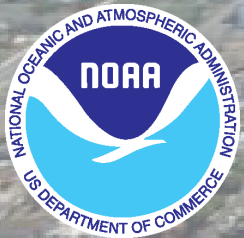


# 29 July 2025 Kamchatka Tsunami – Hawai‘i

**Pacific Tsunami Warning Center  
International Tsunami Information Center  
Hawai‘i Emergency Management Agency  
Honolulu Dept of Emergency Management**

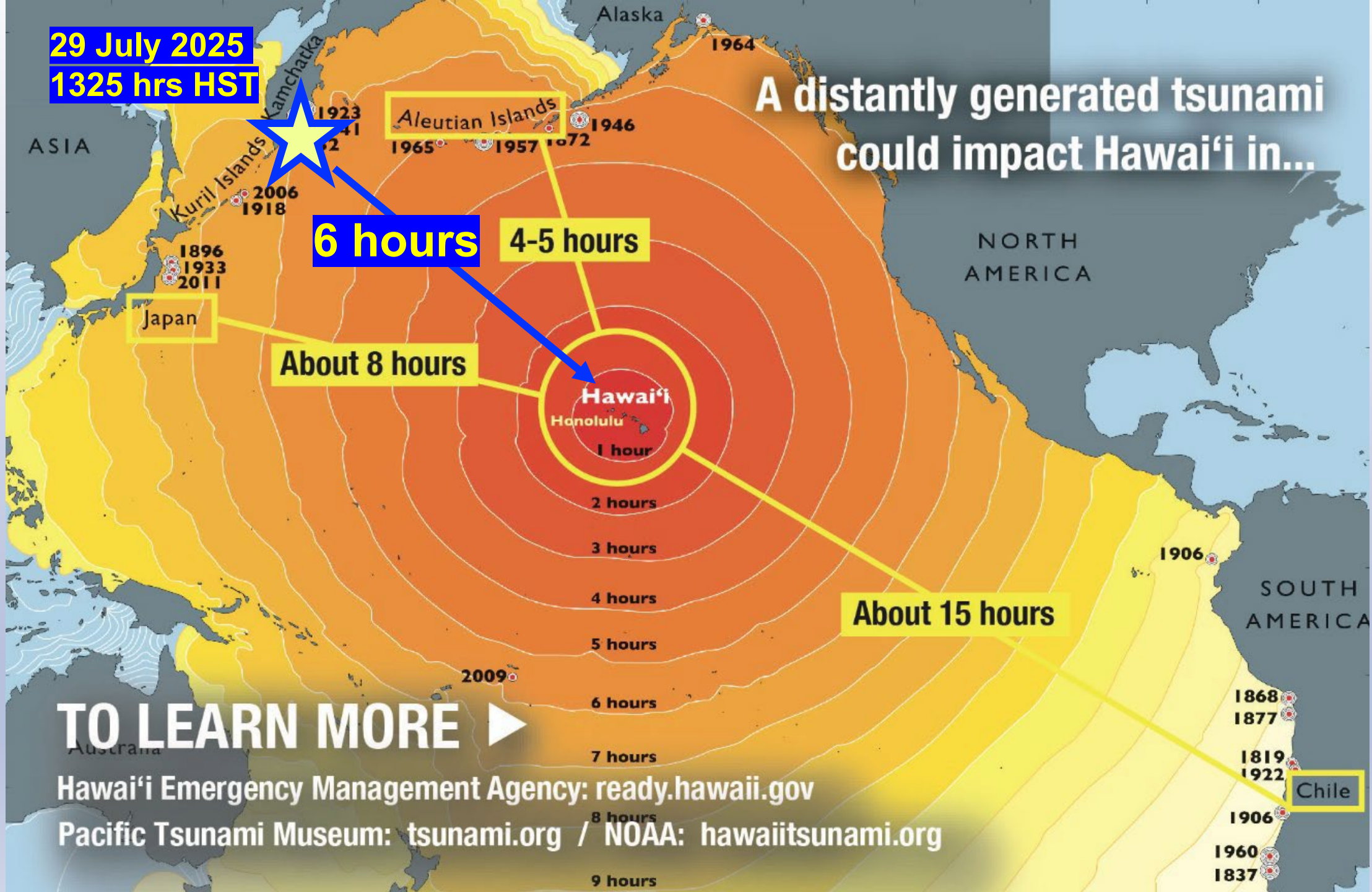
State EOC

Charles McCreery, Stuart Weinstein, PTWC  
Director, Deputy Director  
Laura Kong, ITIC, State Tsunami Advisor  
Jack Lee, HI-EMA Operations Chief  
Jennifer Walter, DEM, Deputy Director



**29 July 2025**  
**1325 hrs HST**

**A distantly generated tsunami could impact Hawai'i in...**



**6 hours**

**4-5 hours**

**About 8 hours**

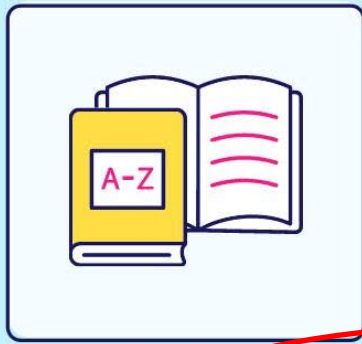
**Hawai'i**  
Honolulu  
**1 hour**

**About 15 hours**

**TO LEARN MORE** ▶

Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency: [ready.hawaii.gov](http://ready.hawaii.gov)

Pacific Tsunami Museum: [tsunami.org](http://tsunami.org) / NOAA: [hawaiiitsunami.org](http://hawaiiitsunami.org)



# UNDERSTAND THE ALERTS

## EVACUATE INLAND/HIGH GROUND



### Warning

Danger! Tsunami imminent. Flooding, powerful currents, and high waves. Get to high ground or inland immediately.

## STAY OUT OF WATER



### Advisory

Strong currents and dangerous waves (1-3ft). Stay out of the water and move away from the shore.



### Watch

Tsunami possible. Be prepared to take action. Stay tuned to local radio, TV, and HNL Info alerts.



### Informational Statement

No tsunami expected, but alert level may increase once more information is known. No action at this time.

