



Emergency Management Agency

Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Report

July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

**Elton Ushio
Administrator**

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

I. MISSION STATEMENT

To protect lives and property in the County of Kaua'i by coordinating and integrating efforts among all levels of government and the private sector to mitigate against, prepare for, respond to and recover from natural disasters, acts of terrorism and other threats and hazards.

II. DEPARTMENT GOALS

Duties and Functions

- A. Maintain and improve the operating efficiency of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
- B. Maintain and enhance KEMA's training and exercise program, integrating the FEMA whole-community approach.
- C. Promote community awareness, preparedness and resilience through education and outreach, publications, media releases and other initiatives.
- D. Maintain and enhance the operational ready-status and efficacy of operational communications, redundant voice/data systems and emergency notification and warning systems.
- E. Leverage and manage grant funding to supplement KEMA's prevention, preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation efforts.

III. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

- A. Program Objectives
 - 1. Continue phased updating of the County of Kaua'i Emergency Operations Plan (subject to availability of funding);
 - 2. Review and maintain other supporting plans, policies and procedures;
 - 3. Continue to develop and expand All-Hazards Incident Management Team capacity for EOC and field responders, refining policy and guidelines while also expanding incident action planning skillsets;
 - 4. Continue phased upgrading of EOC equipment, including the main and alternate EOC facilities;

5. Continue skills development and enhancement via training and exercise participation;
6. Provide prioritized training to develop and enhance the skills and abilities of staff, governmental, private-sector non-governmental and community-based emergency management partners;
7. Maintain skills and test plans and procedures by regularly hosting and/or supporting exercises;
8. Coordinate and support county-level participation in offsite training and exercise opportunities;
9. Continue community outreach efforts via regularly scheduled events;
10. Continue to work with schools via outreach and readiness drills;
11. Continue to support and expand the CERT and HHARP programs;
12. Continue to regularly issue media releases relating to community awareness, preparedness and resilience;
13. Maintain and enhance the 800 MHz P25 radio system;
14. Continue to expand and enhance redundant operational and interoperable communications capabilities;
15. Maintain notification and warning systems while expanding the number of trained user/operators;
16. Complete Phase III+ of the Siren Modernization Project.
17. Continue to leverage, implement and manage Homeland Security Grant Program funding;
18. Continue to leverage, implement and manage Emergency Management Performance Grant funding;
19. Implement and manage other sources of grant funding, as feasible; and
20. Maintain appropriate agency staffing via county and grant funding.

B. Program Highlights

1. Ongoing recovery from FEMA Major Disasters DR-4365 Hawaii Severe Storms, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides (April 13-16, 2018), DR-4395 Hawaii Hurricane Lane (August 22 – 29, 2018), and DR-4549 .
2. Managed and continue to be fully engaged in the on-going response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic since late February 2020, FEMA Major Disaster, DR-4510.
3. Responded to and continue to be engaged in the ongoing recovery processes associated with FEMA Major Disaster, DR-4549 Hawai'i Severe Storms and Flooding (March 27-28, 2020).
4. Activated for Tropical Cyclone Douglas (July 23–27, 2020).
5. Activated for Tsunami Advisory (October 19, 2020).
6. Activated for Tsunami Watch (March 4, 2021).
7. Activated and coordinated multiagency response efforts associated with the non-declared March 2021 Hanalei Hill landslide event (March 10-19, 2021).
8. Developed and/or enhanced various Incident Action Plans and planning products.

9. Maintained EOC operational readiness and County/State/Federal/NGO engagement and coordination.
10. Maintained and enhanced the skills and abilities of staff, governmental, private-sector non-governmental and community-based emergency management partners, but on a more limited bases than during normal years. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has significantly reduced our normally robust training and exercise program.
11. Managed over \$28,900,000 in open Federal and State grants.

