



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL DISASTER DECLARATION

September 6, 2018

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
The President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Through: Robert Fenton
Regional Administrator, Region IX
Federal Emergency Management Agency
1111 Broadway, Suite 1200
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §5121-5207 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR §206.36, I request that you declare a Major Disaster for the State of Hawai'i as a result of the impacts from Hurricane Lane, to include wildfires and floods, that occurred beginning August 22, 2018 through August 29, 2018.

The disaster is of such severity and magnitude that effective response exceeds the capability of the state and impacted local governments, and that supplemental federal assistance is required. Therefore, I request the declaration authorize the Public Assistance Grant Program and the full complement of Individual Assistance programs as well as the Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Assistance program for Hawai'i County and Maui County. In addition, I request the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program statewide. Furthermore, I request 100 percent federal funding for a 72-hour period in the initial days of the disaster.

Emergency Proclamations

As Hurricane Lane approached the state, I consulted with the impacted counties, took appropriate action under state law and directed the execution of the State Emergency Operations Plan on August 21, 2018. I issued an Emergency Proclamation for the State of Hawai'i in accordance with Section 401 of the Stafford Act on August 21, 2018. An emergency disaster declaration limited to Direct Federal Assistance was granted for all counties on August 22, 2018. The impacts of Hurricane Lane continue to endanger the health, safety, and welfare of the people. Therefore, I issued a Supplementary

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Proclamation relating to this emergency on August 28, 2018, extending the disaster emergency relief period through October 27, 2018.

Recent Disasters

The impacts from Hurricane Lane must be considered in the larger context of what has occurred in the state over the last five months. Since April, major disasters have been declared in three of the state's four counties and both Individual and Public Assistance programs have been activated.

In April 2018 the City and County of Honolulu and Kaua'i County responded to historic flooding and landslides. Kaua'i County was still in the processes of rebuilding and had not yet managed to fully restore access to a community isolated during the April event when Hurricane Lane saturated previously impacted areas.

Hawai'i County had just begun to transition to a complicated recovery from the Kilauea volcano lava flow when Lane's impacts were felt. All county agencies and multiple state agencies have been continuously activated for response and recovery efforts since the eruption began in May. Residents have been in a prolonged state of uncertainty as evacuation orders remain in effect and the future of their communities remains uncertain. With over 700 homes destroyed, housing shortages have kept emergency shelters open and resulted in FEMA authorizing a direct housing mission just prior to Hurricane Lane. Impacts to the visitor industry, particularly the extended closure of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, have caused the county to suffer economically devastating impacts in addition to the physical damage.

Though the impacts of Hurricane Lane are much less than what was feared, against the backdrop of these two other events, which have taken a substantial emotional, economic and physical toll on residents, businesses and government, they become much more consequential. State and local governments, particularly Hawai'i County, were already struggling with the costs of these earlier disasters and how to stretch their limited resources to support rebuilding efforts. Hawai'i County has spent approximately \$12 million on immediate response activities related to the eruption alone and has identified the need for an additional \$800 million to finish recovery. While fewer homes were destroyed by the effects of Hurricane Lane, the ability of impacted residents to recover is challenged by the reality that government, community and voluntary agency resources have been depleted by the earlier disasters. Additional federal support is needed for Hurricane Lane response and recovery efforts.

Description of Event and Impacts

On August 22, 2018, the state began to experience initial impacts from Hurricane Lane, then a Category 4 hurricane approaching the state with sustained winds of 155 mph. In preparation for the storm, the U.S. Coast Guard suspended all port operations and restricted all incoming and outgoing commercial vessels at port facilities. All public

schools and public charter schools, and most state and county offices and parks, closed in anticipation of Hurricane Lane to protect the public health and safety.

The cyclone reached its closest point of approach to Hawai'i as a Tropical Storm on August 25, 2018. As the system moved past the state it produced damaging winds and prolonged heavy and record-breaking rainfall, resulting in flash flooding across the islands. Though heavy wind shear broke apart Hurricane Lane and prevented a direct hit on the islands, the National Weather Service reported "a trailing band of deep moisture associated with Lane...", remained situated over the area, which continued to cause significant flood impacts in parts of state through August 29, 2018.

The high winds fueled three large wildfires in West Maui that broke out over August 23, 2018 and August 24, 2018 while the county was under a Hurricane Warning, creating firefighting conditions the Deputy Fire Chief described as "...some of the most adverse the Maui Fire Department has faced in recent history." The Maui Fire Services Chief stated the department's initial assessment is that the winds affected power lines and then caused the fire to "...[spread] rapidly due to very strong and swirling winds associated with the impending weather from Hurricane Lane." The dangerous conditions grounded helicopters and prevented firefighters from using water drops, which would have provided a faster and more effective method of containing the fire.