April is Tsunami Awareness Month





# Kamchatka Tsunami Activation 2025 – State HI-EMA



**1325hrs**

Origin Event  
**Kamchatka**

**Earthquake M8.0**

**1430hrs (+1:05)**

**1st Executive Call**  
PTWC, ITIC, State,  
Counties, Agencies  
continues hourly



**1600hrs (+2:35)**

**Civilian Air Patrol**  
**Launch Missions**

**1608hrs (+2:43)**

**Gov. Green's Emergency**  
**Proclamation**

**1525hrs**  
**(+2:00)**

**Initial Siren**

**1530hrs**  
**State Call**

**1600hrs**  
**State Call**

**1610hrs**  
**Siren #2**



**1333hrs**  
**(+0:08)**  
**PTWC#1**

**Tsunami Watch**  
**Updated to M8.7**

**1417hrs**  
**(+0:52)**  
**PTWC#2**

**Supplement**

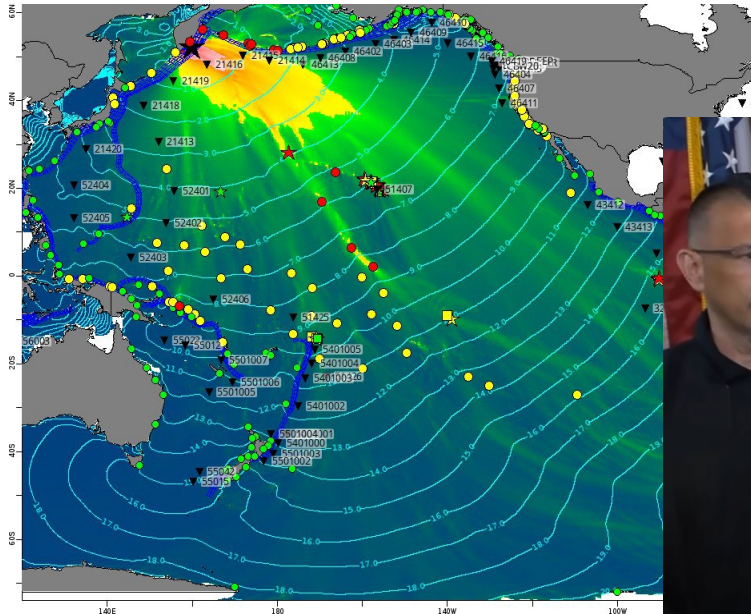
**1443hrs**  
**PTWC#3**  
**Tsunami Warning**  
**State EOC**  
**Full Activation**



**1551hrs**  
**PTWC#4**  
**Supplement**

**1617hrs**  
**(+2:52, ETA ~3hrs)**  
**ALL Counties**

**EVAC Order Completed**



**Emergency alert: Extreme**

SIRENS SOUNDING FOR TSUNAMI THREAT. 2HRS OUT FROM 1ST WAVE ARRIVAL ESIMATED AT 7:10 PM . EVACUATE COASTAL AREAS. SENT BY Hawaii Emergency Management Agency

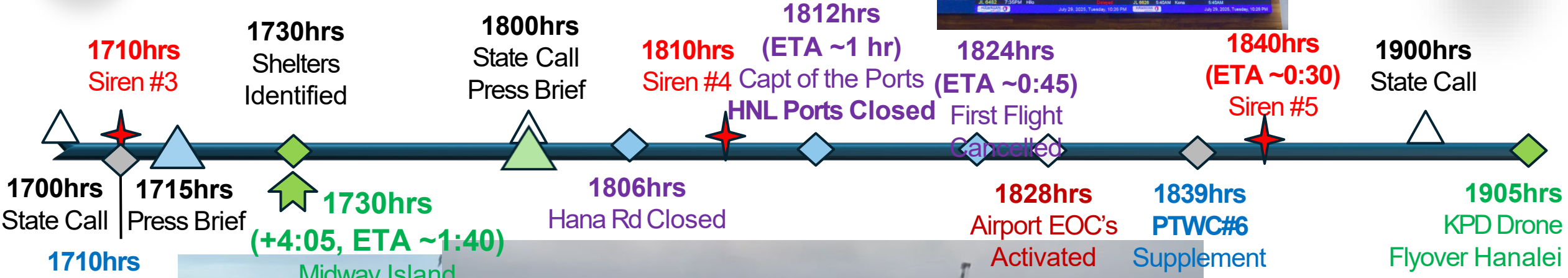
OK



# Kamchatka Tsunami Activation 2025



Flight	Time	Departing To	Gate	Remarks	Flaps	Time	Arriving To	Gate	Remarks
1812	18:12	Hilo	18	Cancelled		18:12	Hilo	18	Cancelled
1824	18:24	Hilo	18	Cancelled		18:24	Hilo	18	Cancelled
1840	18:40	Hilo	18	Cancelled		18:40	Hilo	18	Cancelled



**BREAKING NEWS**  
**COAST GUARD ORDERS EVACUATION OF HAWAII HARBORS**  
 PORTS CLOSED TO INBOUND TRAFFIC AHEAD OF TSUNAMI WAVES ARRIVAL

