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Contact: Matt Glej; (808) 222-1715; HawaiiKaiStrong@yahoo.com

HAWAII KAI—**Hawaii Kai Strong**, a disaster readiness group, is planning two initial meetings for the Hawaii Kai community to explain the purpose and focus of the organization and to get started helping residents prepare for a disaster.

The volunteer group is one of several being organized throughout Oahu as local resources to complement the state and City and County emergency management agencies.

The first Hawaii Kai meeting is scheduled Tuesday, Sept. 9 in Kaiser High School cafeteria; the second session is Wednesday, Oct.15, also in the Kaiser cafeteria. Both start at 7:00 p.m.

Hawaii Kai Strong is making a significant effort to notify the residents of Hawaii Kai, especially residents of the various condos and home owners' associations so that they can attend. "10,000 Hawaii Kai residents live in condos or where there's a HOA," says Matt Glej, facilitator of the group. "That's about 30% percent of the total population of Hawaii Kai."

"We want to make sure everyone is better prepared for a natural disaster, be it hurricane, tsunami, flood or earthquake.

"Our mission is to help Hawaii Kai become a more-resilient community. In case of a disaster we may be cut off from town and even other communities, so we have to be prepared to weather the storm until help can arrive."

Other members of Hawaii Kai Strong are Rene Garvin, liaison to the Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board; Pastor Andy Kikuta of Hawaii Kai Community Church, Bill Vogt, and John Miller. All are long time residents of Hawaii Kai.

These first meetings will be informational while later public meetings will focus on specific disasters and disaster readiness.

Hawaii Kai Strong is working closely with the City & County of Honolulu Department of Emergency Management & the Hawaii State Civil Defense Emergency Management Agency, using the Hawaii Hazards Awareness & Resilience Program (HHARP).

For more information, call Matt Glej at (808) 222-1715 or visit the group's Facebook page: **Hawaii Kai Strong**.