

CHAPTER 2:

Planning Process

2.0 Overview of the Planning Process

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) requires that the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan must “include a mitigation strategy that provides the jurisdiction’s blueprint for reducing the potential losses identified in the risk assessment, based on existing authorities, policies, programs and resources, and its ability to expand on and improve these existing tools.”

The planning process to meet these requirements begins with a hazard assessment, followed by the development of a risk and vulnerability assessment, upon which the mitigation actions and strategies are built. The plans include measures to mitigate hazard risks and demonstrate the benefit of these activities. The Plan identifies gaps in knowledge and data and employs strategies to continually update the data, projects, information, and the overall mitigation Plan as needed over time. The process follows the guidance documents provided by FEMA.

In addition, since this is an updated Plan, FEMA requires an evaluation of the Plan to: address changes made in the update process; identify new hazards and outline how it was determined that these would be included; provide a rationale for decisions included in the update, especially in relation to changes; evaluate the effectiveness and relevance of the goals and objectives; and, provide new mitigation actions as well as updating the information on risks and vulnerabilities and future plans that should be integrated into the Plan. These efforts utilized the coordination and cooperation among government agencies and the private sector to learn from these hazards and address these risks in the future. This document details the findings of these assessments and the process used to develop, evaluate, and update the County of Kaua’i Multi-Hazard Mitigation and Resilience Plan strategy.

2.1 Planning Approach and Methods for the 2015 Update

The methods and approaches used in the planning process have evolved using the local style of planning in Kaua’i County that understands the unique landscapes and small communities. Kaua’i assessed risks and vulnerability to assets within the county that are considered critical, including emergency services infrastructure, economic assets, critical energy infrastructure, critical telecommunications infrastructure, critical transportation infrastructure, critical water infrastructure, social, cultural, and environmental assets, government facilities; and, vulnerable populations. Kaua’i County has participated actively in the State Hazard Mitigation Forum and mitigation projects since Hurricane Iniki in 1992. The current version of the mitigation Plan relies on key input from the public and private sector in Kaua’i County with hazard or asset subject matter expertise. The recommendations and actions in this updated Plan continue to reflect the commitment to hazard mitigation throughout the county.

The planning process was developed over several years of hazard mitigation preparedness and planning in Kauaʻi County, and in the State of Hawaiʻi. Kauaʻi County participated in the 1996 Coastal Hazard Mitigation Workshop, supported jointly by NOAA’s Office of Ocean and Coastal Resources Management and FEMA Region IX. This workshop allowed counties and jurisdictions to share ideas about hazard mitigation. Following this, the Statewide Hazard Mitigation Forum was established in 1998. Kauaʻi County has had representation on the SHMF from the Kauaʻi Civil Defense Agency and Department of Engineering, Building Division since 1998, and more recently from the Department of Planning in 2014, and has participated in subcommittees on Building Standards and Mitigation Planning. Kauaʻi County used the Project Impact program to build its initial hazard mitigation strategy.

The County of Kauaʻi Multi-Hazard Mitigation and Resilience Plan, 2015 Update, is multi-hazard in scope and there were no added hazards to this Plan from those reviewed in 2009, where dam failure and climate change were added. It addresses hurricanes and strong winds, floods, droughts, wildfires, climate variability and change, earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, coastal erosion, dam failures, hazardous materials, health-related hazards, and homeland security and terrorism. Since Kauai Does not have an active lava flow, volcanic hazards were removed; although at such time should the vog (volcanic gases) cause more noticeable threat, this may be considered in the future. The lesser significance of volcanic hazards has resulted in removal from this plan. The technological, environmental, security, and human-induced hazards are considered in conjunction with the natural hazards in this update to remain consistent with the state planning process, and considered in a way that recognizes that a single hazard event can have cascading and cumulative impacts, which requires thinking about risks in a multi-hazard context. The risk and vulnerability assessment in Chapter Five is the basis for the strategy outlined in Chapter Seven.

The original mitigation planning process that Kauaʻi used was also outlined in a document produced for Kauaʻi County, *County of Kauaʻi Natural Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Assessment and Mitigation Workbook* (2002). The process for the update continues to rely on the multi-hazard risk and vulnerability assessment approaches established in previous work and maintained since 2003. Following the approval of the first Plan, the NOAA Pacific Services Center worked with the county to develop and launch a web-based planning tool using the GIS hazard layers from the Plan that has been used in the county for planning and permitting. Tools have been developed, such as Kauaʻi Online Hazards Assessment (KOHA), which provide risk information to the Kauaʻi general public (<http://csc-s-maps-q.csc.noaa.gov/khat/viewer.html>).