**Emergency alert: Extreme**

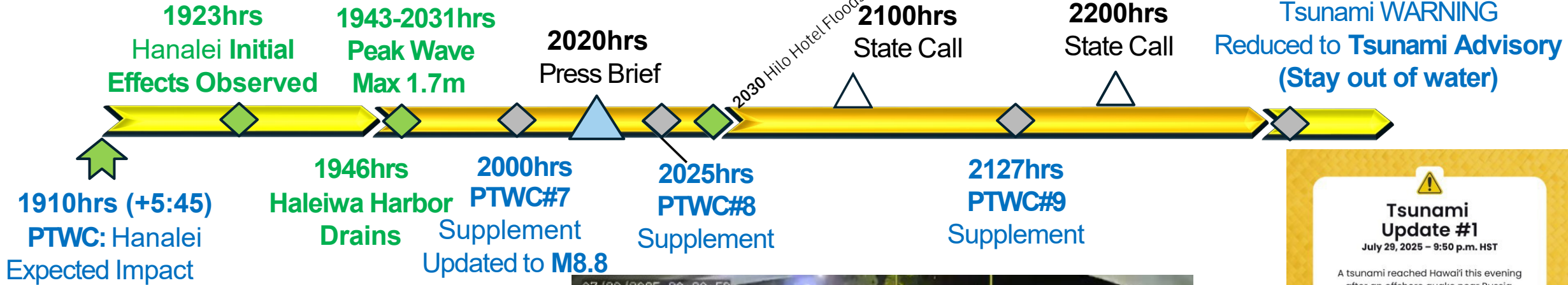
SIRENS SOUNDING FOR TSUNAMI THREAT. 30MIN OUT FROM 1ST WAVE ARRIVAL ESIMATED AT 7:10 PM HST. EVACUATE COASTAL AREAS. SENT BY HIEMA

OK





# Kamchatka Tsunami Activation 2025



**Tsunami Update #1**  
July 29, 2025 – 9:50 p.m. HST

A tsunami reached Hawai'i this evening after an offshore quake near Russia.

- Wave impact was lower than expected, but **coastal areas remain closed.**
- Stay away from shorelines until an official "all clear."
- Check with airlines for flight updates.

Visit [tsunami.gov](https://tsunami.gov) for more information.

**HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY**



2250hrs

Press Brief

Defer to Counties Order

(‘All Clear’ is County Jurisdiction)

# Kamchatka Tsunami Activation 2025



0712hrs (+17.5 hrs)

Capt. of the Ports:

Ports Opened

30 July 0859hrs

End of Tsunami Advisory  
(no dangerous waves)

END

2330hrs (+10 hrs)

State EOC

Reduces to Partial Activation

Two million total people across.  
the Pacific were ordered to evacuate



### Public Safety Alert

now



Tsunami Advisory is no longer in effect per Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. **STRONG CURRENTS & DANGEROUS CONDITIONS MAY PERSIST. REMAIN ALERT** to Local Authorities and Local Ocean Safety before entering Hawaiian Waters.

**HNL ALERT**  
HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

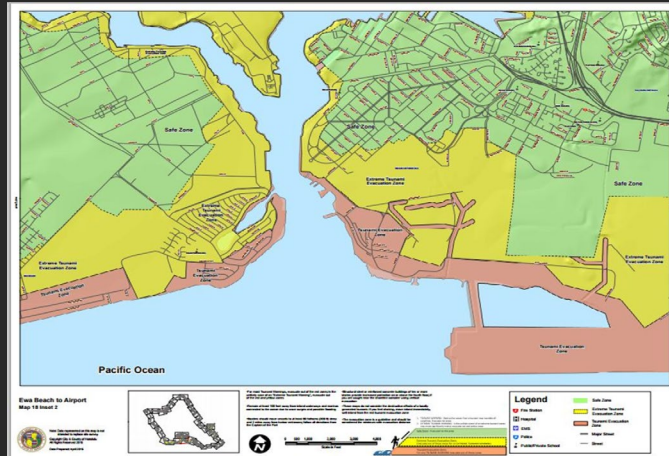
**TSUNAMI INFORMATION STATEMENT**  
Learn more about tsunamis at [tsunami.gov](http://tsunami.gov)

Follow official social media -  
Facebook and Instagram: @HAWAIIDEM  
Twitter: @HawaiiDEM

Visit [Honolulu.gov/DEM](http://Honolulu.gov/DEM)  
Subscribe at [hnlalert.gov](http://hnlalert.gov)