IV. BUDGET

	CFY 2020 Actual	CFY 2021 Actual	CFY 2022 Appropriation/ Estimate
Equivalent Personnel (E/P)	6 (2 grant)	18 (14 grant)	26 (22 grant)
Salaries & Wages	610,570 (NOTE: Does not including full accounting of COVID-19 expenses)	996,886 (NOTE: Does not including full accounting of COVID-19 expenses)	563,415
Operations	1,271,535	1,215,098	1,332,676
Equipment/Furniture	0	21,796	80,738
Vehicle	0	0	0
Program Total	1,882,105	2,233,780	1,976,829

V. ACCOMPLISHMENTS/EVALUATION

Goal 1: Maintain and improve the operating efficiency of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue phased updating of the County of Kaua'i Emergency Operations Plan (subject to availability of funding); <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The internal update of the EOP basic plan has continued to be halted due to ongoing DR-4365 (April 2018 floods/landslides), DR-4395 (Hurricane Lane), DR-4510 (COVID-19), and DR-4549 (March 2020 flood) response/recovery priorities, while also dealing with staff turnover. • Review and maintain other supporting plans, policies and procedures; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KEMA developed, updated, reviewed and/or enhanced various products: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Flash Flood Warning Quick Reference Checklist

- Tsunami Advisory/Watch/Warning Quick Reference Checklist

- **Continue to develop and expand All-Hazards Incident Management Team capacity for EOC and field responders, refining policy and guidelines while also expanding incident action planning skillsets;**
 - Expanding AHIMT-trained personnel and position-specific trained personnel by sending personnel to position-specific training has been put on hold due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and EOC activation.
 - Utilized AHIMT for various events, such as EOC activations, large event Incident Action Planning and exercises.
 - With the lack of statewide training, KEMA has attempted to rotate staff into the EOC, to gain familiarity with the IMT and its functions.
 - Guideline development has been put on hold due to the ongoing COVID-19 activation, and it continues to await statewide standardization and consultation relating to certifications and mutual aid.

- **Continue phased upgrading of EOC equipment, including the main and alternate EOC facilities;**
 - Performed preventive maintenance and equipment fine-tuning to various EOC components, such as battery backups, PCs, redundant communications systems, etc.

- **Continue skills development and enhancement via training and exercise participation.**
 - As previously mentioned, the COVID-19 pandemic has put our training and exercise activities on hold. However, real-world events/activations have provided on the job training and/or skills maintenance for our team and core partners.

Goal 2: Maintain KEMA’s training and exercise program to support the whole-community approach to emergency management.

Objectives:

- **Provide prioritized training to develop and enhance the skills and abilities of staff, governmental, private-sector non-governmental and community-based emergency management partners; <see below>**

- **Maintain skills and test plans and procedures by regularly hosting and/or supporting exercises; <see below>**

- **Coordinate and support county-level participation in offsite training and exercise opportunities.**

The COVID-19 pandemic and associated continuous EOC/IMT activation put our training and exercise programs on hold. However, COVID-19, and active wet season and the March 2021 Hanalei Hill landslide event provided

continuous real-world on the job training for KEMA staff, our Incident Management Team and our core partners.

EVENT	DATE(S)
Hurricane Awareness and Preparedness Training	July 9, 2020
Tsunamis Live! Get Ready Now Virtual Event	April 28 and May 5, 2021
CPHC Hurricane Training	May 27, 2021
KEMA EOC 101 Training	June 3, 2021
Hurricane Awareness and Preparedness Training	June 10, 2021

Goal 3: Promote community awareness, preparedness and resilience through education and outreach, publications, media releases, and other initiatives.