Kauaʻi County intended to adhere to the planning approach outlined in the first mitigation strategy. In the update process, the planning team contacted members from the public and private sector (See Ch 2 Appendix F and H).

The 2015 Plan Update officially began with the first round of meetings and key informant interviews for the evaluation starting in September 2014. The Plan update followed the following process:

1. Briefed County Officials and invited participation from public and private agencies, organizations, and groups. Discussed process and gained agreement on approach.

Throughout the process, briefed officials and Advisory Committee and sought input and comments. Revised process and products accordingly. Conducted interviews to capture changes and lessons learned from disasters occurring from 2004-2014 and to evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation of the 2009-2010 Plan (see general interview questions in Ch 2 Appendix G).

2. Assessed available county social, economic, government, critical lifeline and infrastructure, and environmental asset data; engaged in interviews, focus groups, and meetings to collect updated data in conjunction with updated hazard assessments, including sea level rise and tsunami data (updated in 2014).
3. Recorded mitigation activities of the Contractors Association of Kaua'i, which demonstrates commitment to hazard mitigation (see website <http://contractorassociationofkauai.org/>).
4. Consulted community-based organizations (via focus groups and key informant interviews) since many of the best environmental practices implemented in local communities and ahupua'a (watersheds) are considered hazard mitigation activities (see Chapter 6 appendix). Communities are building on the foundation of the hazard data and environmental practice to extend beyond hazard mitigation planning to resilience planning (see Chapter 6 appendix).
5. Continued to maintain and build the GIS system with additional asset data and updated hazard layers. Kaua'i County has continued to update the data layers and analyses.
6. Updated the Risk and Vulnerability Analysis using GIS information. Prepared updated maps for review and inclusion in the Plan (tsunami, sea level rise, and fire data has been updated since the last plan update in 2009).
7. Used meetings and media to educate the public about Hazard Mitigation, Risk and Vulnerability Assessment, Resilience, and the overall planning process (see list of public meetings and interactions Ch. 2 Appendix H).
8. To support the risk and vulnerability assessment and map updates, public forums and meetings were held in January 2015 and April 2015. [Note: The Elections for Mayor occurred in November 2014, and the public meeting content needed to be approved through the Mayor's office, and the UH planning team was requested to delay public meetings until after the elections, and then the team needed to wait until after the holidays to effectively coordinate a week of meetings around the island.] Community surveys were conducted, wherein planning team invited public participation from the four planning districts, and these were additionally distributed at the CAK Annual Home Show.

During the Plan update processes in 2009-2010 and 2014-2015, members of the communities were contacted to respond to questions describing changes in these districts

since 2003, and to solicit suggestions and ideas to address problems. These surveys, meeting and forum results and comments were incorporated into the Plan update.

9. Debuted the Plan Update Draft at a countywide public forum, the Kaua'i Contractor's Annual Home Show in April 2015, in order to gain community feedback and comments. Engaged in hazard awareness educational discussions and solicited Plan feedback from attendees.
10. Briefed the Kaua'i Disaster Management Committee on the update process, interviewed most organizations represented on DMC (see Ch. 2 Appendix F), reviewed the risk and vulnerability assessment and strategy development, and revised goals and objectives for the 2015 Plan update, which were approved by the DMC (see Ch. 1). Established criteria for prioritizing projects and programs.
11. Provided website for distributing documents and for receiving public input (Kauai County website has current approved plan for public information; DRAFT available at www.hazards-climate-environment.org/Kauai, but once approved will be added to the Kauai County website).
12. Outlined a maintenance strategy to update the actions and overall plan with new input, data, and accomplishments.
13. Adopted the Plan formally through the Mayor's Executive Order.
14. Implementation of the strategy, continue ongoing and initiate proposed mitigation projects funding contingent and meetings of the DMC. Review goals and objectives, revise appropriately, and continue the iterative process. [Note: this will take place following plan approval by FEMA.]

2.2 Involving Community in Minimizing Hazard Impacts, Increasing Resilience

Since the approval of the first Plan in 2003, Kaua'i Civil Defense has continued to work with members of the community to improve disaster mitigation, preparedness, and response measures that will reduce hazard risks.