**Stay Informed.**

# Lesson Learning from Past Tsunami Warning and Response



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT – KEY ROLES

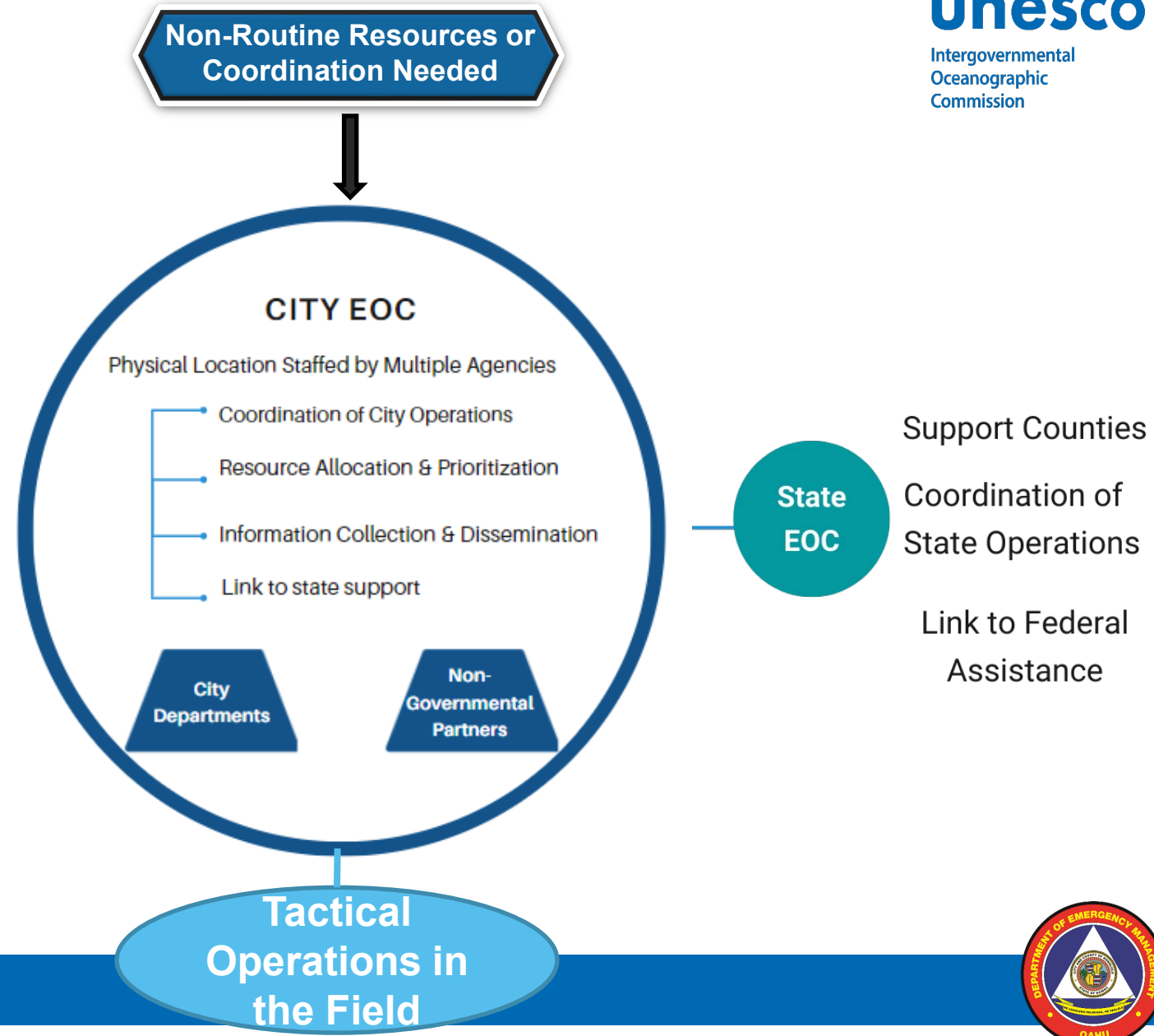
- Coordination of response efforts by City agencies and non-governmental partners (such as Red Cross)
- Alert and warning of the public
- Evacuation



