STORM SEASON PREP

HAWAII HURRICANE READY

20 things every household should do now



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INTRODUCTION

Storm prep in Hawaii is different. We are islands, supplies arrive by ship and plane, roads can be cut off by flooding or landslides, and one neighborhood can be dealing with heavy rain while another side of the same island is still dry.

That is why the goal is not to predict every storm perfectly. The goal is to make the easy decisions early - before the wind picks up, before the shelves get crowded, before the power goes out, and before a flooded road turns a ten-minute errand into a real problem.

Hurricane season in the Central Pacific runs June 1 through November 30. NOAA's 2026 outlook called for an above-normal season, and Hurricane Lowell knocked out power across much of Kaua'i in September 2026.

This checklist is built around the things that matter most in a Hawaii home: enough water and food to ride out disruptions, a realistic power-outage plan, safe flood and wind decisions, a way to protect pets and medications, and a clear idea of when staying home is no longer the safest option.

You do not need to finish everything in one shopping trip. Start with the gaps that would cause the biggest problem for your household, then build from there. Preparedness should feel practical, not panicked.

HOW TO USE THIS

Work through the 20-point checklist first. Then use the two question sections to pressure-test your home and your own plan. Finally, use the timeline on the last page to decide what belongs in the 'do now' bucket and what can wait until the forecast gets more serious.

For live conditions, always follow the newest National Weather Service, Central Pacific Hurricane Center, HIEMA and county emergency-management information. This guide is for preparation - not a replacement for a current watch, warning or evacuation order.

20 STORM PREP CHECKS

- [ ] **1. TURN ON OFFICIAL EMERGENCY ALERTS**
Enable county alerts and Wireless Emergency Alerts. Follow NWS/CPHC and county agencies before relying on social media.

- [ ] **2. BUILD YOUR TWO-WEEK WATER SUPPLY**
Work toward 1 gallon per person per day. Store clean water where it will stay cool, protected and easy to reach.

- [ ] **3. STOCK FOOD YOU CAN ACTUALLY EAT WITHOUT POWER**
Choose shelf-stable meals and snacks your household uses. Include a manual can opener and foods that need little or no cooking.

- [ ] **4. REFILL MEDICATIONS AND FIRST-AID BASICS**
Avoid waiting until the last day. Include prescriptions, first aid, eyeglasses, hearing-aid batteries and other personal medical needs.

- [ ] **5. CREATE A GRAB-AND-GO DOCUMENT POUCH**
Keep IDs, insurance information, medication lists, emergency contacts and some cash protected from water and easy to grab.

- [ ] **6. GET LIGHTING AND COMMUNICATION BACKUPS TOGETHER**
Keep flashlights, spare batteries, a battery/hand-crank radio, charging cables and a vehicle charger in one known place.

- [ ] **7. CHARGE EVERY BACKUP BEFORE THE WEATHER TURNS**
Top off phones, power banks, laptops, portable power stations, medical-device batteries and EVs while power is reliable.

- [ ] **8. PREPARE YOUR REFRIGERATOR AND FREEZER**
Set them colder before an expected outage, freeze ice or cold packs, and plan to keep doors shut once the power fails.

- [ ] **9. MAKE A PLAN FOR PETS, KIDS AND OLDER RELATIVES**
Set aside food, water, medications, diapers, comfort items, carriers and anything a dependent person or animal cannot go without.

- [ ] **10. FUEL UP AND PARK SMARTER**
Fuel gas vehicles, charge EVs, and avoid parking under large trees, near power lines, beside streams or in known low spots.

- [ ] **11. CHECK WINDOWS, DOORS AND GARAGE ACCESS**
Know how you would protect vulnerable glass if wind risk rises. Make sure exterior doors latch and you know the garage-door manual release.

- [ ] **12. CLEAR DRAINS, GUTTERS AND WATER PATHS**
Do this before heavy rain. Never climb onto a wet roof or attempt risky drainage work once conditions are deteriorating.

- [ ] **13. BRING LOOSE OUTDOOR ITEMS INSIDE**
Porch (lanai) furniture, umbrellas, grills, bins, planters, tools, tarps and debris can become dangerous projectiles in strong wind.

- [ ] **14. LOOK UP - TREES, ROOFS AND OVERHEAD HAZARDS**
Notice weak limbs, loose roofing, utility lines and anything that could fall. Do not attempt hazardous tree work near power lines yourself.