Hawai'i County

Hawai'i County was still responding to the ongoing Kilauea volcanic eruption when Hurricane Lane produced record breaking amounts of rain resulting in widespread flooding. Preliminary data from the National Weather Service indicates Hurricane Lane produced the second highest storm total rainfall from a tropical cyclone in the U.S. since 1950. Hilo experienced the wettest three-day period ever observed. Firefighters rescued 39 people in an area that received four feet of rain.

Hawai'i County, Community	Preliminary Rainfall Amount (8 AM HST August 22 through 8 AM HST August 26, 2018)
Waiakea Exp. Station	47.37 inches
Mountain View	52.02 inches (Record)
Saddle Quarry (USGS)	48.52 inches
Piihonua	48.13 inches
Waiakea Uka	49.48 inches
Pahoa	38.09 inches
Glenwood	35.83 inches
Kulani NWR	28.71 inches
Keaumo	24.65 inches
Kawainui Stream	16.70 inches
Puu Mali	13.70 inches

Preliminary rainfall totals associated with Hurricane Lane for impacted communities in Hawai'i County according to the National Weather Service.

The county Department of Environmental Management reported significant rainfall overwhelmed three sewage pumping stations, causing more than nine million gallons of untreated sewage to be discharged around Hilo Bay. A statewide brown water advisory was issued due to the high amounts of storm water runoff including overflowing cesspools, sewer systems, and other associated flood debris entering coastal waters.

The Salvation Army thrift store in Hilo was indefinitely closed after heavy rains caused portions of the roof to fail, flooding the store's merchandise and preventing them from accepting donations. The agency has been a critical resource in supporting families displaced by the Kilauea eruption with three-meal-a-day service and other essential supplies.

Maui County

Three wildfires that broke out in Maui County grew rapidly in size and complexity due to the high wind conditions, forcing the evacuation of 300 people and the relocation of a hurricane evacuation center. Private homes and infrastructure sustained significant fire damage and one person suffered a serious burn injury. Evacuees reported fleeing for their lives, losing everything but what they were wearing. A private water line that serves nine homes in Kaua'ula Valley was burned and has left approximately 80 people without access to running water. The fires damaged utility poles and fiber optic cables, resulting in limited communication outside of Lahaina including the loss of 911 capabilities. Maui Electric reported 45 poles and two main transmission lines require replacement after being severely damaged from Hurricane Lane. Nearly 4,000 customers lost power for multiple days. Power outages prohibited water pumps from bringing water to more than half of Maui's population of 162,456, and treatment facilities struggled to keep up with processing debris-containing inflow. Residents and businesses in West Maui were urged to conserve water on August 24 and 25. Significant resources were requested by the county to address firefighting, security, and public safety needs.

Over 16 inches of rain fell on the eastern side of Maui, causing major flooding issues and the closure of several roads. The Hawai'i Department of Transportation reported landslides, fallen trees and traffic signal outages across the county. Three residences remain inaccessible after storm water and debris caused a washout of the road and damaged a four inch water line at the intersection of Ulumalu Road and Puu Way. Maui County officials report the road will take months to fully replace.

Kaua'i County

Hurricane Lane damaged many of the same areas of Kaua'i County that were just recovering from historic flooding in April, where over 30 inches of rain fell on the island's north shore in one 24-hour period, with one gauge recording a high of 49.69 inches. Heavy rainfall produced by remnants of Lane saw flood gauges reach similar levels experienced during April's event and caused widespread flash flooding, voluntary

evacuations and road closures. Approximately 63 residents lost power for multiple days due to downed powerlines. The Hanalei River flowed out of its banks, closing portions of Kuhio Highway. Wainiha experienced low to no water pressure for approximately a quarter of its residents from storm-related impacts to the town's water system. Flash flooding associated with Hurricane Lane caused one fatality on Kaua'i.

Preliminary Damage Assessment Results

Individual Assistance

A Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (JPDA) was conducted for Hawai'i County by state, county, Small Business Administration (SBA) and FEMA representatives beginning August 26, 2018. A JPDA was completed for Maui County on September 5, 2018. A table of findings is in Enclosure A.

Public Assistance

JPDA's were performed by state, county and FEMA representatives between Monday, August 27, 2018 and Thursday, August 30, 2018. A table of their findings is in Enclosure B. Over \$22 million in damages across the state were verified in Hawai'i, Kaua'i and Maui Counties, which is well in excess of the state's \$2 million public assistance threshold.

