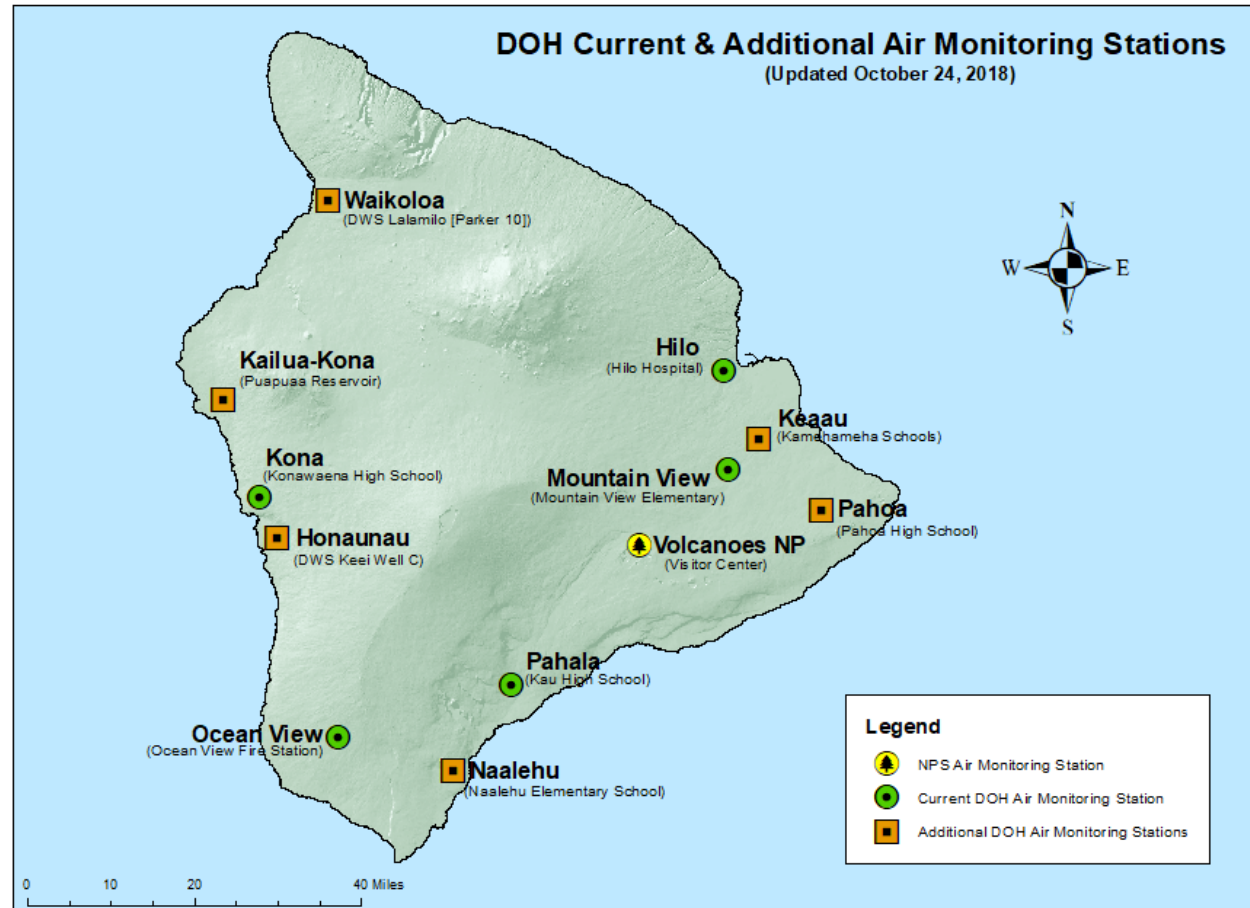


DOH Response -Kilauea Eruption-

- Monitored air quality
- N95 mask distribution/fitting (ash masks)
- Online dashboard to keep public informed of air quality in real time
- Medical support at shelters
- Crisis counseling at shelters
- Surveillance through healthcare systems
- Health alerts and advisories







Kauai Flood: April 2018



DOH Response -Kauai Flood-



- Water sampling
- Food safety monitoring
- Mosquito control
- Public information/education
 - Mold exposure and removal
 - Leptospirosis
 - Exposure to flood contaminated water and debris
- Community assessment



Kauai Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER)

- Conducted 190 interviews
- Significant findings showed more information is needed on:
 - -Storing 14-days of emergency supplies
 - -Building an emergency kit
 - -Considerations for pets
 - -Sheltering in place vs. evacuation shelters
 - -Recognizing local warning protocols
- Identified gaps in emergency generator availability and placement in evacuation shelters

Community Resilience

Community resilience looks at a community's ability to withstand, adapt, and recover from a disaster or public health emergency.

-NACCHO (National Association of County and City Health Officials)



The overall health of a community is key.

Resilience will:

- Reduce vulnerability to disasters
- Enable the population to be more self-reliant
- Facilitate recovery





Fostering Community Resilience

- Promote health and wellness alongside disaster preparedness
- Strengthen and promote access to healthcare and social services
- Expand collaboration with community partners that serve at-risk and vulnerable populations
 - NGOs and non-profits
- Build social connectedness
 - Know your neighbor



What You Can Do

- **Stay healthy**
- **Understand your insurance coverage**
- **Clean your roof and gutters**
 - Clear blockages
 - May need to collect/use rainwater
- **Sign up for weather advisories and alerts**
- **Know your family's emergency needs, including pets**
 - Supplies, contact info, etc.



Hawaii Medical Reserve Corps Volunteers (MRC)

A cadre of volunteers dedicated to public health activities and disaster/emergency preparedness and response.

MRC volunteers participate in the following types of events:

- Community preparedness fairs (education booths)
- Vaccination clinics
- Data collection
- Preparedness exercises/drills
- Staffing evacuation shelters



Partnerships with the Public Health Community

- Advocacy
- Research & evaluation
 - Mental health impacts post-disaster
 - Evaluating how to reach vulnerable and special needs populations
- Exploring new and innovative technologies
e.g., Identifying alternative methods of purifying water, generating power
- Supporting activities to grow healthy communities



Questions?

MAHALO!

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Medical Reserve Corps Volunteers

Wilson Center