20 STORM PREP CHECKS

- [ ] **15. SET UP A GENERATOR PLAN BEFORE AN OUTAGE**
  Generators belong outdoors, away from doors, windows and vents. Never connect one through a household wall outlet.
- [ ] **16. KNOW YOUR FLOOD ESCAPE ROUTE**
  If you live near streams, low crossings or flood-prone roads, decide where higher ground is and how you will get there before water rises.
- [ ] **17. CHOOSE YOUR SAFE PLACE FOR STRONG WIND**
  Pick a small interior room or hallway away from windows. Keep shoes, lights, phones and emergency supplies within reach.
- [ ] **18. TREAT SURF AND THE OCEAN AS PART OF THE STORM**
  High surf, shorebreak and rip currents can become dangerous without a direct landfall. Reconsider swimming, surfing and boating early.
- [ ] **19. ASSUME EVERY DOWNED LINE IS LIVE**
  Stay at least 30 feet away from fallen power lines and from fences, trees or metal objects touching them. Report hazards to the utility or 911.
- [ ] **20. PLAN THE FIRST HOUR AFTER THE STORM**
  Avoid floodwater and unstable slopes, wait for road clearance, check food/water notices, photograph damage safely and keep monitoring alerts.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

STATEWIDE

- 911 — police, fire, ambulance, and any downed line that is sparking or burning
- 211 — Aloha United Way shelter and disaster info. Call 211 or text HELP to 877-275-6569
- weather.gov/hfo — National Weather Service Honolulu. Watches and warnings
- Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HIEMA): 808-733-4300

O'AHU

- Emergency management: 808-723-8960
- Power, Hawaiian Electric: 1-855-304-1212
- Water, Board of Water Supply: 808-748-5000

MAUI COUNTY

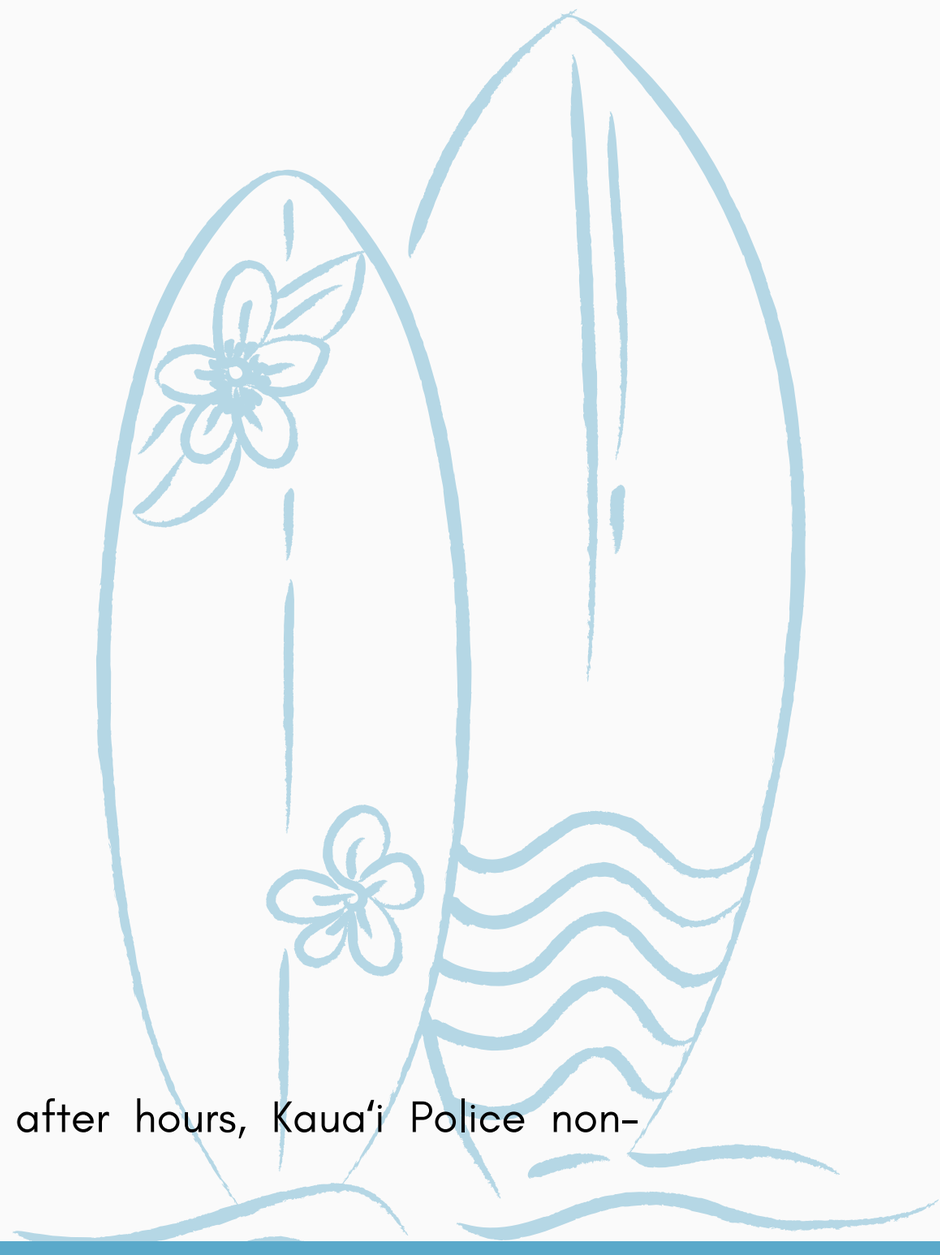
- Emergency management: 808-270-7285
- Maui Police 808-244-6400
- Power, Hawaiian Electric: 1-855-304-8181
- Moloka'i and Lāna'i power, Hawaiian Electric: 1-877-871-8461
- Water, Dept. of Water Supply: 808-270-7633

