



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

June 13, 2018

Mr. Jeffrey Byard
Associate Administrator
Office of Response and Recovery
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20472

Through: Robert Fenton
Regional Administrator
FEMA Region IX
1111 Broadway 1200
Oakland, CA 94607-4052

Subject: Request for Reconsideration for Individual Assistance to City and County of Honolulu and County of Kauai (FEMA-4365-DR-HI)

Dear Mr. Byard:

On behalf of the people of Hawai'i, I would first like to thank the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for its support in recommending that the President declare a Major Disaster Declaration for the April 2018 Severe Storms, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides (FEMA-4365-DR-HI) and for all FEMA has done thus far to assist the people of Hawai'i.

Pursuant to 44 CFR § 206.46(b), I respectfully request FEMA's reconsideration of its May 9, 2018 denial of our request for the Individual Assistance Program for Kauai County and the City and County of Honolulu. All information in our original May 2, 2018, request for a major disaster declaration is still relevant and should be considered as part of this appeal unless specifically noted in this letter.

I am requesting reconsideration for the following reasons, based on additional data identified since our initial request:

- Significant additional damages from the disaster have been identified.

- Additional insurance information has identified a significant number of uninsured losses.
- Updated concentration of damage and trauma information from the disaster have been documented.
- Additional economic/unemployment impact information from the disaster has been documented.

Additional Damages and Insurance:

Since the initial request, additional damaged homes were identified via call-in centers, web-based reporting tools, disaster recovery centers, and volunteer groups that canvassed the counties. A second follow up Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (JPDA) was performed by representatives from FEMA, the county jurisdictions, and HI-EMA to validate the additional data.

There are now over 760 homes impacted by this event, of which 187 were destroyed or suffered major damage. Of the 187 homes that were destroyed or suffered major damage, approximately 108 are owner occupied. The results of the JPDAs are summarized below:

	Destroyed	Major	Minor & Affected	Total
City and County of Honolulu	0	104	306	410
Kaua'i County	11	72	267	350
Category Totals:	11	176	573	760

We have also captured additional data on the proportions of residents who had insurance coverage at the time of the disaster. While approximately 95% of affected families in the City and County of Honolulu reported having homeowner's insurance, only 41% reported having flood insurance. The information on Kaua'i's insurance rate has been updated with an estimated 32% as having flood insurance.

	Destroyed <i>without</i> Flood Insurance*	Major <i>without</i> Flood Insurance*	Minor & Affected <i>without</i> Flood Insurance*	Total <i>without</i> Flood Insurance*
City and County of Honolulu	0	61	181	242
Kaua'i County	8	49	182	481
Category Totals:	8	110	363	723

*Estimated

Even with insurance, Marshall & Swift/Boeckh LLC (MSB), a leading provider of building replacement cost data, estimates that approximately 59% of homes and contents are underinsured. Admiral Insurance estimates that the average contents value of a home is approximately \$58,000.

While these damages are extensive, they do not capture the full extent of loss. Many families lost all of their possessions in the flood as well as their homes. We also know that most of the homes affected by the flooding use cesspools. However, due to the sheer volume and difficulty in assessing damages to cesspools, the exact numbers of cesspools damaged by the flooding have not been systematically captured. Nearly 14,000 homes on Kaua'i and over 11,000 homes in the City and County of Honolulu have cesspools which are no longer code-compliant. This means that residents cannot repair cesspools damaged by the flooding. To be compliant with current state law, families with damaged cesspools must replace them with septic tanks at a cost of \$30,000 to \$40,000.

The people of Kaua'i and Honolulu are strong and resilient. However, significant hardship exists among the affected population, especially because Hawai'i has the highest home construction costs and the highest cost of living anywhere in the nation.

Concentration of Damage:

Kaua'i County is the smallest county in Hawai'i. The population on the island is largely concentrated in small, close-knit communities along the coast. The flooding devastated entire communities, not just individual structures. Extended families have lost their homes. Small business owners and employees no longer have a place to live in the community, making survival of their businesses questionable. The cascading effects of this disaster will reverberate throughout the county producing greater impacts than can be assumed from looking at a map of impacted homes.