Objectives:

- **Continue community outreach efforts via regularly scheduled events;**
 - Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, normal all-hazards outreach was very limited, with KEMA instead focusing on COVID-19. Limited all-hazards outreach was limited to media releases related to tropical cyclone and tsunami awareness/preparedness.
- **Continue to work with schools via outreach and readiness drills;**
 - These drills were put on hold due to COVID-19.
- **Continue to support and expand the CERT and HHARP programs;**
 - CERT and HHARP program support were also put on hold due to COVID-19.
- **Continue to regularly issue media releases relating to community awareness, preparedness and resilience.**
 - We experienced a rather inactive 2020 Central Pacific Hurricane Season, offset by an active wet season, culminating in the Hanalei Hill landslide event. All of this was on top of the ongoing and unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. These resulted in numerous EOC activations and frequent media engagements.. Examples include:
 - Pandemic (COVID-19)
 - Weather-related press releases
 - Tsunami information
 - Hurricane Season information

Goal 4: Maintain and enhance the operational ready-status and efficacy of operational communications, interoperable communications, redundant voice/data systems, and emergency notification and warning systems.

Objectives:

- **Maintain and enhance the 800 MHz P25 radio system;**
 - KEMA completed infrastructure hardening/repairs.

- **Continue to expand and enhance redundant operational and interoperable communications capabilities;**
 - KEMA has continued to expand and enhance redundant and interoperable communications via equipment acquisition and system hardening.
- **Maintain notification and warning systems while expanding the number of trained user/operators;**
 - KEMA maintained notification and warning systems and trained additional users/operators.
- **Complete Phase III+ of the Siren Modernization Project.**
 - Unfortunately, due to ongoing State contractor issues, multiple ongoing Major Disaster Declarations and the COVID-19 pandemic, Phase III+ has yet to be completed.
 - The Ni'ihau outdoor warning siren project is also pending.

Goal 5: Leverage and manage grant funding to supplement KEMA's prevention, preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation efforts.

Objectives:

- **Continue to leverage, implement and manage Homeland Security Grant Program funding;**
 - KEMA secured **\$750,000** in FY 2020 Homeland Security Grant funding.
 - KEMA managed approximately **\$2,100,000** in open Homeland Security Grant funding.
- **Continue to leverage, implement and manage Emergency Management Performance Grant funding;**
 - KEMA secured and managed **\$150,000** in FY 2020 Emergency Management Performance Grant funding
 - KEMA utilized Emergency Management Performance Grant to continue to fund 2 staff positions.
- **Implement and manage other sources of grant funding, as feasible;**
 - KEMA staff supported:
 - The Local Emergency Planning Committee's grant fiscal management via the Senior Staff Officer;
 - KPD's E-911 via the Telecom Officer;
 - Management of the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant to fund the update of the County of Kaua'i Multi-Hazard Mitigation and Resilience Plan (Senior Staff Officer as lead).
 - FEMA Public Assistance Program for Major Disaster Declaration, April 2018 Flood (DR-4365) (Senior Staff Officer as lead)
 - FEMA Public Assistance Program for Major Disaster Declaration, Hurricane Lane (DR-4395) (Senior Staff Officer as lead)

- FEMA Public Assistance Program for Major Disaster Declaration, March 2020 Flood (DR-4549) w/ Senior Staff Officer as lead.
 - State Legislative Funding for the April 2018 Flood (Act 12) (Senior Staff Officer as lead)
 - FEMA Public Assistance Program for Major Disaster Declaration, March 2020 Flood (DR-4549) (Senior Staff Officer as lead)
 - CARES Act funding (CARES Compliance Officer and Senior Staff Officer)
 - Hazard Mitigation Grant Program applications, related to DR-4365 and DR-4549 (Senior Staff Officer as lead)
 - State Legislative additional funding for the April 2018 Flood (Act 35/9) (Compliance Officer and Senior Staff Officer)
- **Maintain appropriate agency staffing via county and grant funding.**
 - KEMA was able to sustain all existing KEMA positions.
 - With the on-going recovery with DR-4365 (April 2018 floods/landslides), KEMA was able to maintain four (4) additional Disaster Assistance personnel.
 - In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, KEMA was also able to hire additional staff to assist with the response, ending the fiscal year with 10 positions.