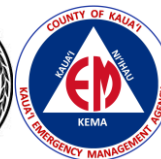


KAUA'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

ELTON USHIO, ADMINISTRATOR



DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR
MICHAEL A. DAHLIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR

January 12, 2022 Menehune Road Update

**This daily newsletter is posted online at www.kauai.gov/kema.
Click on the blue button at the top of the page labeled "Waimea Valley Rockslide.**

IMPORTANT HAZARD NOTICE

Large, loose boulders continue to fall onto the roadway below. Please DO NOT cross or approach the rockfall site at any time. Doing so could result in severe injury or death. To ensure the safety of all residents and workers, officials are working to confirm 24/7 security service at the rockfall site.

Road Closure and Slope Stabilization

Today, January 12, contractors utilized a lift and air hammer to remove additional high-risk rock and further stabilized slope edge atop the 60-foot cliff above Menehune Road. Work also included placement of concrete eco blocks to further secure the Waimea Swinging Bridge from further damage. Additional work to install measures to secure/protect the bridge is expected to be completed by Friday, January 14. Slope stabilization activities will continue once the bridge is secure.

Menehune Road is expected to remain fully closed for roughly three weeks, until the slope above the roadway can be stabilized and is deemed safe for daily passing. Contractors are working seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. until the slope is stabilized.

Waimea Swinging Bridge

Contractors continue to assess damage to Waimea Swinging Bridge. However, repair work to the bridge cannot begin until the slope is stabilized. Given the historic nature of the bridge, we expect this to be a long-term repair project.

We realize this pedestrian bridge is an essential point of access to our Makaweli residents, and we will continue to work with residents on continued needs. Makaweli residents requiring assistance are urged to contact KEMA at the numbers listed below.

Food Distribution

The Kekaha Ag Association, E Ola Mau Na Leo O Kekaha, Hawai'i FoodBank – Kaua'i Branch (HFB-Kaua'i), and Kumano I Ke Ala organized a food distribution yesterday, January 11, for the affected residents in Waimea Valley.

Subsequent food distribution is planned for Friday, January 14. If needed, further food distributions will take place with the continued closure of Menehune Road.

Mahalo to KIUC, Chad Buck of Hawaii Foodservice Alliance, Waimea Hongwanji, West Kaua'i Christian Center, County officials, Council Member Billy DeCosta, Council Chair Arryl Kaneshiro, Hawai'i Community Foundation, Kamehameha Schools, Vandersloot Foundation, Nourish Kaua'i, Waimea High School, Senate President Ron Kouchi, 'Āina Ho'okupu O Kīlauea, and local farmers and fishers for also contributing to the food distribution.

Refuse Service

Residents are asked to leave their bagged trash in their refuse carts next Monday, January 17, for early-morning pickup on Tuesday, January 18.

For those without cans, please leave your bagged household waste in a covered trash receptacle at the side of the road immediately adjacent to your driveway. Trash receptacles must not exceed 50 pounds, and more than one covered receptacle may be used.

To ensure efficient pickup, please double bag your household trash and place it in your County issued refuse carts. Bulky items, green waste, and loose trash will not be collected at this time.

Panini Road Emergency Access Route

The State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) has opened an alternate emergency access route from Waimea Canyon Drive, known as Panini Road. The Panini Road access is limited to local residents and first responders via 4 x 4 usage only. Motorists are urged to drive slowly and cautiously, as heavy machinery is in the area, and crews with DLNR are continuing to improve the road.

Utilities

All utilities in the area have been restored, including power, water, phone, and cable/internet services.

As a reminder, with internet service restored, this daily newsletter will be available online. To view, visit www.kauai.gov/kema and click on the blue button at the top of the page labeled "Waimea Valley Rockslide."

Wellness Checks and Needs Assessments

KEMA continues to coordinate door-to-door wellness checks to residents along Menehune Road and on the Makaweli-side of the river. The wellness team is being led by KEMA and Community Liaison Kaina Makua of Kumano I Ke Ala community non-profit.

Mahalo to our community partners who have donated food, pet food, and other supplies. If you have any need during the road closure please relay that information to our wellness team and KEMA will coordinate delivery. All contact numbers are included below.

Kupuna Care

The county's Agency on Elderly Affairs is conducting wellness checks specifically for kupuna in the area, age 60 and older. If you have a kupuna that has not yet been contacted by the Agency on Elderly Affairs, please contact their office at (808) 241-4470.

Postal Service

We continue to work with USPS officials to establish mail service. Updates will be provided once confirmed.

School/Education Needs

Families with school-aged children who have limited internet access were provided MiFi devices by DOE to assist children with distance learning options during the road closure. If you have a school-aged child who needs assistance with distance learning options, please contact KEMA at the number below.

Important Contacts

- If you require assistance during work hours, you may call the Kaua'i Emergency Management Agency (KEMA) at 808-241-1800.
- For kupuna assistance, please contact the Agency on Elderly Affairs at (808) 241-4470.
- If after working hours, call Kaua'i Police Dispatch at 808-241-1711.
- If this is an emergency and you require immediate assistance, call 911.