For the initial Plan, there were a number of public meetings describing the planning process and requesting information for incorporation into the risk and vulnerability assessment. The meeting size and audience varied. Initially, the hazard mitigation planning project targeted the public agencies and private organizations, such as the Red Cross, insurance agencies, small businesses, large landowners, and interested in reducing impacts of natural hazards. Meetings were held with the Mayor, Executive Branch, the County Council, and the Planning Commission. The meeting with the Planning Commission was recorded and televised on the public television station. Four formal meetings were held in communities with over one hundred invitations

mailed to community members prior to each of the meetings. Community organizations were also targeted directly and interviewed for input and participation in the planning process. Other public forums for distributing information and for contribution to the planning process included the 2004-2015 annual CAK Home Show, coordinated by the Contractor's Association of Kaua'i with sponsors from First Hawaiian Bank, the Contractor's Association newsletter (see mitigation highlights in Chapter 2 Appendix 3).

Public outreach in the planning process included newsletters, meetings, presentations, television and radio presentations, and news articles. The long-term residents of Kaua'i County recall Hurricane Iniki, and it is not difficult to engage the public in hazard mitigation planning because the importance of this endeavor is well understood. The evacuations for Hurricane Iselle and Julio (2014) provided an opportunity to consider needs and to highlight the failure further demonstrate the importance of vigilance in hazard mitigation.

2.2.1 Participation in the Planning Process

Community Public Forum & Plan Draft Debut. Per the aforementioned planning process, public meetings in the four planning districts were held to support the risk and vulnerability assessment and map updates, to conduct community surveys, and to invite public participation and plan feedback. Community participation in these district meetings was broadcast via a public announcement (Appendix 2.1) sent from the Mayor's Office and through KCDA radio announcements. The meetings lasted 2 hours and included awareness-raising of hazard zones through interactive mapping, a review of the Plan contents and purpose, and solicitation of community feedback on their perceptions of local hazards, vulnerabilities, risk and resilience. The meeting agenda is included in Appendix 2.3. The community meeting notes (Appendix 2.5) and the survey (Appendix 2.2) results for the community participants (n=15) are summarized below and are listed in the community Appendix.

Community Survey Results. Respondents (n=14) to the community surveys conducted during the public forums included roughly half male (47%) and female (53%) participants, ages ranging from 25 to over 65, and representing communities across the island of Kaua'i from all four jurisdictions. All participants feel their communities are affected by hazards, primarily hurricane (100%), tsunami (86%), flooding (57%), climate change and severe weather (both 50%), among others. 80% of respondents have experienced these hazards in their communities, ranging from 1-2 times (25%), 2-3 times (42%) and 4-6 times (33%). Most participants felt these experiences have made them better prepared for future hazard events, from "somewhat" (18%) to "moderately" (46%) and "very much" (36%).

Overall, only 67% feel prepared for a disaster, with varying levels of ability and willingness to support themselves (their family) (43%), their family and neighbors (21%), and the community at large (7%) or anyone in need of assistance (21%), with 7% needing to turn to the community for support. Regarding how vulnerable participants feel to these hazards, it ranges from not at all (7%), a little vulnerable (13%), somewhat and highly vulnerable (both 33%) and extremely vulnerable (13%).

In support of gauging community coping capacity, dependent on resources and networks, and adaptive capacity, dependent on skills and knowledge, the following figures and summaries highlight participants' resources and knowledge.

Regarding general demographic information of respondents, for household economic security, 7% sometimes don't have enough money to meet basic needs, most (53%) have enough and 40% always have more than enough money to meet basic needs and other purchases, have some savings or assets. The education level ranges from bachelor's degree or higher (73%) to some formal education up through high school (27%).