HAWAII ISLAND

- Civil Defense: 808-935-0031
- Police Dispatch 808-935-3311
- Power, Hawaiian Electric: 1-855-304-9191
- Water, Dept. of Water Supply: 808-961-8790

KAUA'I

- Emergency management: 808-241-1800
- Power, KIUC: 808-246-4300
- Water, Dept. of Water: 808-245-5444 (outages and leaks); after hours, Kaua'i Police non-emergency dispatch 808-241-1711



BEFORE YOU CALL THIS PLACE HOME

Questions to ask about the property, building and neighborhood

1. WHERE DOES THE WATER GO?

Ask where runoff flows, whether streets pond, and whether the home sits near a stream, low crossing, steep slope or known flood area.

2. HOW EASY IS IT TO GET IN AND OUT?

Is there more than one road? Could flooding, a fallen tree or a landslide cut off your normal route to work, school or medical care?

3. WHAT STOPS WORKING WHEN THE POWER DOES?

Find out whether the home depends on electric gates, elevators, catchment or well pumps, refrigeration, internet or other powered systems.

4. WHAT IS EXPOSED TO WIND, SURF OR FALLING DEBRIS?

Look at large trees, porches (lanais), roof edges, windows, retaining walls, coastal exposure and anything outside that could become a projectile.

5. WHERE WOULD WE GO IF STAYING HERE BECAME UNSAFE?

Know the safest interior room, the quickest route to higher ground and where official evacuation or shelter information would come from.

ARE YOU READY TO MOVE IN AND RIDE IT OUT?

Questions to ask yourself before you decide this home is truly a fit

1. COULD OUR HOUSEHOLD STAY HERE FOR TWO WEEKS?

Do we have enough water, food, medications, pet/kid supplies and hygiene basics without depending on a last-minute store run?

2. COULD WE HANDLE A 24-72 HOUR OUTAGE?

Think charging, refrigeration, medical needs, water pumps, cooking, lighting and how you would communicate if internet service drops.

