Hawai'i County Kīlauea Lava Eruption Recovery & Resilience



"Fissure 8" and Lava River



Lava Reaches Kapoho June 3, 2018



Shelter for Survivors in Pāhoa



Ongoing Heat at Ala'ili



Planning Coordination / Integration



Recovery Community Engagement



Vision for Recovery + Resilience

To foster resilient communities that respects the Puna region's ever-changing landscape. This vision honors 'aina, supports our communities to recover from the 2018 Kilauea eruption, builds our capacity to mitigate against disaster events by reducing risk to life and property, and facilitates economic opportunity and wellbeing for residents.

Kīlauea Recovery + Resilience Plan

- Near-Term Goal: Facilitate projects and efforts that continue to provide relief to residents and businesses impacted by the eruption in the Puna District.
- Long-Term Goal: Implement strategies, policies, and projects that protect public health and safety, enhance community well-being, and help create a resilient economy islandwide.

Recovery + Resilience Strategies

Kīlauea Eruption Recovery: Invest in infrastructure that supports recovery, promotes housing security, addresses eruption-impacted properties, and supports community economic recovery.

Disaster Resilience: Improve community planning and disaster preparedness, manage development in high hazard risk areas through land use, and implement mitigation measures for natural and built infrastructure.

Building Community Capacity: Build networks and community capacity, invest in targeted revitalization efforts in Puna to support disaster resilience and economic growth, identify areas for natural and cultural resources management and agriculture development, and improve access to goods and services.

Key Decisions + Priorities

- Voluntary housing buyout program for inundated and isolated properties – focus on LMI, primary homes, where public roads are not being restored
- Targeted restoration of public roads focusing on regional circulation, access to kipuka and farmland
- Long-term management of buyout areas
- Preservation of natural and cultural resources
- Recovery from economic impacts from the eruption – during current COVID-19 pandemic

Lessons Learned

- In light of hazard exposure, how much development to allow indirectly or enable directly
- Disaster recovery framework and capacity to rise to the challenge of long-term recovery
- The time to make recovery decisions on entitlements, infrastructure and community development is before a disaster
- Balancing planning fatigue with the need to coordinate planning efforts.
- Community engagement that is inclusive of all no one is advocating for those who want to leave

Unique Challenges

- Applying the mo'olelo of place in a contemporary context of hazard mitigation
- Managing buyout areas in neighborhoods that may not be congruent in terms of site or use
- Working with community undergoing physical change and emotional trauma
- Kuleana: Community / County / Collective
- Expediency of immediate recovery vs. time to manage recovery process and federal funding
- Defining what it means to "bounce forward" and resilience as a process, not an outcome

Kīlauea Recovery and Resilience Plan

