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[TEST] Moving Forward

1 message

Team David Ige <team@davidige.org>
To: mberg@crossroadscampaigns.com

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Aloha Friend --

Leading our State with full accountability has always been at the core of Governor Ige's values. This past weekend, the Governor and his administration made immediate attempts to directly address the situation and keep the people of Hawai'i and the country informed on what they were doing to correct and improve the Emergency Management Agency.

Team Ige stands by the leadership and accountability that the Governor has taken to address the false alert. We appreciate the fact that our leader put politics aside, took responsibility and provided an open and honest dialogue on public safety for the individuals, families, visitors, and especially, our keiki.

"It is clear what happened Saturday revealed the need for additional safeguards and improvements to our state system.

I have directed the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency to cease their ballistic missile defense internal warning drill until a full review of the facts and circumstances surrounding the false alert are concluded. We have created an immediate process with a pre-scripted cancellation and false alert message that also includes a two-step, two-person rule for all TV, radio and wireless activation. And, we established better protocols and lines of communication across our emergency management network.

Moving forward, there is much to fix, plan for, and do.

Yesterday, I signed an Executive Order appointing Brigadier General Kenneth S. Hara, the Deputy Adjutant General, to oversee a comprehensive review of our emergency management enterprise and to immediately implement needed changes. He will be working closely with General Miyagi and the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency team.

General Hara is also tasked with helping and educating government, businesses, families and individuals with knowledge on what to do, where to go, and how to prepare. General Hara will give me an initial action plan within 30 days and a formal report in 60 days.

In the interim, we have already made a number of fixes. On Saturday, we immediately implemented improvements to our emergency management system, staffing, and procedures. Let me be clear, false notifications – and waiting for what felt like an eternity – will not happen again. You have my promise on this.

I have also been pushing for the ability to test the cellular alerts, just as we do the monthly siren test. But, it has been blocked nationwide which prevented us from testing the cell phone warning alert system.

Long before Saturday, I signed a formal opt-in agreement with FirstNet, a nationwide broadband network for the first responder community across the state. FirstNet makes it possible to exchange critical information instantly amongst them. They will have the latest and most accurate information and provide us with the capability to function should telephone circuits and cell systems be overloaded.

I look forward to partnering with the legislature and our Congressional delegation to make sure we provide you with the tools and resources you need to keep you and your families safe.

We are a resilient community. We look out for and help each other.”

Public safety is our #1 priority. We thank and support Governor David Ige for his commitment and dedication, and his plans to move Hawai'i forward with leadership, confidence and peace of mind.

Mahalo,

Team David Ige
<https://www.davidige.org/>

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