Figure 2.1 Community Survey Results: Resident Access to Resources

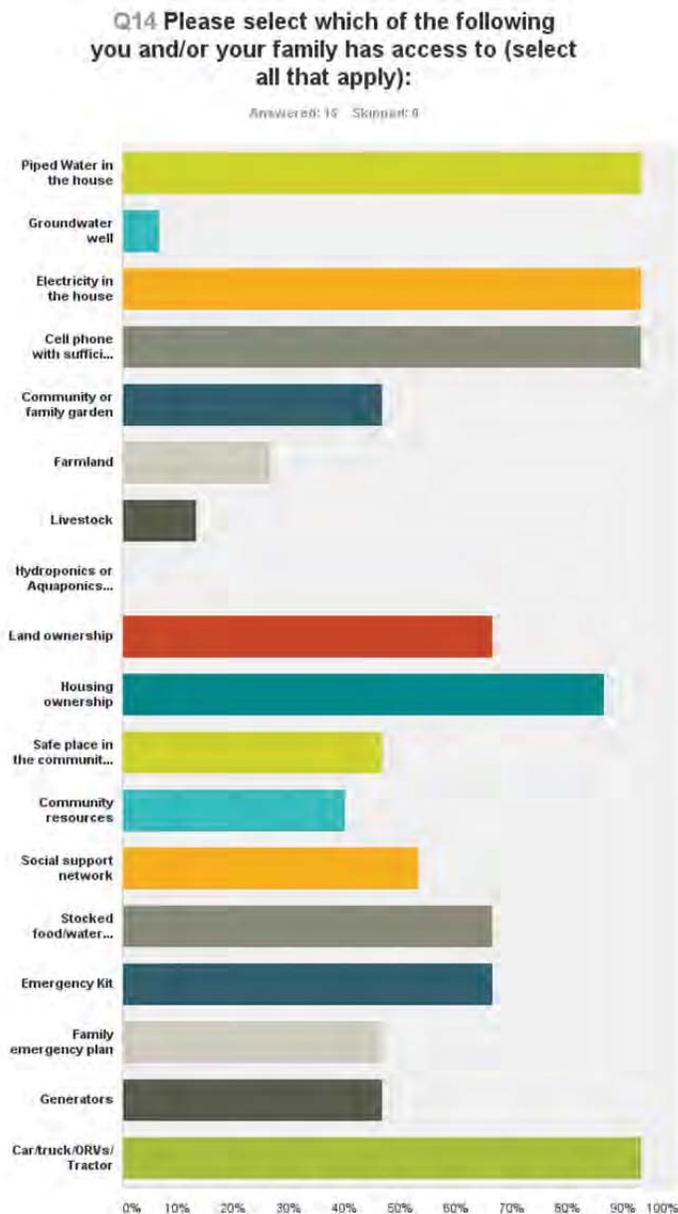
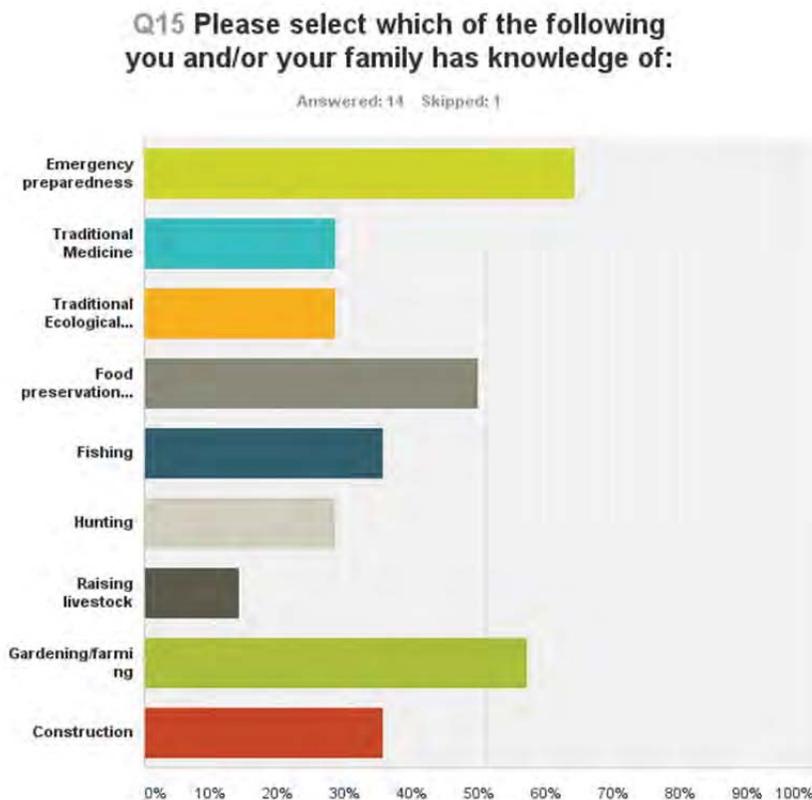


Figure 2.2 Community Survey Results: Resident Knowledge & Skills



Participants report diverse sources of information about hazard and emergency risks to their communities, ranging from television (93%) and radio (80%), to newspapers and government officials (both 67%), and text messages and phone calls (60%) from friends and family, websites (53%), verbal warnings and email (both 47%). 73% of respondents state that their communities have an Early Warning System (EWS), of which 7% think it is not effective, 40% think it is somewhat effective, 33% think it is very effective, and 27% that don't know whether there is an EWS. Only 67% of respondents know of an evacuation route or area in their communities, 27% don't know of one, and 7% report no evacuation route. Finally, regarding community expectations of the government in the event of a disaster the following are the results: they should provide basic services (evacuation, food, water, shelter) for those most in need (66.67%); they should provide basic services (evacuation, food, water, shelter) for local community members (not vacationers) (6.67%); they should provide basic services (evacuation, food, water, shelter) for all residents (including vacationers) (46.67%); they should provide job protection and/or financial support (6.67%); they should provide cleanup & reconstruction (46.67%); and, they should provide emergency health services (53%).

