

Hawaii Severe Storms and Flooding – FEMA-1814-DR

Declared January 5, 2009

On December 24, 2008, Governor Linda Lingle requested a major disaster declaration due to heavy rains, high winds, and flooding caused by a low pressure system during the period of December 10-16, 2008. The Governor requested a declaration for Individual Assistance for the City and County of Honolulu; Public Assistance for the City and County of Honolulu and the County of Kauai; and Hazard Mitigation statewide. During the period of December 22-23, 2008, joint Federal, State, and local Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs) were conducted in the requested counties and are summarized below. PDAs estimate damages immediately after an event and are considered, along with several other factors, in determining whether a disaster is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and the affected local governments, and that Federal assistance is necessary.¹

On January 5, 2009, President Bush declared that a major disaster exists in the State of Hawaii. This declaration made Individual Assistance requested by the Governor available to affected individuals and households in the City and County of Honolulu. This declaration also made Public Assistance requested by the Governor available to State and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged by the severe storms and flooding in the City and County of Honolulu and the County of Kauai. Finally, this declaration also made Hazard Mitigation Grant Program assistance requested by the Governor available for hazard mitigation measures statewide.

Summary of Damage Assessment Information Used in Determining Whether to Declare a Major Disaster

Individual Assistance

- Total Number of Residences Impacted:² 541
 - Destroyed - 61
 - Major Damage - 109
 - Minor Damage - 254
 - Affected - 117

- Percentage of insured residences:³ (2%)
- Percentage of low income households:⁴ (90%)
- Percentage of elderly households:⁵ -
- Total Individual Assistance cost estimate: \$2,110,615

Public Assistance

- Primary Impact: Costs associated with roads and bridges
- Total Public Assistance cost estimate: \$5,720,000
- Statewide per capita impact:⁶ \$4.72
- Statewide per capita impact indicator:⁷ \$1.31
- Countywide per capita impact: Honolulu City and County (\$3.65)
Kauai County (\$43.19)
- Countywide per capita impact indicator:⁸ \$3.28

¹ The preliminary damage assessment (PDA) process is a mechanism used to determine the impact and magnitude of damage and resulting needs of individuals, businesses, public sector, and community as a whole. Information collected is used by the State as a basis for the Governor's request for a major disaster or emergency declaration, and by the President in determining a response to the Governor's request (44 CFR § 206.33).

² Degree of damage to impacted residences:

- Destroyed – total loss of structure, structure is not economically feasible to repair, or complete failure to major structural components (e.g., collapse of basement walls/foundation, walls or roof);
- Major Damage – substantial failure to structural elements of residence (e.g., walls, floors, foundation), or damage that will take more than 30 days to repair;
- Minor Damage – home is damaged and uninhabitable, but may be made habitable in short period of time with repairs; and
- Affected – some damage to the structure and contents, but still habitable.

³ By law, Federal disaster assistance cannot duplicate insurance coverage (44 CFR § 206.48(b)(5)).

⁴ Special populations, such as low-income, the elderly, or the unemployed may indicate a greater need for assistance (44 CFR § 206.48(b)(3)).

⁵ Ibid (44 CFR § 206.48(b)(3)).

⁶ Based on State population in the 2000 Census.

⁷ Statewide Per Capita Impact Indicator for FY09, *Federal Register*, October 1, 2008.

⁸ Countywide Per Capita Impact Indicator for FY09, *Federal Register*, October 1, 2008.