

KAUA'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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January 22, 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. 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 access route on Panini Road if you need to leave the area.

Road Closure and Slope Stabilization

New updates: HiTech, the County's contractor, completed two full scaling runs on Friday, removing boulders and rocks off the slope above Menehune Road. Work also included hand-raking smaller rocks off the slope, and removing large boulders and branches off the riverbank. Additionally, contractors continue to manually remove small rocks that fall into the Menehune Ditch during scaling activity. Four truckloads of rock was hauled out on Friday.

Today, HiTech is securing the rockfall barrier fence to the slope by drilling additional anchors and replacing damaged mesh panels and other hardware.

Continuing work: Another 1-2 days of rock scaling on the slope are anticipated, weather permitting. An additional day or two is needed to clean Menehune Road, Menehune Ditch, and for demobilization.

As the contractor scales higher up the slope, the impact on Menehune Road and the steel plates may increase due to rockfall scaling. Because of this, Menehune Road is lined with 25 yards of cushion material to prevent further damage to the road and steel plates from rockfall scaling.

Menehune Road is expected to remain fully closed until further notice, with a possibility of reopening before 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.

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

Refuse collection is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 25. Please be sure to check the daily newsletters for any updates or changes to this schedule.

Residents are asked to leave their bagged trash in their refuse carts Monday, Jan. 24, 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

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

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 Kaiuli'i (Kai) Kahele, 'Āina Ho'okupu O Kīlauea, state DLNR-DOFAW, and local farmers and fishers for also contributing to the food distribution.

Wellness Checks and Needs Assessments

The wellness checks and needs assessments team is now led by the Hawai'i Foodbank – Kaua'i Branch and Pastor Darryl Kua of the Westside Christian Center Assembly of God. They will be conducting periodic needs assessments and running food and supplies to the affected residents based on these check-ins.

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 coordinate with the appropriate official.