



PRESS RELEASE
MAYOR KIRK CALDWELL
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
CITY & COUNTY OF HONOLULU

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, April 26, 2017

Press Office: 768-5768

Honolulu — The Honolulu Department of Emergency Management (DEM), The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's International Tsunami Information Center (ITIC) and the Hawai'i State Public Library System have come together as partners to identify, preserve and archive historic images of the effects of tsunami events on O'ahu.

Dubbed the O'ahu Historical Tsunami Photo Project, the goal of this effort is to request assistance from island residents who may possess family photographs that contain images of tsunami damage or the aftereffects of tsunami impacts. The project also caps activities surrounding the annual statewide April Tsunami Awareness Month.

"We are aware of the many tsunami images held within the collections at the Bishop Museum, Hawai'i State Archives, The Pacific Tsunami Museum in Hilo and from within NOAA itself," said Dr. Laura Kong, director, NOAA/NWS ITIC. "These images have been known to the public for many years now. Our focus is to locate pictures in family collections that tell the rest of our tsunami story."

"What we are looking to archive are those images that may be in grandma's photo album, or on a wall in a living room," said Melvin Kaku, director, Department of Emergency Management. "Those are an important, but perishable part of our tsunami history and heritage. Those are the images that we are hoping to identify and preserve with this project."

Staff members from the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) and ITIC will be on hand at O'ahu libraries to assist with the archive phase of the project. Residents who are willing to share images of historical interest are asked to bring those photos to a participating library. Department of Emergency Management staff will scan and catalogue the images free of charge. Family photos will be immediately returned once the scanning process is completed. A signed release form is required to allow the use of the images on an ITIC O'ahu Historical Tsunami Photo Project webpage that is currently being developed.

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“The Hawai‘i State Public Library System is an important information resource for our community, and this effort serves to collect and make available these critical pieces of Hawai‘i history through the library system so they’re not lost,” said Stacey Aldrich, Hawai‘i State Librarian. Each of the participating libraries will have additional tsunami public education materials available, and the collected photos and information will eventually be available through the library system.

O‘ahu residents can bring photographs for scanning to the following libraries:

Liliha Public Library	Thursday, April, 27, 2017	12 p.m. to 4 p.m.
‘Āina Haina Public Library	Friday, May 12, 2017	12 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Wai‘anae Public Library	Thursday, May 25, 2017	12 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Wahiawā Public Library	Friday, May 26, 2017	12 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Kahuku Public School and Library	Tuesday, June 20, 2017	3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

In addition, residents wishing to share/upload images and view existing images, or obtain more information about the project can do so online at tsunamiphotos.org.

For further details contact the Department of Emergency Management at 808-723-8960 or via email to John M. Cummings III, Public Information Officer at jcummings@honolulu.gov.

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