

NTHMP Review Committee Consensus Statement

The NTHMP has established a unique partnership among multiple states and federal agencies that has been developed over the past decade, has set challenging goals, and met many of them. This program has institutionalized a partnership between federal and state members that is unmatched by other hazard and risk management programs. The reviewers unanimously agree on the following points:

- NTHMP was established well before the Sumatra tsunami and its goals have been validated by the impacts of that event. Recognition of a broader regional vulnerability to tsunamis, coupled with the success of the NTHMP provided the foundation for the Tsunami Warning and Education Act.
- Despite modest budget allocations, the program has achieved much because the state and federal agency partners have made investments of time and effort that go beyond normal expectations.
- All state and federal NTHMP representatives were highly engaged in the activities of the program and committed to its success.
- The program has expanded beyond a narrow focus on mitigation to include community resiliency. The reviewers endorse this expanded interpretation of the program's goals
- The representatives recognize that the technology developed and used by the program must be tied to education and awareness in order to be effective.
- The program has allowed states to experiment with alternative methods of achieving tsunami safety. This has resulted in a variety of innovative approaches that now provide an opportunity to develop assessment tools for evaluating their relative effectiveness.
- Since products such as inundation maps have been implemented at the local level, NTHMP is in a unique position to establish performance standards and standardized assessment tools for evaluating its effectiveness.
- There is a strong need for the National Academy of Sciences' review of the forecast/warning system and an external review of the *TsunamiReady* community program.
- The expansion of the NTHMP from the five Pacific states to 29 coastal states, commonwealths, and territories and the passage of the Tsunami Warning and Education Act offers a unique opportunity to strengthen the organizational structure of the program and enhance tsunami resilience in the United States.

- The lessons learned from the existing program should now be transferred to the additional 24 members that have joined the expanded program.
- The overarching goal for all partners is to continue to demonstrate the program's value over the next five years and to achieve a sustainable program.