



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

## News Release

For Immediate Release: January 25, 2022

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COUNTY OF KAUA'I  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
TROY TANIGAWA, ACTING COUNTY ENGINEER  
(808) 241-4993

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### Jan. 25 update on Waimea Valley Rockslide

WAIMEA – Officials are announcing the following updates for the Waimea community affected by the rockslide that occurred on Menehune Road on Jan. 4. The next update is expected to be announced on Friday, Jan. 28.

While on Kaua'i, officials from the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency accompanied by KEMA Administer Elton Ushio visited the rockslide site on Menehune Road, Tuesday morning.

“The county made tremendous progress in the stabilization of the rockslide,” said Luke P. Meyers, HI-EMA Administrator. “The community was tested and proved to be invaluable resilient.”

#### **Road Closure and Slope Stabilization**

HiTech Rockfall Construction completed rock scaling work on the slope above Menehune Road on Monday, and began demobilization on Tuesday.

As HiTech demobilizes from the site this week, the County of Kaua'i's Public Works Roads Division is inspecting the condition of Menehune Road and will begin installing traffic safety measures, including the placement of barriers along the riverside embankment.

Due to the completion of rock scaling work, Menehune Road reopened to all traffic on Tuesday, Jan. 25. However, officials advise that ongoing temporary road closures may still be necessary for the next few weeks, as continuous work on the slope is needed.

Upcoming work on the slope includes the installation of erosion control measures, which will be conducted by Geolabs – the county’s contracted geotechnical engineering firm – along with HiTech. This work is currently scheduled for Monday, Jan. 31, and will require a full closure of Menehune Road for at least one day. More details on this road closure will be announced in the coming days.

### **Waimea Swinging Bridge**

With the reopening of Menehune Road, the County can now begin further damage assessments of the Waimea Swinging Bridge. Next week, crews will conduct additional safety measures to further stabilize the bridge before temporary repairs begin. Temporary repairs will start soon after to restore pedestrian access until permanent repairs commence. More details, along with a timeline on these repairs, will be shared once a schedule is confirmed.

Given the historic nature of the bridge, officials expect this to be a long-term repair project. Understanding that the pedestrian bridge is an important point of access to Makaweli residents, officials will continue to work with residents on continued needs. Makaweli residents requiring assistance are urged to contact the Kaua’i Emergency Management Agency (KEMA) at 808-241-1800.

### **Refuse Service**

The next refuse collection is currently scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 1. Residents are asked to leave their bagged trash in their refuse carts on Monday, Jan. 31, for early-morning pickup on Tuesday.

To ensure efficient pickup, please double bag your household trash and place it in your county-issued refuse carts. For those without refuse carts, please leave your bagged household waste in a covered trash receptacle at the side of the road immediately adjacent to your driveway. Trash should be double-bagged in the event manual loading into a truck becomes necessary. Trash receptacles must not exceed 50 pounds, and more than one covered receptacle may be used. Bulky items, green waste, and loose trash will not be collected at this time.

### **Food Distribution/Wellness Checks/Needs Assessments**

Families are reporting that they have food and supplies for the time being. Supply deliveries will occur, however, on a case-by-case basis.

Wellness checks and needs assessments will continue as needed for residents along Menehune Road and on the Makaweli-side of the river. Anyone needing assistance is asked to call KEMA at 808-241-1800, who will coordinate with community partners.

### **Panini Road Emergency Access Route**

The State Department of Land and Natural Resources' (DLNR) alternate emergency access route from Waimea Canyon Drive, known as Panini Road, will remain open to local residents and first responders via 4 x 4 usage only. Motorists are urged to drive slowly and cautiously through the area.

### **Additional Assistance**

If anyone in the affected area requires assistance during work hours, please call the Kaua'i Emergency Management Agency (KEMA) at 808-241-1800. After working hours, please call Kaua'i Police Dispatch at 808-241-1711. If you have an emergency and require immediate assistance, please call 911. If you have a kupuna needing assistance from the Agency on Elderly Affairs, please contact their office at 808-241-4470. If you have a school-aged child who needs assistance with distance learning options, please contact KEMA at 808-241-1800.

Those wishing to provide services or resources are asked to coordinate with KEMA.

The next update is expected to be announced on Friday, Jan. 28, via news release and online newsletter available on the "Waimea Valley Rockslide" page at [www.kauai.gov/KEMA](http://www.kauai.gov/KEMA).



**Above photo:** HI-EMA Administrator Luke P. Meyers and HI-EMA Public Relations Specialist Hollie Reina speak to county official Nancy McMahon while visiting Menehune Road on Tuesday.



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