With more than 33% of Wainiha's housing stock destroyed or with major damage, and its continued isolation from the rest of the island, recovery for this community will be challenging. In nearby Hanalei, over 63% of occupied single-family homes were damaged

by the floods. Any community would have a difficult time recovering after the loss of such significant percentages of its housing stock.

Historically, the county of Kaua'i was hit by the greatest natural disaster for Hawai'i, Hurricane Iniki, in 1992 and suffered \$2.4 billion in damages. The northern coastal areas of Wainiha, Hā'ena, and Hanalei were particularly hard hit by strong winds, torrential rain, and flooding. The 2018 hurricane season started just 13 days ago on June 1, 2018 with the National Weather Service predicting 3-6 major tropical cyclones this season.

Trauma:

Since April 13, 2018, state, county, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including the Red Cross, have directly spoken to residents who continue to experience significant hardship, including elderly and lower income residents, as well as those with access and functional needs. Many residents are at a loss for how to move forward following the flood.

State and NGO mental health workers continue to provide professional crisis counseling services to the community. Hawai'i Department of Health community mental health counselors have worked with over 100 families on both islands. At the time of our original request, many people were coping with the stress of putting their lives back together. However, as the stress of isolation, economic hardships, and re-building continues, the need for mental health services grows. As one of the state's community licensed mental health counselors recently reported: "Although people seemed to be coping with the stress well, many people expressed that they didn't know how much longer they could deal with their stress."

The Hawai'i Department of Education was providing crisis counseling in the schools. However, now that the school year has ended, these services are no longer available. Access to crisis counseling and mental health care is challenging in the best of times. Residents of the isolated communities of Hā'ena and Wainiha have obvious additional logistical challenges in accessing needed services.

Continued access to individual and group crisis counseling services is necessary, especially for vulnerable families, children, and the elderly. Stress management services offered via crisis counseling may help deter the onset of post-traumatic stress. Additional crisis and stress counseling will have long-lasting beneficial impacts to individuals, families, and entire communities. Federal assistance via the Disaster Crisis Counseling program is needed and requested.

Economic and Unemployment Impact:

Kūhiō Highway (Kaua'i County) has not fully reopened as repairs are ongoing. The landslides that previously blocked access caused major structural damage to the highway.

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The Hawai'i Department of Transportation does not expect Kūhiō Highway to be open to normal vehicular traffic until late July or early August 2018.

The most recent statistics from the Hawai'i Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) show 133 Unemployment Insurance claims from flood-affected areas on Kaua'i. Of these, 68 are workers from the Hanalei Bay Dolphin restaurant, which is currently closed due to flood related damages.

Independent contractors or self-employed individuals are not covered by the regular Unemployment Insurance program. In addition, the eligibility requirements of the regular Unemployment Insurance program require benefit payments be limited to unemployed workers who are able and available for work. Disaster Unemployment Assistance provides assistance to individuals who are not eligible for regular unemployment assistance or self-employed or individuals whose employment status has been lost or interrupted as a direct result of a major disaster.

Based on denied regular Unemployment Insurance claims and inquiries from self-employed individuals, DLIR estimates Disaster Unemployment Assistance would benefit at least 40 claimants.

The NGO Hale Halawai (Kaua'i County) has documented over 370 people who lost work or income as a direct result of the disaster. Of these, 170 are self-employed, farmers, artists, or small business owners. After reviewing applications and various data sources, we anticipate approximately 237 claimants. Using the state's average weekly wage of \$488, for 237 claimants for 8 weeks of benefits, the estimated amount needed for the program would be \$925,248.

I respectfully request reconsideration of FEMA's May 9, 2018 denial of our request for the Individual Assistance Program for Kaua'i County and the City and County of Honolulu. If the suite of Individual Assistance programs is not granted, I ask that you approve the Disaster Crisis Counseling, Disaster Unemployment Assistance, and Disaster Case Management programs.

With warmest regards,



David Y. Ige
Governor, State of Hawai'i

c: Mr. Dolph A. Diemont, Federal Coordinating Officer, FEMA-4365-DR-HI