# JULY 29 TSUNAMI WARNING: COORDINATION OF RESPONSE EFFORTS

- 1:33 PM Watch issued for Hawaii
- 1:43 PM **Oahu EOC Fully Activates** to Provide Overall Coordination of City Response
- ≈2:00 PM Joint Traffic (+0:25) Management Center (JTMC) Facility activates their 'Bridge'

*Dispatch supervisors from 911 call centers for police, fire and emergency medical services and the City's transportation agency go to a central location to coordinate tactical decisions related to evacuation*



# JULY 29 TSUNAMI WARNING: PUBLIC ALERT AND WARNING



**1:33 PM (+0:08)**  
**Tsunami Watch Issued**  
 (EAS Triggered)

**1:37 PM (+0:12)**  
**City Initiates Local Public Messaging via HNL Alert and Social Media –**  
*prepare to act; review zone*

**2:43 PM (+1:06)** Tsunami Warning Issued (EAS/WEA Triggered)

**2:47 PM (+1:10)**  
**City Initiates Local Public Messaging on Tsunami Warning –**  
*take action – evacuate; link to map; vertical evacuation guidance; stay off road if outside zone*

**3:22 PM (+1:57)** Statewide alert via EAS/WEA

**3:25PM (+2:00)** Initial siren sounding by State and EAS/WEA. Repeated Hourly

## Non-Emergency Alerts

Opt-in systems



### HNL ALERTS

Sent to anyone who signs up at [hnlalert.gov](http://hnlalert.gov) via text, email, or app.

Used in both routine and emergency situations.

HNL Alerts about emergency situations are sent to all subscribers.

Uses a system provided by a City vendor.



### OFFICIAL SOCIAL MEDIA

Alerts are posted on official social media accounts including City, State, and trusted partners.



@oahudem



@oahu\_dem

## Response

On-site efforts



### FIRST RESPONDERS

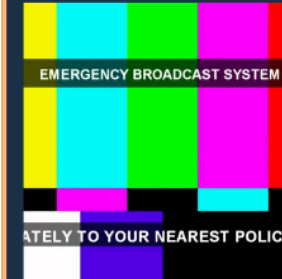
First responders on scene make direct notifications to people at risk

Includes door-to-door notifications and the use of public address systems from emergency response vehicles

## Local Public Messaging

### Emergency Alerts

Notifies everyone in affected area



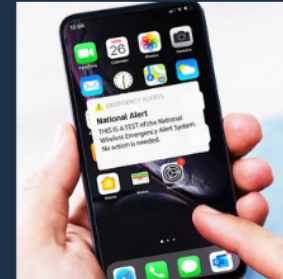
### EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM (EAS)

Alerts that interrupt programming to deliver urgent emergency info on:

- Broadcast TV
- Cable
- Radio
- Satellite radio

Tested the first business day of the month.

Uses a system provided by FEMA.



### WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERTS (WEA)

Alerts that deliver urgent emergency info to all cellphones in affected geographic areas - no sign up required.

Short, text-like messages.

Uses a system provided by FEMA.



### OUTDOOR WARNING SIRENS

Sirens are located primarily along coastal areas meant so people will hear them when they are outdoors. Sirens are used for tsunami warnings and other events.

Loud "Steady Tone".

