



Emergency Management Agency

Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Report

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

**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. Continue Siren Modernization/System Expansion
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 follow-ups for FEMA Major Disasters DR-4365 Hawai'i Severe Storms, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides (April 13-16, 2018), DR-4395 Hawai'i Hurricane Lane (August 22 – 29, 2018), and DR-4549 Hawai'i Severe Storms and Flooding.
2. Managed and continued 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. Weather-Related Activations:
 - a. July 20, 2021 Tropical Cyclone Felicia Briefing
 - b. August 6, 2021 Tropical Storm Jimena Briefing
 - c. August 19 – 23, 2021 Tropical Cyclone Linda Briefings
 - d. December 3 and 5-8, 2021 Kona Low Event
 - e. December 31, 2021 Flash Flood Warning
 - f. January 2, 2021 Flash Flood Warning
 - g. January 4-10, 2022 Waimea Valley Rockslide Incident, with follow-up operations briefings through January 24, 2021
 - h. January 15, 2022 Tsunami Advisory (Tonga volcano)
 - i. March 22, 2022 Flash Flood Warning

4. Developed and/or enhanced various Incident Action Plans and planning products.
5. Maintained EOC operational readiness and County/State/Federal/NGO engagement and coordination.
6. 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.
7. Managed over \$81,700,000 in open Federal and State grants.

IV. BUDGET

	CFY 2021 Actual	CFY 2022 Actual	CFY 2023 Appropriation/ Estimate
Equivalent Personnel (E/P)	18 (14 grant)	26 (22 grant)	27 (22 grant)
Salaries & Wages	996,886 (NOTE: Does not including full accounting of COVID-19 expenses)	532,490 (NOTE: Does not including full accounting of COVID-19 expenses)	663,214
Operations	1,215,098	1,332,676	1,222,124
Equipment/Furniture	21,796	80,738	45,000
Vehicle	0	0	0
Program Total	2,233,780	1,976,829	1,930,338

V. ACCOMPLISHMENTS/EVALUATION

<p>Goal 1: Maintain and improve the operating efficiency of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC).</p>
<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. • KEMA is soliciting the assistance from the Department of Defense Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) program to update the EOP.

- **Review and maintain other supporting plans, policies and procedures;**
 - KEMA developed, updated, reviewed and/or enhanced various products:
 - 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.
 - However, ICS 300/400 prerequisite courses, O-305 courses and position-specific training should become more available in FY2023.
 - Utilized AHIMT for various events, such as EOC activations and large event Incident Action Planning.
 - 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.
 - Obtained an annual maintenance contract for the EOC audio visual equipment.

- **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.
 - Though limited, KEMA planned and/or participated in a limited number of exercises and trainings during the fiscal year, such the items listed under Goal 2 below.

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 EOC/IMT activation put our training and exercise programs mostly on hold. However, COVID-19, an active wet season and the 2022 Waimea Valley rockslide event provided continuous real-world on-the-job training for KEMA staff, our Incident Management Team and our core partners.

EVENT	DATE(S)
93rd Civil Support Team (CST) Exercise	July 6-9, 2021
Makani Pahili 2021 State Distribution Management/POD Workshop	July 9, 2021
Makani Pahili 2021 Port Restoration Workshop	July 29, 2021
USCG Search and Rescue Exercise (Multiagency)	August 10-11, 2021
2021-2022 NOAA Wet Season Outlook and Product Briefing	October 19, 2021
Great American Shakeout (Earthquake Drill)	October 21, 2021
Tsunami Evacuation Zone Training for KPD	February 15, 2022
Post-Disaster Housing Workshop	April 6, 2022
Central Pacific Hurricane Center – Hurricane Season Briefing and Storm Surge Training	June 7, 2022

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 2021 Central Pacific Hurricane Season, offset by an active wet season, highlighted by the Kona Lo and the Waimea Valley Rockslide events. All of this was on top of the

ongoing COVID-19 pandemic (Delta and Omicron surges). These resulted in numerous EOC activations and frequent media engagements. Examples include:

- COVID-19 products
- 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 and preventive maintenance.
 - KEMA continued work on the KPD encryption project, with cutovers targeted for early FY2023.
- **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.
 - KEMA completed a competitive bid process, selecting the INSPIRON WENS system as our new emergency mass-notification system.
- **Continue Siren Modernization/System Expansion**
 - Unfortunately, siren modernization and system expansion continued to be on hold, mainly due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
 - State partner and system owner HI-EMA are reevaluating the siren program and will likely have an updated path forward in FY2023.
 - Planning and coordination were resumed for the future Ni'ihau outdoor warning siren project. Components are on-site, and a second site visit and electrical/PV joint visit (with DOE) was planned for the first quarter of FY2023.

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 **\$570,000** in FY 2021 Homeland Security Grant funding.
 - KEMA managed **\$2,890,000** 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 2021 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;
 - 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) (Senior Staff Officer as lead)
 - CARES Act funding (Compliance Officer and Senior Staff Officer)
 - American Rescue Plan Act funding (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 baseline KEMA positions.
 - KEMA staffing continued to be augmented by positions relating to (1) Act 12/35/9 recovery funding supporting DR-4365 (April 2018 floods/landslides), and (2) federal funds supporting COVID-19 pandemic response.
 - KEMA will be adding a county-funded Accountant position in FY2023.