The CAK Home Show, which served as the venue for the public debut of the Plan Draft, offered an opportunity for public review and input, and a flyer (Appendix 2.4) was distributed through KCDA to raise awareness about the event.

Public Comments & Recommendations.

Public comments to the Plan Draft were received verbally and in written form, and were integrated into the final version of the Plan. They include the following recommendations for inclusion: 1) An inventory of the assets in each of the communities such as information systems, power systems (promote islanding of communities), transportation (include non-motorized options, alternative routes), hazard risk reduction e.g. albizia cutting by roadside (burning for power?); 2) Measuring community preparedness via surveys; 3) Hurricane shelter information in LG and stable structures; 4) Safe hurricane shelter; 5) Alternate Evacuation routes (they are easily blocked); 6) A policy that all tourists must leave Kaua'i in a disaster; 7) Standardized emergency information in all vacation rentals and visitor accommodations; 8) Coordination support of community efforts to address threats in the short and long-term; 9) Provides updated maps to communities regularly via multi modes of communication; 10) Community financial support of updating community resilience plans; and, 11) Bring the county into compliance with FEMA flood regulations for buildings in flood prone areas.

County Agency Meetings

The following lists public agencies and organizations from Kaua'i County involved in the update of the County of Kaua'i Multi-Hazard Mitigation and Resilience Plan and Strategy. A variety of consultations were used in gathering updated information to meet the requirements of the Plan, including interviews, meetings, and follow-up discussions by phone and email.

Table 2-1. Roles in Disaster Management and the Planning Process.

Group	Role in Disaster Management and Planning Process
Disaster Management Committee	Convened to oversee planning process; solicit and provide suggestions for mitigation actions; set goals and objectives; review prioritization; ensure that funds are secured for Plan and project implementation.
Utility Disaster Preparedness and Response Group	Consider coordination for disaster response; evaluate risk and vulnerability of critical lifelines; provide expert information on ways to mitigate disaster impacts on utilities; work with NIMS systems to ensure viability of critical facilities in response and recovery.
Kaua'i County Office of the Mayor, Mayor Carvalho and Cabinet	Adopts Plan and oversees implementation. Reviews goals and objectives. Approved alignment with his vision and Holoholo 2020 projects.
Kaua'i County Department of Public Works: Wastewater, Solid Waste, Engineering, Building Divisions	Participate in DMC; Kaua'i representatives serve on State Hazard Mitigation Forum; ensure that wastewater, solid waste, and facilities are viable in response to and recovery from disasters. The NFIP flood coordinator for the county

	resides in this Department; ensures public notification and awareness of flood risks.
Kaua'i County Department of Planning	Participates in DMC; reviews and issues building and land use permits; provide critical information and updates on land use; recommends disaster risk reduction policies and programs, such as rim lot setbacks; oversees the coastal management functions of the county and implemented the shoreline study.
Kaua'i County Economic Development	Participates in DMC; Proponent for Economic Development in Kaua'i; aids business establishment; liaison with the tourism sector as a significant economic contribution; provided details on the development of hotel response and mitigation plans.
Kaua'i County Housing Agency	Participates in DMC; seeks to secure fair housing for population; can support temporary housing and rebuilding and recovery programs following a disaster.
Kaua'i County Office of Elderly Affairs	Participates in DMC; ensure safety and security of elderly population; provided information on location of facilities and needs related to risk and vulnerability of the population; prepared and distributed disaster and safety information targeted for the elderly (see Ch2 Appendix 6).
Kaua'i County Civil Defense Agency	Participates in DMC; Coordinates disaster response and hazard mitigation plans; coordinates other disaster plans; ensures training; liaison with State Civil Defense.
Kaua'i County Transportation Agency	Participates in DMC; ensures local transportation availability, especially for evacuation; works with federal agency to mitigate transportation hazards; secures safety in transportation; in disasters, works with NIMS ESF1.
Kaua'i County Police Department	Participates in DMC; Ensures public safety during disasters; aids in response and recovery to multiple hazards.
Kaua'i County Fire Department Kaua'i County Fire Stations (chiefs and firefighters)	Participates in DMC; Disaster response and public safety; first responders; primary role in fire risk reduction; know locations of hazardous materials, critical facilities, and residents; key contributors to ground-truthing hazard risk maps in each community; organizes a series of education and outreach programs on disaster risk reduction integrated into