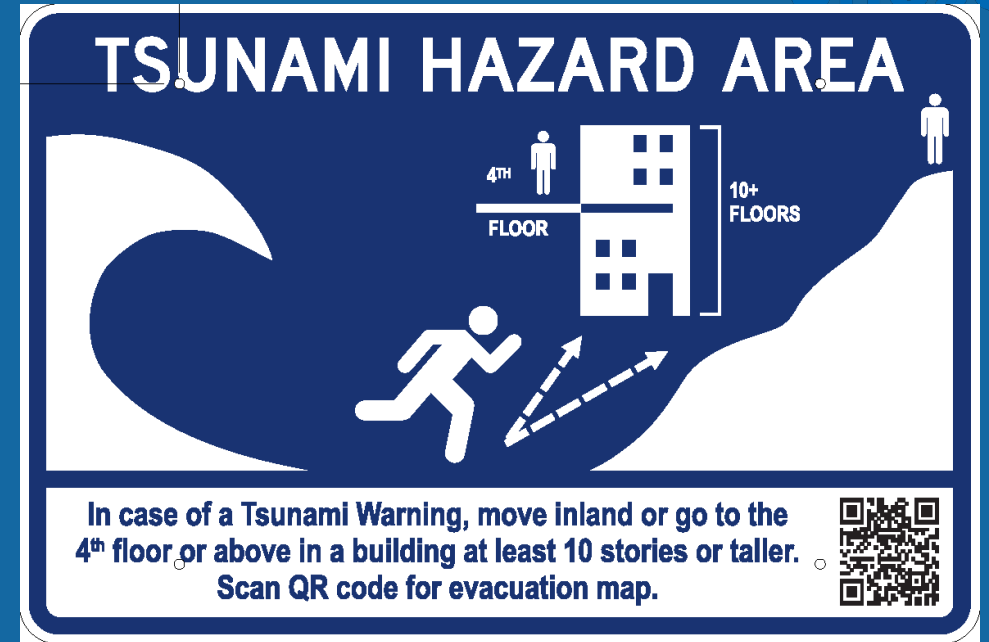
Tested the first business day of the month at 11:45 a.m.

Sirens are installed/maintained by the state.

# JULY 29 TSUNAMI WARNING: EVACUATION



- 2:47 PM **Tsunami Warning Triggers Mandatory Evacuation Order for 'Standard' Zone**
- 3:30 **Early Departure Authorized for City and State Workers**
- 3:39 **Police Districts report evacuations initiated**
- Afternoon – Coordination among partners to evacuate houseless areas**
- 5:18 **Assembly Area locations announced**
- 6:00 **Bus service suspended**
- 10:38 **Tsunami Warning downgraded to Advisory**
- 11:00 **All roads reopened and traffic reported to be slow but flowing**



**Assembly Area: Parking lot or other outdoor waiting area opened as a last resort option for people who do not have another safe place to go when a hazard forces them to evacuate or temporarily keeps them from reaching their home.**



# CHALLENGES, FUTURE



## 2. PUBLIC ALERT AND WARNING / EVACUATION

- Lack of understanding of 2 evacuation zones among public and responders
- Limited evacuation routes and severe traffic congestion under normal conditions
- Strong public desire to be told specific place to go
- People getting on road who did not need to
- Technology makes it harder to communicate evacuation zone to some populations
- Vulnerable populations need evac assistance
- Statewide messaging via alert systems diminished distribution of local evacuation guidance

## 1. COORDINATION OF RESPONSE EFFORTS

- Decentralized and dated plans
- Long time in between events meant gaps in institutional knowledge and understanding of response protocols
- Difficulty obtaining situational awareness in EOC
- *Post-impact plans and protocols*

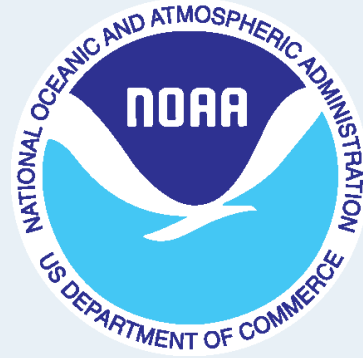
## 3. WHAT TO WORK ON

- Public Education, Set Expectations
- Evacuation: What is executable plan?
- Alert Cancellation Protocols, Re-entry



**unesco**

Intergovernmental  
Oceanographic  
Commission



**MAHALO**