

Hawaii Kai Strong



Disaster Readiness Program



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HAWAII KAI—**Hawaii Kai Strong**, a disaster readiness group, is celebrating its first year of activity. Our initial public outreach meetings were held in September and October of 2014 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.

Subsequent public outreach meetings have been held on the first Wednesday of the month and have covered disasters such as hurricane, flood, earthquake and tsunami. We have also held several sessions focused primarily on people getting their family to be personally prepared. Other subjects covered were being prepared for sheltering during a hurricane or tsunami if you need to evacuate, as well as how to improve your home's ability to weather a disaster.

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 Glei, 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 Kevin Bogan. All are long time residents of Hawaii Kai. Hawaii Kai Strong is working closely with the City & County of Honolulu Department of Emergency Management & the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (State Civil Defense), using the Hawaii Hazards Awareness & Resilience Program (HHARP).

Our meetings on August 5 and September 2, held at 6:00 p.m. at the Koko Head District Park on the first Wednesday of each month will focus on people trained in or interested in the CERT program (Community Emergency Response Team) run by the Department of Emergency Management.

During the August to December timeframe we are planning to do small group presentations to HOAs and Condo Associations as well as faith-based groups. If your group is interested in having us come do the presentation for you, please contact us at the email listed above.

For more information, call Matt Glei at (808) 222-1715 or visit the group's Facebook page: **Hawaii Kai Strong**. Email us at HawaiiKaiStrong@yahoo.com