	the school curriculum.
Kaua'i Planning Commission	Reviews planning and land use requests; authority to limit development and ensure that hazard risks are being addressed in new development; contributed to public meetings and consultations.
Kaua'i County Department of Finance, Information Services	Participates in DMC; Oversees finance and GIS development in the County; contributed updated hazard risk and vulnerability assessment maps; ensures that the county can link to an ArcIMS web-based server to distribute hazard related information and GIS layers to improve the knowledge of planners and permittees.
Kaua'i County Department of Water	Participates in DMC; Ensures access to potable water; Ensures high levels of water quality; Encourages water conservation measures to protect limited resource, especially in drought conditions; in disasters, staff works to ensure distribution of water.
County of Kaua'i County Council (two councils); Council Clerk	Protects citizens' needs in their district; ensures participation of council in voting and decision-making.
Kaua'i Community College	Provides educational opportunities that builds more skilled and qualified residents; Provides shelter in disasters.
Kaua'i Chamber of Commerce	Ensures viability of businesses in Kaua'i; works with business and community to minimize disaster impacts to keep commerce functioning.
Kaua'i Architects Association	Ensures standards in building design to minimize disaster risks
Kapa'a Business Association	Ensures security of businesses during a disaster and in the recovery process to minimize loss.
Canine Search & Rescue	Provides support for missing people, especially during disasters.
Contractor's Association of Kaua'i	Coordinates information-sharing and networking among landowners, developers, contractors, and other critical businesses; coordinates the annual building & CAK home show and provides "vendor" space at no-cost to the County for promoting hazard mitigation and risk reduction outreach; secures partners to improve disaster risk reduction; distributes a monthly newsletter that features mitigation actions for structures and buildings. The Contractors

	Association of Kaua'i (CAK) established in 1957, is a non-profit, trade organization consisting of businesses and individuals involved in the construction industry. The Association strives to improve the construction industry through educational programs, services, and public awareness efforts. The CAK is the voice of the construction industry on local, state, and federal issues.
Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative (KIUC)	Participates in DMC; Critical utility in ensuring electricity during disaster response and recovery; critical for ensuring power.
Kaua'i Resources Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA	Assist agriculture property owners in land use planning for agriculture; design flood control projects; provide expertise in mitigating drought impacts.
Kaua'i Burial Council	Participated in meetings; responsibilities are primarily related to land use and development permits that may trigger laws to protect Hawaiian burial sites or where bones may become exposed during hazards.
American Red Cross, Kaua'i Chapter	Manages and staffs shelter facilities during crisis; participates in VOAD.
Po'ipu Beach Resort Association	Involved in evacuation studies; participate in disaster meetings and provide input on risk reduction for hotels and tourism-related businesses in the Po'ipu community.
Hawai'i Civil Air Patrol, Kaua'i	Participate in disaster trainings and response measures; provide support in disasters.
Hawaiian Telcom	Participates in the Utilities Disaster Preparedness and Response Group that advises Kaua'i Civil Defense on telecommunications risk reduction measures; provides data on critical telecommunications infrastructure for inclusion in assets identification and GIS hazard map layers; supports public outreach efforts for disaster preparedness and hazard mitigation (such as the annual CAK Building & Home Shows).
Kikiola Land Company	Participates in risk reduction meetings and considers disaster risk reduction measures in land use.
Alexander & Baldwin Properties (Kaua'i), Kukuiula Development Company	Participates in risk reduction meetings and considers disaster risk reduction measures in land use and development; participates in discussions of evacuation planning routes for

