



Proclamation

Tsunamis are ocean waves created by earthquakes or volcanic eruptions, and can be large and destructive in nature.

As an island chain in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, Hawai'i is vulnerable to tsunamis. Throughout the 20th century, more than 220 people have been killed by tsunamis in Hawai'i, which is more deaths than all other natural disasters combined. The deadliest event occurred April 1, 1946, when a tsunami caused a massive earthquake in Alaska's Aleutian Islands that led to waves that killed 165 people in the state.

In 2005, Hawai'i became the first state in the nation to receive *Storm Ready / Tsunami Ready* recognition from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The program features a community preparedness program encouraging residents and visitors to take a proactive approach to improving local hazardous weather operations by establishing a 24-hour warning point, developing multiple ways to receive severe weather and tsunami warnings and alerts, developing formal severe weather and tsunami hazard plans, and providing public readiness through community education. Individuals should take responsibility to be aware of hazardous weather conditions by listening to NOAA Weather Radio and Civil Defense authorities during emergencies.

While residents and visitors may have between four and 10 hours of preparation time to evacuate to higher ground in anticipation of a tsunami, Hawai'i remains at risk for tsunamis from local sources, although this occurs with much less frequency. Residents and visitors should immediately evacuate to higher ground if they are near the water and feel a strong shaking from an earthquake.

On April 1, the NOAA Pacific Tsunami Warning Center held a statewide tsunami exercise, while testing a new messaging system involving e-mail, cell phones and pagers created by Civil Defense to inform government officials, emergency responders and those who are deaf about tsunami watches or warnings. Several other events are planned throughout the month to educate the public about preparing for tsunamis.

THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor, and **I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR.**, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim the month of **April 2008** as

TSUNAMI AWARENESS MONTH

in Hawai'i, and encourage our citizens and visitors to increase their awareness by learning all they can regarding tsunamis in order to evacuate as quickly as possible when necessary.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this first day of April 2008.

Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i

James R. "Duke" Aiona, Jr.
Lieutenant Governor, State of Hawai'i