

HIGICC Newsletter - August 2023 September 2023



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2023 August

On August 8, 2023 multiple wildfires swept over the State of Hawai'i, driven by wind generated by Hurricane Dora that passed almost 500 miles South of the main Hawaiian islands.

Although there were also wildfires reported on the other islands, none of them were as devastating as the fires that raged in four (4) areas on the island of Maui including the Olinda Fire, the Kula Fire, the Pūlehu-Kihei Fire, and of course the Lāhainā Fire.

Due to this devastating event, the scheduled August Newsletter was delayed and is largely dedicated to the many important contributions from the GIS community in Hawai'i toward disaster response, relief, and recovery.

The Kaona of LŌKAHI, Is Inherent ONENESS, Connectedness to the Heaven, to the Earth, and All Life and All Relations.

2023 Hawai'i Disaster Response and Recovery

Our first responders, disaster relief organizations, and local community are all to be commended for the hard work and compassion in response to this devastating event.

Many of us in the GIS community have been tasked with providing data even in difficult personal times, rising up to the occasion with integrity and strength.

The HIGICC Board of Directors extend our sincere appreciation for being allowed to be a part of this amazing GIS 'ohana.

As State and Local Governments collaborate to map rapidly-changing datasets that are being collected and shared, there will be a more complete picture of the extent of this event. We will keep you posted!

Ho'ohana is about building others and yourself up at the same time

E mālama pono - Take care of yourselves

HIGICC GIS Contributions

On August 13, 2023 HIGICC Board of Directors requested for members to volunteer with the [Pacific Disaster Center](#) Emergency Operations Center. In a matter of hours over 63 members responded and the PDC has been very happy with the response. Mahalo Nui Loa to all of you!

Michael Wahl (HIGICC President 2023-2024) is a GIS Specialist with the [State Historic Preservation Division](#) that created a data sharing group for cultural resources identified in the Lāhainā area. This has allowed people from all branches of local, state, federal government, and response teams knowledge of culturally significant and archeological sites.

Clare Mamura (HIGICC Vice President 2023-2024) is the founder of [Pacific Geospatial Services, LLC](#) and facilitated data sharing with Hawai'i Statewide GIS, PDC, USACE, the office of Governor Joshua Green, and participated in FEMA's Reunification and Fatality Management Task Force. Several ideas for working groups were initiated, and these will likely become another comprehensive way for the GIS community to be involved in responding to emergencies across the State.

Andrew McGowan (HIGICC Board of Director 2023-2025) is the Pacific Region Geospatial Coordinator with the [NOAA Office for Coastal Management](#) and has provided resources to assist contributors in connecting with the appropriate organizations. A large format printable map for the National Guard was created for use to display the affected area as well as a digital reference while in the field.

Elisse Deleissegues (HIGICC Board of Director 2022-2024) is a GIS Analyst with the [County of Maui Real Property Assessment Division](#) and has provided information regarding Real Property information to various response organizations. A digital map was created that can be accessed by the public showing parcels that are eligible for the Richard Bissen Mayoral proclamation of Property Tax Remission. In addition, the initial County of Maui Emergency Operations Center called for 24/7 GIS support and the County of Maui EOC GIS team responded!

In addition to directly contributing to disaster efforts, our Board of Directors has been involved in several other supportive efforts such as the Hawai'i Island Film Office [Maui Ola: A Benefit Concert for Maui](#), offering personal donations to various charities and foundations, providing resource sharing platforms, networking opportunities, and so much more.

We would love to hear our membership's GIS contributions to disaster, relief, and recovery efforts on Maui! Drop us a line: higicc@higicc.org

2023 - 2024 HIGICC Board of Directors

HIGICC is excited to introduce our 2023-2024 Board of Directors!

WELCOME New Board of Directors

Megan Canniff, Andrew McGowan, Joey Furllett, Jennifer Lam

WELCOME BACK Continuing and Re-elected Board of Directors

Michael Wahl, *President*

Clare Mamura, *Vice President*

Tiffany Drummond, *Secretary*

Yoko Uyehara, *Treasurer*

Sarah Halpern and Elisse Deleissegues

We are excited to continue to contribute to HIGICC and the Hawai'i GIS Community



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