	developments.
Princeville Corporation	Manages utilities and water resources for resort; Considers risk reduction measures in land management and development; prepared site specific disaster preparedness, response and mitigation actions for the Princeville area.
Hawai'i Army National Guard	Contributes to response and evacuation; provides staff and equipment critical in crises; participates in planning meetings and discussions.
Office of Hawaiian Affairs	Provided input on use of Hawaiian lands and protection of sacred places.
Wilcox Memorial Hospital	Participates in planning meetings and discussions because the critical facility is required in disaster and they need to work with agencies to ensure access to the hospital and to ensure delivery of care (requiring water and electricity); ensures continuity of health care for critical patients during crisis; treats injuries resulting from disaster.
The Garden Island (newspaper)	Publishes information to increase public awareness about disasters.
Oceanic Time Warner Cable (Kaua'i)	Participates in the Utilities Disaster Preparedness and Response Group that advises Kaua'i Civil Defense on telecommunications risk reduction measures; Participates in planning meetings and discussions; Provides connections within their fiber optic cable (I-NET) to all Fire and Police station sites.
Hawai'i State Department of Transportation, Highways Division, Airports Division	State DOT participates in critical infrastructure and lifelines discussions and the NIMS ESF 1 for transportation in emergencies; GIS maps on lifelines have been reviewed and updated.
Department of Land and Natural Resources, Kaua'i Parks Division	DLNR participates in mitigation planning discussions; some of the Park facilities and resources will be used during the recovery phases of disasters to shelter people in tents and pavilions; heavy equipment will contribute to debris clearance.
Kaua'i Farm Bureau	Participates in discussions of food security, especially related to drought and climate change impacts; participates in

	mitigation discussions to consider sustainable agriculture.
Food Bank	Participates in discussions of food security, especially after a disaster where supplies may not come to the state for weeks should transportation routes be impacted.
Kaua'i Salvation Army	Participates in VOAD; provides food and shelter following disasters; works to minimize risks to socially vulnerable populations.
Hawai'i Hotel Association, Kaua'i Chapter	Participates in planning meetings specifically to shelter visitor populations during crisis; participates in discussions about economic development to ensure safety of guests but also the sustainability of tourism following crisis (unlike the aftermath of Hurricane Iniki).
Kaua'i Visitors Bureau	Participates in planning meetings specifically to shelter visitor populations during crisis; participates in discussions about economic development to ensure safety of guests but also the sustainability of tourism following crisis (unlike the aftermath of Hurricane Iniki). Participating in providing public awareness materials and information about evacuation during disasters.
Hyatt Regency Kaua'i Hotel	Entered into agreements to keep visitor populations safe during disasters.
Project Impact Council and Steering and Technical Advisory Committees	Foundation for Kaua'i's first mitigation Plan, and have moved onto the Disaster Mitigation Committee; continue to be influential in distributing public awareness materials about hazard mitigation.
Hanalei Watershed Hui	Participates in local flood mitigation activities; has developed a community disaster plan for the communities of Hanalei to Hā`ena; uses best environmental practices in watershed management to reduce localized impacts from floods and erosion; engages in a community-based Makai Watch program to support sound coastal resource management; working with agencies to develop demonstration projects in using local and indigenous knowledge in risk reduction efforts.
Voluntary Organizations Active in	Coalition of organizations that meet to ensure integration of volunteers into post-disaster recovery, preparedness, and

Disaster (VOAD)	mitigation.
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2.2.2 Capability for Disaster Risk Reduction

The County has embedded mitigation in all areas of its organizations. In the update process, each of the organizations was included in discussions, and most organizations participated in formal interviews to update their information. Kaua'i County recognizes that not only does the Plan have to address multiple hazards; it must also involve multi-agency collaboration.

The following organizational chart demonstrates the government agencies involved in risk reduction. From the table in the previous section, there are numerous organizations and private businesses participating in and contributing to risk reduction efforts throughout Kaua'i County.

Figure 2.3. Kaua'i County Organizational Chart of Relevant Risk Reduction Agencies

