

# KAUA'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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## January 14, 2022 Menehune Road Update

\*\*This daily newsletter is 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. Private security will remain at the rockfall site overnight. This will ensure the safety of all residents and workers. Please heed all warnings and use the alternate route on Panini Road if you need to access the area.**

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

Menehune Road is expected to remain fully closed until the end of January. Reopening of the roadway will be based on when the slope above the roadway is stabilized and deemed safe for daily passing. Contractors are working seven days a week, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Due to roadway embankment erosion concerns, crews yesterday removed a large (6' x 10') boulder that had fallen into the river during the rockslide. Contractors simultaneously continue to work on slope stabilization activities, including the installation of a chain link fence along a portion of the slope. The fence will protect the historic bridge from rocks released during ongoing rock scaling work. HiTech, the county's contractor, anticipates the focus of work will shift primarily to rock scaling by this afternoon.

### **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.

### **Refuse Service**

The next refuse collection is 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. Please be sure to check the daily newsletters for any updates or changes to this schedule.

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 double 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.

### **Food Distribution**

Another community-led food distribution was held today, Jan. 14, for Waimea Valley residents.

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, Kaua'i County Council Members, Hawai'i Community Foundation, Kamehameha Schools, Vandersloot Foundation, Nourish Kaua'i, Waimea High School, Senate President Ron Kouchi, U.S. Representative Kaiali'i (Kai) Kahele, 'Āina Ho'okupu O Kīlauea, state DLNR-DOFAW, and local farmers and fishers for also contributing to the food distribution.

The next food distribution will be announced when a schedule is confirmed.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Important Contacts**

- If you require assistance during work hours, you may call the Kaua'i Emergency Management Agency (KEMA) at 808-241-1800.
- 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.
- For kupuna assistance, please contact the Agency on Elderly Affairs at (808) 241-4470.
- For all other assistance including utility, postal service, and school/education needs, please contact KEMA at 808-241-1800 and someone will help to coordinate with the appropriate official.