



NOAA NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



MEDIA ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NOAA Partners to Kick off Tsunami Awareness Month in Hawaii

Lt. Governor James "Duke" Aiona, Jr. will officially announce Tsunami Awareness Month at a local school to emphasize the importance of tsunami education.

Tsunami Awareness Month is held in April to commemorate the 159 lives lost to the April 1, 1946, devastating tsunami – the most destructive in Hawaii's history.

NOAA scientists and Civil Defense volunteers are systematically visiting every school across the state located in tsunami danger zones to help them understand the risks of tsunami and improve their evacuation plans. During student assemblies, experts talk about tsunami safety, provide educational materials, and answer questions. They also meet with school safety committee members to review emergency plans.

During April and May, NOAA will sponsor display booths and keiki activities at several public events on Oahu and the Big Island to help families prepare for tsunamis. Scientists from the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center and the International Tsunami Information Center will be available to speak to the public. A calendar of events is attached.

WHAT: Media availability, interviews, photo opportunities

WHERE: Ka Waihona o ka Na`auao Public Charter School cafeteria, 89195 Farrington Highway, Nanakuli

WHEN: 9 – 10:30 a.m., Monday, March 22, 2010

WHO: Lt. Gov. Duke Aiona
Dr. Gerard Fryer, geophysicist, NOAA Pacific Tsunami Warning Center
Manny Mattos, retired policeman and Civil Defense volunteer
Alvin Parker, principal

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