

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In light of the increasing impacts of climate change and the recent experiences with the COVID-19 pandemic, communities around the world are looking for ways to strengthen their resilience. One approach being taken is through the creation of Resilience Hubs. Resilience Hubs are community-led, trusted gathering spaces that connect residents and serve their immediate or surrounding neighborhoods. Their functions vary depending on a community's needs while operating in both non-emergency (blue skies) and emergency (gray skies) scenarios.

Recognizing the need for greater community resilience, the City and County of Honolulu adopted the Ola Resilience Strategy (2019). The Strategy contains 44 actions to address future climate change impacts and resilience issues across O'ahu. This project focused on Action 15: Develop a Network of Resilience Hubs islandwide. Objectives of the project were to 1) develop partnerships with community organizations and identify the level of community support for Resilience Hubs; 2) identify potential Resilience Hub locations across the eight regional planning areas; and 3) work with residents to determine programs, services and needs for Resilience Hubs.

To achieve these objectives, the City and County, in partnership with the University of Hawai'i, the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, and the Center for Resilient Neighborhoods (CERENE) at Kapi'olani Community College engaged over 3,000 residents during two project phases. This tremendous level of engagement was accomplished through an islandwide survey and participation in over 110 outreach events, including 16 project facilitated workshops. Throughout these efforts, preferred potential hub locations were identified by the community, and a list of tangible neighborhood-level next steps were generated. Most importantly, community members reported feeling more empowered to participate in resilience planning and a greater sense of community following the workshops.

This project is the first step in developing a network of Resilience Hubs across O'ahu. Through strong community engagement and direction, a list of broader next steps and recommendations are provided to continue guiding the City and County, and communities on how to collaborate and build on this work. The recommended work areas include:

1. Hub Location and Infrastructure Development
2. Partnership Development
3. Hub Network Establishment and Support
4. Culturally Informed Practices, Integration, and Outreach
5. Blue Skies Capacity Building and Coordination
6. Gray Skies Disaster Planning and Preparedness
7. State and Regional Collaboration

He 'a'ali'i kū makani mai au; 'a'ohe makani nāna e kūla'i. *I am a wind-resisting 'a'ali'i; no gale can push me over* ('Ōlelo No'eau 507).

