



**Representative
Lauren
Matsumoto
Serving You in District 45**

Aloha Friends and Neighbors!

Hurricane season is back and runs from June through November. Are you and your family ready if a storm hits Hawaii? Although we don't know how many storms will affect Hawaii, you should be fully prepared in case one strikes! You can visit RepMatsumoto.com for a list of suggested items to help prepare you for a disaster, but here are some helpful resources my family and I are using and steps we're taking to make sure we're ready:

Be Informed

The Honolulu Department of Emergency Management website at www.honolulu.gov/dem as well as the State of Hawaii Department of Emergency Management website at dod.hawaii.gov are both convenient resources to find sample preparation plans, review evacuation maps, and receive emergency notifications!

Plan

Make sure you have a plan before authorities issue a Hurricane Warning. A Hurricane Warning means we have less than 36 hours to finish hurricane preparations or, if instructed by authorities, evacuate the area. A day and a half can go by quickly, so make sure you have what you need and a plan in place before you get the warning. Start storing items such as food and water today.

Prepare

An emergency plan is only as good as putting it into practice, so make sure you take the time to purchase your supplies and have necessities on hand in the event of a hurricane. To prepare your home, please consult the Homeowner's Handbook to Prepare for Natural Hazards – a free publication that can be accessed online at <http://seagrant.soest.hawaii.edu/homeowners-handbook-to-prepare-for-natural-hazards/>

The Red Cross suggests having the following items:

- Water and non-perishable food for 14 days
- Copies of personal documents
- Flashlight
- Cell phone with chargers
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio
- Emergency contact information
- Extra batteries
- Extra cash
- First aid kit
- Emergency blanket
- Medication (14-day supply)

- Maps of the area
- Multi-purpose tool
- Tools/supplies for securing your home
- Personal hygiene items
- Extra set of car and house keys
- Extra clothing
- Insect repellent and sunscreen

Make a plan for your pets as well! Find pet-friendly housing on your evacuation route. If you stay home, ensure your pets are indoors and unable to escape. Prepare an emergency kit for them including food and water bowls, vet records/contacts, food and water, litter/box/waste bags, medications, leashes, and collars.

And don't forget about fun things too! Books, board games, or a battery-powered laptop or DVD player will help you pass the time indoors. Go to RepMatsumoto.com for a comprehensive list of items you may need in the event of a natural disaster or www.redcross.org/get-help for helpful guides and other information to help you prepare for emergencies. Don't let a storm turn into a disaster. Be informed, plan, and prepare so that you and your family will be safe this hurricane season!

As always, please feel free to contact me if you have questions or concerns about any happenings in our community. Call me at (808) 586-9490, email RepMatsumoto@Capitol.Hawaii.gov, or visit RepMatsumoto.com.