Hawaii’s Year in Review: 2015
February 4, 2016

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Hawaii Emergency Management Agency
April is Tsunami Awareness Month in Hawai‘i. This month was chosen to honor the victims and survivors of the April 1, 1946 Tsunami that originated from the Aleutian Islands.

April 1, 2015
• Tsunami awareness activities, including a hands-on demonstration, took place at Lanikai Elementary School.

April 15, 2015
• Tsunami Awareness Presentation (Hawaii Hazard Awareness and Resiliency Program) at Waianae District Park. Pacific Tsunami Warning Center presented tsunami basics.

April 20-21, 2015
• International Tsunami Symposium – 50th Anniversary of the Pacific Tsunami Warning & Mitigation System “Making the Pacific Ready for the Tsunami Threat”

April 22-24, 2015
• Twenty-sixth Session of the UNESCO IOC Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System
Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) worked diligently to support local efforts to enhance tsunami awareness and preparedness throughout the state in 2015. (Currently, there are five communities within three to four months of completing their recognition process and eight to ten more waiting to get started)

“Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (formerly known as State Civil Defense)” As of 01-28-2016, we will be known as Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA).
In July, HI-EMA collaborated with the Honolulu City & County Department of Emergency Management (DEM) to unveil the newly created Extreme Tsunami Evacuation Zone maps for the island of Oahu.

In October, HI-EMA spearheaded a campaign to promote the Great Hawaii ShakeOut annual earthquake drill. In Hawaii, earthquakes can cause locally generated tsunamis, which is one of our state’s greatest natural threats. In a partnership with the State Department of Education, all students practiced the proper “Drop, Cover and Hold On” technique to protect themselves from the effects of an earthquake. Schools located within a Tsunami Evacuation Zone followed the earthquake drill with a campus wide evacuation to their designated safety zones. More than 244,000 people participated in the drill statewide.
The Pacific Tsunami Museum unveiled its brand new Tsunami Safety Wall exhibit in August with the assistance and support of HI-EMA. In addition to illustrating the differences between locally generated and distant tsunamis, the wall also shows visitors how to prepare before a tsunami approaches, take action once a tsunami warning is issued, and stay informed and calm after a tsunami strikes.
Aloha, John
We will miss you!
TBT photo, What a team!