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Assessing Vulnerability to Inform Pre-Disaster Recovery Planning in Waikiki



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About the speaker:

Rob Porro serves as the Coastal Planning and Engineering Specialist at the National Disaster Preparedness Training Center, helping to develop coastal hazard and resilience training courses for emergency management professionals and planners across the country. He has previously served as a naval officer and civil engineer for the U.S. Navy. Mr. Porro holds a B.S. in Ocean Engineering from the Florida Institute of Technology and a M.A. in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Hawaii, focusing on coastal planning. He holds a professional civil engineering license in the State of Hawaii and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Shore and Beach Preservation Association.

Abstract

Waikiki is especially vulnerable to natural disasters due to its exposure to multiple coastal hazards, the density of development, and its economic importance to the State. Planning for disaster recovery prior to an event is important not only to facilitate a return to normalcy, but also to identify opportunities to improve on existing vulnerabilities and reduce the risk to hazards. This presentation reports on the results of the Waikiki Pre-Disaster Recovery Planning Project, a project conducted by the National Disaster Preparedness Training Center to identify recommendations for pre-disaster recovery planning for this important district. Recommendations are based on the social, economic, and physical vulnerability of Waikiki to extreme events, federal/state/local guidance and examples, as well as input from Waikiki stakeholders. As part of the project, a detailed vulnerability assessment was conducted to provide the fact base and set the direction for the planning process. Understanding the vulnerability of Waikiki to coastal hazards helps in the development of a pre-disaster recovery plan by highlighting the challenges that should be addressed before a disaster and during recovery. This presentation focuses on the vulnerability assessment portion of the project and its role in informing pre-disaster recovery planning in Waikiki.