

KAUA'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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January 13, 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.

Security Service at Rockfall Site

Starting tonight, Jan. 13, private security will be stationed overnight at the rockfall site. This will ensure the safety of all residents and workers. Mahalo to the Kaua'i Police Department for their assistance to secure the site this past week.

Road Closure and Slope Stabilization

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.

Work to stabilize the Waimea Swinging Bridge tower and lateral supports was completed yesterday, and crews began the next phase of work to protect the historic bridge from further damage.

In addition to ongoing protection measures, contractors today began installing support posts for a chain link fence along a portion of the slope, above the Waimea Swinging Bridge. This fence will protect the bridge from rocks released during the ongoing rock scaling work. A helicopter was used to mobilize the fence material onto the slope, while demobilizing the existing drilling equipment. Installation of the fence is expected to continue tomorrow.

Waimea Swinging Bridge

Work to repair the Waimea Swinging Bridge will start after the slope is stabilized. Given the historic nature of the bridge, we expect this to be a long-term repair project. We will continue to work with Makaweli residents on their continued needs. If you require assistance, please contact KEMA at the numbers listed below.

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. 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.

Food Distribution

The next food distribution will be Friday, Jan. 14.

Mahalo to the following organizations and community partners for their past and ongoing assistance with providing food and supplies to residents: The Kekaha Ag Association, E Ola Mau Na Leo O Kekaha, Hawai'i FoodBank – Kaua'i Branch (HFB-Kaua'i), Kumano I Ke Ala, 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, state DLNR, and local farmers and fishers for also contributing to the food distribution.

Kupuna Care

The county's Agency on Elderly Affairs will continue to conduct 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.

Refuse Service

The next refuse collection is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 18. Residents are asked to leave their bagged trash in their refuse carts next Monday, Jan. 17, for early-morning pickup on Tuesday. Officials will confirm the refuse collection schedule in the coming days.

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 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.

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.

Postal Service

With Panini Road open to local access, residents are able to check their mail at their Post Office boxes. If you need further assistance with mail service, please contact KEMA at the number below.

Utilities

All utilities in the area have been restored, including power, water, phone, and cable/internet services. If you are experiencing utility disruptions, please contact KEMA at the number below and someone will coordinate with the respective utility company.

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.