

Hanalei to Hā`ena Community Disaster Resilience Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose

The rationale for development of this plan was to understand current demographics and dynamics of community and what they mean for local resilience to disasters, including identifying vulnerable and resilient populations and areas, and developing an Action Plan and Community Maps to promote local resilience. This plan represents 4 years of research and planning efforts grounded in identifying gaps in preparedness community risks and vulnerabilities, resources, knowledge and visions for improving resilience for the communities of Hanalei to Hā`ena.

Who

Research and planning was done jointly with project facilitators and the Hanalei to Hā`ena Community Disaster Resilience Planning Committee (Committee), consisting of community members and diverse stakeholders from government, non-governmental organizations, faith-based and community organizations, in order to promote cross-collaboration of disaster resilience planning efforts.

Audience & Users

Community disaster resilience is an ongoing process and requires continued attention and support. This plan is intended to both to guide the current and sustained disaster preparedness, response, relief and recovery activities of the Committee and of the larger communities, and to inform and engage local residents, visitors, government and non-governmental organizations of the local plan through plan distribution, public awareness materials and events. In addition to verbal confirmations of solidarity, Memorandums of Understanding were signed between the Committee and particular organizations, government departments and individuals to acknowledge local planning efforts and ensure access to resources and land needed to support local response and recovery efforts.

Outcomes

Research findings are summarized throughout the plan, however the primary focus is on two of the direct outcomes of this project, including the:

- 1) ***Action Plan for Community Disaster Preparedness and Response***, and in the future including Relief, Recovery and considerations for climate change adaptation; and,
- 2) ***Community Resource & Vulnerability Maps***.

Sustainability

Opportunities for addressing gaps in resilience are highlighted in the proposed Action Plan programs, policies and community-building processes, which will serve as a guiding resource to document the planning process so it can be updated and sustained over time, and encourage capacity-building. The long-term sustainability of the plan convening will be led at the grassroots-level by the Hanalei to Hā`ena Community Association, with support by the Hanalei Watershed Hui.

The community maps were developed to identify vulnerable populations and areas, and stage current and new resources, materials and supplies that can be leveraged after a disaster. Both the Action Plan and maps should be continually monitored and evaluated bi-monthly to support the continued Committee meetings and associated activities, and should be updated at least annually by the Committee and shared with the public. Detailed information on the project research and planning process, tools and methods used, and guidance for the Committee on how to update the Action Plan and Maps in the future is listed as Appendix. Confidential information including Resource Mapping Databases (Appendix 11) with names and addresses will be available to Committee members only.

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Hanalei Watershed Hui

Check out www.hanaleiwatershedhui.org for links to the Hanalei to Ha'ena Community Disaster resilience Plan and the Hanalei Watershed Management Plan.

Community initiatives that invite your participation and kokua!



In Kaua'i, many communities have returned to ahupua'a management systems, which is an integrated system of management from the “mountains to the sea” or “ridges to reef.” Water becomes an integrating theme moving from clouds in the mountains through the valleys through streams and plants, and then to the ocean.

In addition, different types of knowledge and expertise were integrated because it was important to involve fishers as well as planters and healers in the management of the ecosystem. An example of the use of integrated watershed management, or ahupua'a management, is the Hanalei Watershed Hui (HWH) that has developed a watershed action plan. When looking at the strategies, many of them include integrating science and traditional practices in actions to reduce flooding, increase food security with gardening and taro farming, and improve the environment by using integrated management approaches.

The HWH website provides updates on weather, tides, surf, water quality, and river flooding to ensure that community members are safe and informed about local conditions. The Hui has engaged the US Geological Survey, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and several state agencies in assessing environmental resources, water systems, drainage, and Even though HWH has not thought about their activities in terms of hazard mitigation, many activities contribute to risk reduction and build resilience for the impacts of disasters and for longer term climate change. The watershed action plan, attached in the next several pages demonstrates the degree of planning. This is the version of the plan currently available on the website, www.hanaleiwatershedhui.org.

Most mitigation planning happens with the emergency managers, but the local communities are where the impacts from disasters will be experienced. Kauai Civil Defense recognizes the importance of using integrated approaches for mitigation. To that end, they have participated in multi-sector disaster mitigation committees and engaged communities through public meetings and planning efforts. Minimizing disaster risks involves building resilient communities that can withstand and recover from natural hazards, health threats, and environmental degradation. Although funding restrictions and bureaucratic requirements may not enable directly resourcing the entire best hazard mitigation practices, it is important to highlight the best practices of communities as they become allies in risk reduction.

References

HWH. 2015. Hanalei Watershed Hui. <http://www.hanaleiwatershedhui.org/> Accessed January 2015.