3. DO WE KNOW WHAT WOULD MAKE US LEAVE?

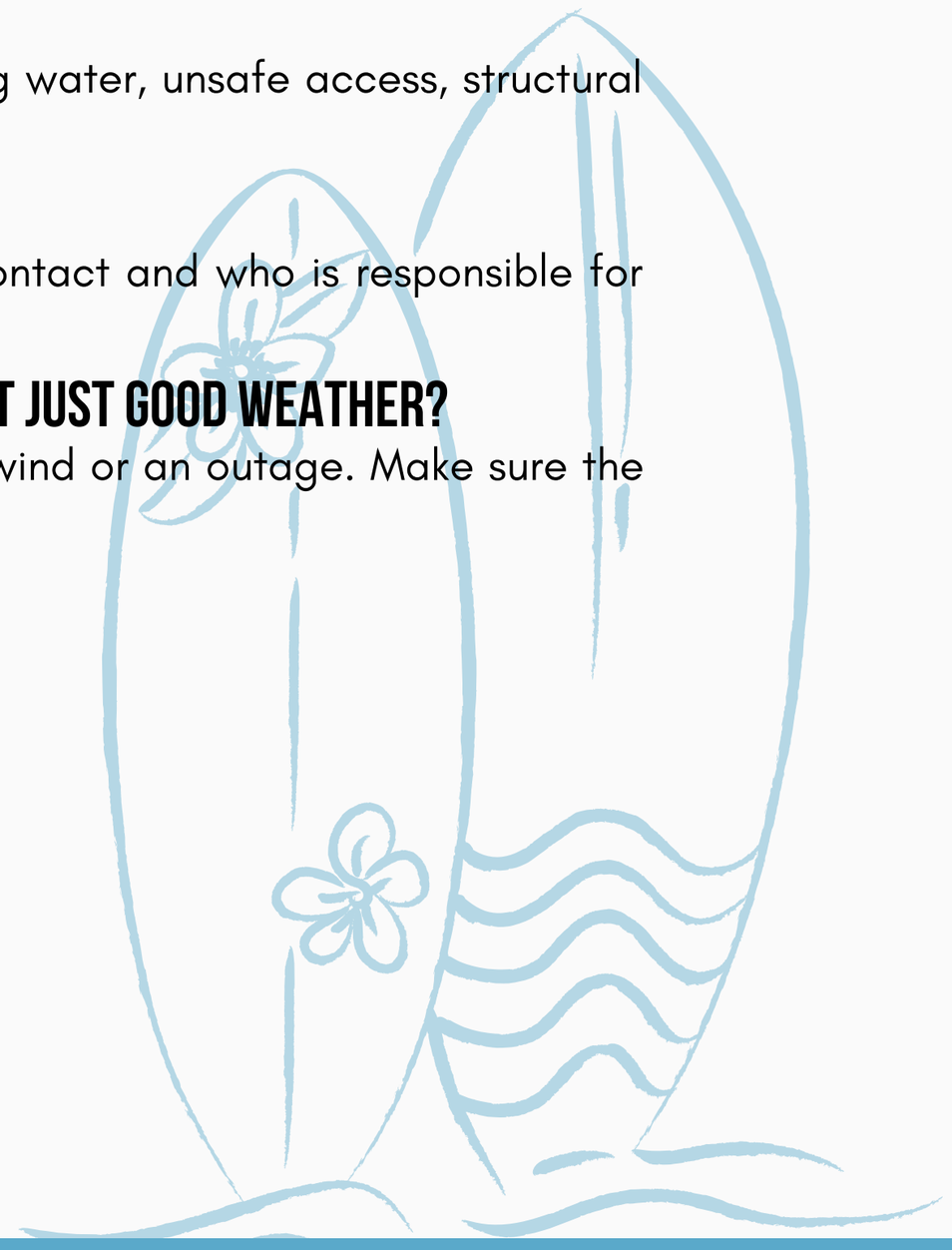
Decide in advance what triggers action: an evacuation order, rising water, unsafe access, structural damage or a medical need.

4. DOES EVERYONE KNOW THE PLAN?

Everyone should know the safe room, meeting point, emergency contact and who is responsible for pets, documents and essential supplies.

5. ARE WE COMFORTABLE WITH THIS LOCATION IN BAD WEATHER, NOT JUST GOOD WEATHER?

A home can feel very different during heavy rain, high surf, strong wind or an outage. Make sure the location still works when conditions are inconvenient.



WHAT TO DO NEXT

DO TODAY

- Turn on official alerts.
- Fill the biggest supply gaps.
- Charge backup power and check medications.

DURING DANGEROUS WEATHER

- Stay away from windows in strong wind.
- Move to higher ground when flood warnings require it.
- Never cross floodwater or approach downed lines.

BEFORE CONDITIONS WORSEN

- Secure outdoor items and vehicles.
- Prepare food, water and outage supplies.
- Leave early if your access route is vulnerable.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER

- Wait for road and utility clearance.
- Avoid floodwater, slopes and damaged trees.
- Check food/water notices and document damage safely.

READY TO TALK IT THROUGH?

Scan the QR code to book a free, no-pressure call. Bring the island, neighborhood or property you are considering, and we can talk through practical home and location factors, access, drainage, power, water systems, coastal exposure and everyday livability.

No pitch, no obligation. The goal is to help you understand the place before you depend on it during a storm.

Scan to Book a Time Here