

# KAUA'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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## January 10, 2022 Menehune Road Update

\*\*This daily newsletter will be posted online at [www.kauai.gov/kema](http://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**

The first phase of rock scaling work continued today. This work includes forcing loose rocks off the slope onto the roadway below. Steel plates and a protective layer of rock remain on the roadway to safeguard the Department of Water's 10-inch waterline.

Starting tomorrow (Tuesday, January 11), contractors will temporarily suspend rock scaling work to focus on securing the Waimea Swinging Bridge from further damage. This work is expected to take roughly four days, from Tuesday through Friday. 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 important 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 numbers listed below.

## **ONE-TIME ONLY Vehicle Access Out of Menehune Road**

As we approach making the Panini Road access available for residential 4 x 4 usage, we understand some vehicles necessary for transportation may not be able to use that route.

On Tuesday, January 11, there will be a transition in construction work activities that could provide an opportunity for residents to relocate their 2-wheel-drive vehicles OUT of the affected area through Menehune Road. Contractors are on pace to clear a temporary path today, and will determine if it is safe for this one-time emergency access for vehicle transit.

This one-time vehicle access is tentatively planned for 10 to 11 a.m. on Tuesday, January 11, pending confirmation from the contractor. Please stage your vehicles prior to 10 a.m., to prevent traffic congestion with the county's refuse truck. Vehicles should be staged at the location shown below and you will be given further instructions.

Please note, this will be a **one-way out** opportunity for residents to mobilize their vehicles to the other side of the rockslide. You will not be allowed to drive back into the area through Menehune Road.



## **Refuse Service**

**Reminder: Refuse collection will be on Tuesday, January 11.** Residents are asked to leave their bagged trash in their refuse carts on Monday, January 10 for early-morning pickup on Tuesday. Refuse collection will be limited to bagged household waste only.

For those without cans, please leave your bagged household waste at the side of the road immediately adjacent to your driveway.

To ensure efficient pickup, please double bag your household trash and place 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 emergency responders only until further notice as DLNR continues to improve the roadway for local access. Any emergency supplies or resources over this roadway must be coordinated through KEMA for transport.

Panini Road will be opened on a limited basis to residents and responders as soon as it is deemed safe. An updated timeline on limited local access is expected in the coming days.

## **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](http://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.

The Elderly Affairs team is expected to conduct door-to-door outreach with kupuna care packages on Tuesday, January 11.

### **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.