



DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR
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News Release

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COUNTY OF KAUA'I
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
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Blessing held for Waimea Rockfall Mitigation Project Tuesday

WAIMEA – The Department of Public Works held a blessing on Tuesday to commemorate the completion of the Waimea Rockfall Mitigation Project.

“After nearly a year, we are grateful to the many agencies and partners that worked diligently and tirelessly for the affected residents of Waimea Valley,” said Mayor Derek S. K. Kawakami. “We thank everyone for your patience and cooperation during this process.”

Contractors for this \$1.6 million emergency project included Geolabs Inc., Kaikor Construction, HiTech, Prometheus Construction, and Koi security.

The scope of work consisted of repairs to the Waimea Swinging Bridge, rockfall mitigation assessment and slope stabilization work, and improving Panini Road for emergency access.

A portion of Menehune Road and the Waimea Swinging Bridge was closed on **Jan. 4, 2022**, due to debris from a rockfall. This prompted an emergency proclamation signed by Mayor Kawakami the same day.

During the initial response to the Menehune Road rockfall and the resulting closure of Menehune Road, the Kaua'i Emergency Management Agency and County Administration coordinated emergency efforts with various Federal, State, County, and community-based organizations, landowners, and utility companies. Efforts included ensuring first responder access and response

capabilities, food distributions and donations from various partners, wellness checks and needs assessments, and engagement with utility companies to provide services to residents.

The County Department of Public Works subsequently managed the longer-term repair and mitigation activities.







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