State and County Resources Committed

The following information is furnished on the nature and amount of state and local resources that have been or will be used to alleviate the conditions of this emergency:

- The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) activated all Emergency Support Functions as of August 22, 2018. State liaisons were deployed to all county EOCs. The SEOC continues to monitor unmet needs and coordinate and provide resources to local and state agencies impacted by Hurricane Lane.
- Local emergency proclamations were issued by all four counties in the state.
- With support from voluntary agency partners, the counties operated a total of 39 total evacuation centers (including four pet-friendly evacuation centers). These centers were occupied by 1,680 individuals at the height of the storm. All evacuation centers related to the event closed on August 26.
- The Hawai'i Department of Transportation is providing damage assessments and debris clearance and removal activities throughout the state. Other state agencies, counties and municipalities are actively involved in debris removal, damage assessments and other activities to eliminate or lessen immediate threats to the public. The estimated quantities and expenditures are still pending.

- The Hawai'i National Guard (HING) has mobilized assets to support requests for assistance including evacuation of citizens, rescue missions, traffic control, security, debris clearance, damage assessments, and other response activities. HING continues to support the state with response and recovery missions as requested.
- Additional personnel were requested by the state through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) to support state response efforts.
- Voluntary organizations, in coordination with state and county agencies, have assisted with running evacuation centers, debris clean-up, collecting damage reports from the public, organizing volunteers, and participated in damage assessments.
- Since this event is still unfolding, we anticipate additional requests for state and federal resources to assist with responding to and recovering from the cascading effects such as high winds, heavy rains, erosion and flooding.

Disruption of Normal Community Functions and Economic Impacts

As Hurricane Lane approached the state, all port operations were suspended, restricting the movement of hundreds of incoming and outgoing commercial vessels for more than 72 hours, delaying the import and export of goods that support the state's economy.

In addition to the closure of the ports, Hurricane Lane forced multi-day closures or cancellations of athletic and entertainment events, schools, libraries, museums, parks and recreation facilities, government facilities and services, highways and private businesses.

Many of these closures had a significant impact on the visitor industry, which is the state's largest employer and economic driver. Daily visitor spending averages \$51.5 million statewide and was dramatically impacted when attractions and local businesses shut down during the storm. One cruise line cancelled two scheduled dockings in Hilo and Kona due to Hurricane Lane, costing an estimated \$450,000 in economic losses. The total economic loss due to the numerous closures and cancellations across the state is yet to be determined but will be in the tens of millions of dollars.

Special Populations

The table below shows that all counties have an elderly population that exceeds the national average. Hawai'i County, where 18.7 percent of the population lives below the poverty line, received heavy damages from Hurricane Lane. Hawai'i County's disabled population also exceeds the national average.

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Though median income and poverty rates in other impacted counties appear better than national averages, when cost of living is accounted for, Hawai'i's poverty rate is one of the worst in the nation. The US Census Supplemental Poverty Measure released in September 2016 estimates that 16.8 percent of the state's population lives below the poverty line.

Category	United States	State of Hawai'i	Hawai'i County	Maui County	Kaua'i County	
Resident Population	318,558,162	1,413,673	193,680	162,456	70,447	
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	560,021	143,973	26,517	17,699	6,809	
Population Under 18 Years Old	73,366,146	306,761	42,708	36,287	16,020	
Households	117,716,237	452,030	66,094	53,903	22,430	
Median Household Income	\$55,322	\$71,977	\$53,936	\$68,777	\$68,224	
Median Value for Owner-Occupied Housing Unit	\$203,600	\$542,000	\$329,200	\$531,200	\$482,100	
Civilian Unemployment Rate Over 16 Years	7.4%	5.5%	7.4%	6.0%	5.1%	
Population Over 65 Years Old	14.5%	16.1%	20.1%	17.5%	17.4%	
People with Disabilities	12.5%	11.2%	13.4%	10.6%	10.3%	
Households Receiving Food Stamps (SNAP)	13%	11.6%	19.5%	11.9%	10.1%	
Below Poverty Level (All Families)	11%	7.3%	14.1%	6.8%	6.1%	
Population Below Poverty Line	All people	15.1%	10.8%	18.7%	9.8%	9.6%
	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	20.1%	24%	32.5%	18.5%	19.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2012-2016 ACS (American Community Survey) 5-Year Estimates

I have designated Thomas Travis, Administrator of the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency, as the State Coordinating Officer for this request. He will work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and is authorized to provide any further information, assurances, requests or justification on my behalf.

Sincerely,



David Y. Ige
 Governor, State of Hawai'i

- A: Supplemental Information for Individual Assistance
- B: Supplemental Information for Public Assistance
- C: Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs
- E: National Weather Service Report
- F: Photos of Damages