5 a.m., March 12, Update: Flash Flood Warning issued for Kaua‘i

The National Weather Service has issued a Flash Flood Warning for Kaua‘i due to heavy rains occurring over the island. The warning may be extended, dropped, or modified as conditions develop.

A Flash Flood Warning means flash flooding is imminent or occurring in streams, roads, and low-lying areas. Do not cross fast flowing or rising water in your vehicle or on foot.

Please stay tuned to local media for updates on additional road closures.

Ponding, low visibility, and other hazardous driving conditions are expected. If you must drive, please do so with extreme caution.

For updates on road conditions and closures, please call 241-1725. Please do not call Kaua‘i police 911 unless you have an emergency.

For weather, updates call the National Weather Service automated weather line at 245-6001 or visit the NWS website, www.weather.gov/hawaii.

To sign up for Blackboard Connect, the county’s emergency notification service, please go to the county’s website, www.kauai.gov, or call the Kaua‘i Emergency Management Agency at 241-1800.

As the Kaua‘i Emergency Management Agency’s (KEMA) Emergency Operations Center remains activated and multiple agencies respond to the severe weather impacts, officials are announcing the following updates.
Kūhiō Highway closures will be maintained until officials can safely assess the damage, conduct debris removal and stabilize the slopes. Hawai‘i Department of Transportation officials anticipates Kūhiō Highway's closure at Hanalei Hill will extend at least through Tuesday.

First responders will continue to access the North Shore community by boat and Air 1 operations for emergency calls. The public is reminded not to call 911 unless you have an emergency.

Food supplies are available at stores and food pantries in the affected areas. The county is coordinating a system to bring in additional food and medical supplies for the community as needed.

The county is beginning to conduct assessments of storm-affected areas across the island. If your home suffered damages due to the March flooding, please visit www.kauai.gov/kema and click on the green link “March 2021 Rain Damage/Flood Reporting” to complete a form. The information you provide will help to gather necessary data which may be used to determine whether or not certain federal aid is made available to residents of Kaua’i and/or the State of Hawai‘i. For assistance on how to fill out the form, you may call KEMA at 241-1800.

**Current Road Closures:**

- Both lanes of Kūhiō Highway, at the Hanalei Hill, approaching Hanalei Bridge, remains closed due to a landslide.
- Kūhiō Highway, between Kolopua Apartments and Hanalei Plantation Road, remains closed out of an abundance of caution. The area will be assessed, and more information provided shortly.
- One lane of Kūhiō Highway at mile marker 4.5 near Waikoko is currently open to alternating traffic.

**Weather Update:** According to the National Weather Service, a Flash Flood Watch remains in effect for the island of Kaua‘i until 6 a.m. Saturday. A Flash Flood Watch means that conditions may develop that lead to flash flooding. For weather updates call the National Weather Service automated weather line at 245-6001, or visit the NWS website, www.weather.gov/hfo.
Refuse Service: There will be no refuse collection on Friday for residents in the Hanalei to Hā’ena areas. Officials are working on solutions for refuse service and will announce updates when more information is available.

Ocean Safety: Due to limited access, the Kē‘ē and Hā’ena lifeguard towers are currently closed. Lifeguards on the North Roving Patrol Unit will continue to monitor the Hanalei Bay area during regular work hours and respond to calls if necessary.

Schools: The state Department of Education announces that Hanalei Elementary School is currently closed.

Power Outages: Kaua’i Island Utility Cooperative (KIUC) members from Hanalei to Hā’ena are advised to prepare for extended periods without power if outages occur while Kūhiō Highway remains closed. The KIUC Facebook page will provide status reports, and the outage map on the homepage of the cooperative’s website is another resource for current information: www.kiuc.coop.

Water Services: Department of Water (DOW) also advises residents on water emergency preparedness and service advisories that may be issued during an emergency. For more preparedness tips and service announcements, visit www.facebook.com/KauaiDOW.

Stay Out of Standing Water: For the latest updates on brown water advisories, visit DOH’s Clean Water Branch website at http://health.hawaii.gov/cwb/. The public is advised to stay out of floodwaters and stormwater runoff due to possible overflowing cesspools, sewer, manholes, pesticides, animal fecal matter, dead animals, pathogens, chemicals, and associated flood debris. Do not allow children to play in floodwater areas. Continue to practice good personal hygiene by washing off with soap and clean water and washing hands before handling food.

Updates will be posted as information becomes available. Official county press releases are posted at www.kauai.gov or you may follow the County of Kaua‘i Facebook page at www.facebook.com/countyofkauai.

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