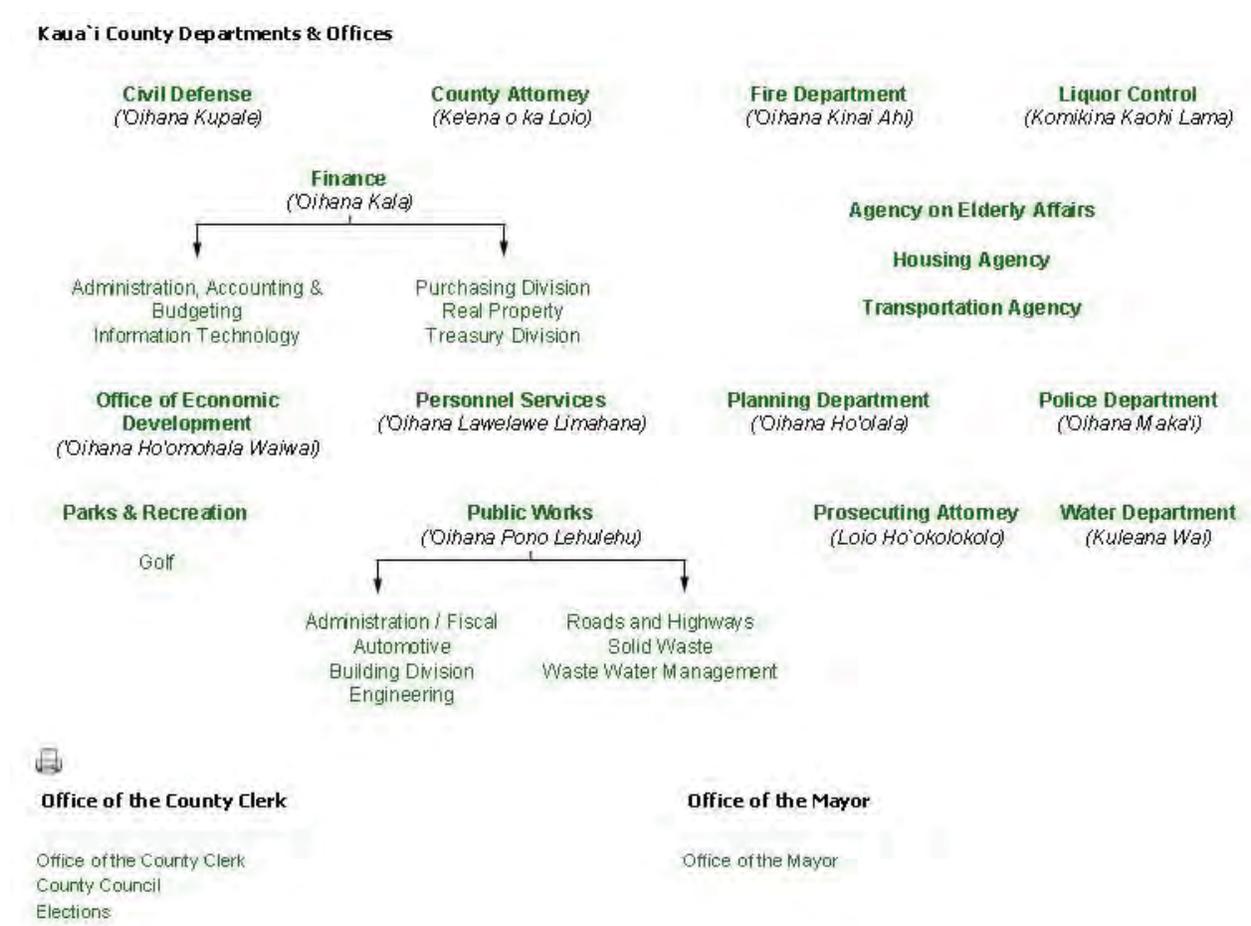


Figure 2.3 shows the executive branch of the Kaua'i County government, with the agencies falling under the supervision of the Mayor's Office. The Kauai County Council approves the budget for the County.

The County provides details of budget and functions through the website, including information about hazard mitigation and disaster risk reduction.

2.3 Collaboration and Partnerships

Lessons learned from hurricanes and the process of developing the first hazard mitigation plan highlight the importance of collaboration and partnership among agencies, public and private sectors, and communities. The initial tenets of Project Impact were that multi-sector engagement was required to reduce disaster risks, and the relationships established during that process have carried into current risk reduction efforts.

Chapter 2 Appendix H lists numerous meetings focused on risk reduction. These carried on throughout the past five years. These relationships enabled the county to develop protocols for sharing critical data in GIS layers that have become the supporting data for decision support tools, such as the flood and tsunami risk tools. Other examples of these relationships include the collaboration of the Contractor's Association of Kaua'i with the County to provide disaster risk reduction seminars, demonstrate the flood risk assessment tool, and provide general information on reducing risks from multiple hazards at the annual CAK Home Show (<http://contractorassociationofKauai.org/>). These relationships are highlighted during times of crisis and used to support neighbors in recovery, in support of a whole of community resilience strategy.

The resilience plan further demonstrates the importance of partnerships at the community level. The Hanalei Watershed Hui engaged the schools, local businesses, local non-profits (such as Waipā Kitchen), civil society (Red Cross), and County government. The process of developing community-based plans strengthens local communities, and this in turn builds more resilience in the County and the State to withstand the impacts of disaster.