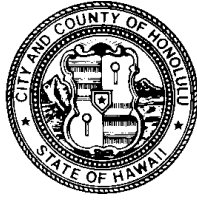


OAHU CIVIL DEFENSE AGENCY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
650 SOUTH KING STREET HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813



17. Plan Maintenance

PLAN MAINTENANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES

FEMA requirements for the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan after adoption by the local governing body include monitoring, evaluating, and updating the plan at least every 5 years. Such updates to the plan may need to occur because of:

- The form of implementation of mitigation actions within City programs over time
- Development of new mitigation recommendations or updates on the benefit-cost performance of current mitigation options
- Changes necessary due Federal, State, or City legislative acts and appropriations
- Plan revision recommendations from State or City officials, or additional Federal mandates
- The need to coordinate the Plan with other hazards, such as Homeland Security threats
- Public involvement in mitigation and other existing planning activities, such as the Oahu Development Plans
- Scientific and other technical data updates recommended based on new data, analysis, or scientific and Geographic Information System modeling capabilities
- Loss events or new information on temporal or long-term changes in underlying environmental conditions, that indicate new mitigation needs that need to be addressed
- Changes in FEMA mitigation project eligibility or priority criteria and procedures that inevitably occur over time

For the purpose of active maintenance of the Plan, the City & County of Honolulu's Oahu Civil Defense Agency (OCDA) has created a broadly based community resource comprised of public, institutional, private, professional, and industry groups with interests in hazard mitigation, the Oahu Disaster Mitigation Council (ODMC). This coordinating council continues the collaborative forum of the past years efforts formerly undertaken under the Oahu Project Impact Committee. The ODMC therefore has a considerable invested knowledge of hazards, vulnerabilities, and experience with mitigation and public outreach actions that have been utilized in the City and County of Honolulu. It is also an organization that is recognized by City and State officials as well as the public. The ODMC meets periodically at about two-month intervals, allowing continuous monitoring of the above referenced potential impacts to the Plan.

An abbreviated electronic version of the Plan exists on a public website, MotherNature.com, that is hosted by the University of Hawai's Social Science Research Institute, along with an email link to OCDA. This enables further public input and requests for information to be gathered. The City's Department of Planning & Permitting GIS division, which contributed significantly to hazard, infrastructure, and community asset layers utilized in the Plan, will also electronically publish a more complete version of this document on its website.

The City Department of Planning & Permitting is already engaged in the ODMC and is undertaking a building code update that will incorporate state-of-the-art hazard information on topographic amplification of hurricane winds for design purposes. This may well be the first county in the nation to incorporate such detailed requirements over its entire jurisdiction. Because of the leading role that Honolulu plays in setting precedent for the other counties in Hawaii, it therefore becomes more probable that such wind hazard mitigation through improved code provisions will take place statewide.

Because the Plan incorporates a significant compendium of information on natural hazards and vulnerabilities affecting public safety, it is anticipated that it will be used as a primary template to produce a wide range of public information products to be disseminated at public outreach events that are a normal part of OCDA activities. The public and City Council response during the planning process indicated that much of this information was not well-known prior to this planning effort. City workshops at the departmental level are taking place to further emphasize the need to incorporate natural hazard consideration in the planning of public facilities. Such workshops would be incorporated as an adjunct to the annual disaster response exercises that are conducted annually by OCDA. This may also allow to summary discussion of mitigation-related efforts undertaken to be incorporated in an updated Plan.

Implementation of mitigation actions (whether or not FEMA funded) through planning integrated within existing city programs is considered a key to long-term success. City departments with public facility responsibilities are the initiators of capital improvement and repair and maintenance projects at the City level. The ODMC can therefore function as a communication link and discussion forum for responsive planning and to recognize opportunities for mitigation projects that may acquire FEMA support, and thereby quicken solutions to facility site and building issues.

It has been recommended by OCDA to further efforts to bring natural hazard disaster mitigation into pre-existing planning efforts, such as the Oahu Development and Sustainable Community Plans, should occur. Currently, these plans tend to recognize changes due to development trends, but not necessarily the need to mitigate against less predictable catastrophic natural hazard effects that may have great impact on community sustainability. Therefore, City Council action is being sought to require integration of the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan into existing County plan updates currently mandated under City Charter.

The City & County's well-established elected Neighborhood Board system provides community-based forums for future briefings on proposed updates to the Plan.