The Hawaii Flood Hazard Assessment Tool (FHAT) is an online GIS mapping application that allows users to search and view flood hazard information about a specific parcel. Since its debut earlier this year, the FHAT has undergone major enhancements to improve its usability and functionality.

To view the new and improved look, visit: www.hawaiinfip.org and click on FLOOD HAZARD ASSESSMENT TOOL in the left hand navigation bar. Some of the changes that you’ll find include a more user friendly interface and added features that make the FHAT a valuable resource for all user groups.

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On August 13 and 14, 2008, the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Engineering Division, along with FEMA Region IX, co-hosted the 4th Annual Hawaii Floodplain Manager’s Conference in Lihue, Kauai.

The two day event provided a unique opportunity to bring together local community floodplain managers from all four counties, federal and state counterparts, as well as private sector engineers. Attendees discussed the latest happenings in the National Flood Insurance Program, important mapping updates that will impact all four counties, and various mitigation programs available to the State. Thank you to all participants for a successful conference.

Special Mahalo to the following speakers for making valuable presentations:

John Ingariiola (FEMA HQ),
Rebecca Quinn (RCQuinn Consulting),
Massoud Rezakhani (MRC LLC),
Steve Lettau (Onyx Group),
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and
Natural Resource Conservation Service.

Hawaii Dam Safety Seminars
Hawaii: October 20-21, 2008
Maui: October 23-24, 2008
Oahu: October 27-29, 2008
Kauai: October 30-31, 2008

The Department of Land and Natural Resources is hosting a series of Dam Safety Seminars. Learn valuable dam safety training and recent dam safety inspection findings on your island.

For more information:
Call John Dawley @ 587-0272
Or visit: http://www.hidlnr.org/eng/ds/Seminars.aspx

The 4th National Floodproofing Conference and Exposition
November 16 - 20, 2008
The Astor Crowne Plaza
French Quarters • New Orleans
For more info, visit: www.floods.org
Taking a pro-active approach, the Association of Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) have reached out to our Presidential hopefuls Senator Barack Obama and Senator John McCain in an effort to educate their administration on flooding and disaster response in the United States.

One of the more challenging issues that our new President will face is flood disaster strategy and policy. Year after year, the United States suffers from catastrophic flooding. This year we experienced the devastating Mid West flood during summer and in September, we endured severe damage from Hurricane Gustav, Tropical Storm Hanna, and Hurricane Ike.

In an August 15, 2008 letter to both candidates, ASFPM noted that effectively managing and mitigating flood disasters is a wholly non-partisan goal whose achievement represents the best that government has to offer its citizens. ASFPM also stated that this can only happen when government resources are organized and managed for success.

The letters recommend:

- **Support legislation to remove FEMA from DHS** in order to reduce the layers of bureaucracy that can diminish responsiveness, resources, and effectiveness. Also take steps to elevate the stature of FEMA in your administration, including Cabinet post for the FEMA Director.

- **Establish a Presidential Commission on Natural Hazards in the Year 2050**, charged with evaluating future potential risk related to natural hazards and begin to identify the long-term policy adjustments that will be necessary to ensure the safety and sustainability of our communities and citizens.

- **Improve Water Resource and Water Management Policies and Programs** to enhance coordination among the numerous agencies and to more effectively integrate their various policies and programs.

- **Craft a comprehensive, catastrophic disaster insurance in alignment with mitigation actions that reduce risk.** The present National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) reform legislation focuses on the program's self-sufficiency. Also needed is consideration of the issues and needs of the broad array of flood hazards and their mitigation.

- **Fund Science and Climate Change Research** - investments in science and data will provide information that communities and states need in order to adapt wisely.

- **Invest in Infrastructure** because the nation must depend on sound, well-functioning infrastructure to reduce hazard exposure and improve environmental, social, and economic sustainability.

- **Leverage Federal mitigation dollars** to reduce future disaster costs by ensuring that both pre-disaster and post-disaster actions are incorporated during response and recovery by impacted communities.

To read a copy of the letters, go to the ASFPM website at: [www.floods.org](http://www.floods.org)
Property Search Functionality

Searching for properties have been simplified. Locating a property is a two-step process.

Step 1: Select the County where the property is located, from the dropdown list in the LAYERS tab.

Step 2: Enter a street name (without suffix) or Tax Map Key (TMK) number in the PROPERTY SEARCH tab.

A report of the search can be printed by clicking on the REPORT toolbox button located above the map viewer.

Letter of Map Changes (LOMC)

Another important feature that was added to the FHAT, was the inclusion of the effective Letter of Map Changes.

A Letter of Map Change (LOMC) is a general term used to refer to the several types of revisions and amendments to FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps. They include Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA), Letter of Map Revision (LOMR), and Letter of Map Revision based on Fill (LOMR-F).

To view the location of a specific LOMC or download a copy of the official map revision, users should select the County of interest in the LETTER OF MAP CHANGE tab. A pop-up window will appear which list all effective letter of LOMCs for that particular county. Various fields are shown on the table to help the user determine which LOMC is of particular interest. By clicking onto the ZOOM button, the map will refresh to the affected location. To obtain the official copy of the map revision, select the DOWNLOAD button from the LOMC pop-up window or click on the LOMC toolbox button and then within the affected LOMC area on the map.

Also included in the LOMC menu are links to FEMA’s “Status of Map Change Revisions” and “BFE Notices” (Base Flood Elevation) webpages.
HELP Page

A HELP page has been added to provide FHAT users with step-by-step instructions on how to use the various features of the website. Users can select the following categories from the HELP menu:

- Property Search
- How to Use the Toolbox Buttons
- Letter of Map Changes

New Layers

In addition to the flood hazard data, imagery and county parcel data were available on the first edition of the FHAT. In this second edition, new layers have been added. Some of the new layers include:

**Benchmark - DFIRM**: This layer identifies the benchmarks that were used by FEMA in their Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRM). Users can retrieve the applicable datasheets by clicking on “DOWNLOAD DATASHEETS” and selecting the applicable County benchmark.

**LOMC**: This layer illustrates all the areas affected by a Letter of Map Changes (LOMC). Users will have the ability to download copies of the official map revision.

**Maui Topography**: This layer contains contours along the south shores of Maui County up to the 100 ft. msl elevation in some areas.

**Maui Hurricane Study - Preliminary**: This layer contains the preliminary results of FEMA’s hurricane flood insurance risk study for the south shores of Maui County. To interpret the data, please contact Mr. Francis Cerizo at (808) 270-7771. For information on the hurricane study results for the other counties, please contact the appropriate County NFIP Coordinator.

**Maui DFIRM - Preliminary**: This layer contains the preliminary DFIRM data for Maui County. For more information on how to interpret the data, please contact Mr. Francis Cerizo at (808) 270-7771.

To better understand the process in which Preliminary Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs) are released, download a copy of FEMA’s Preliminary Map Release Fact Sheet at: http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=3426

This Fact Sheet includes information for insurance agents, real estate agents, engineers, builders, developers, and community officials.

Flood Insurance Studies (FIS)

Each Counties’ Flood Insurance Study (FIS) has been added to the FHAT for use with the flood hazard maps.

User should select the desired county’s study from the FLOOD INSURANCE STUDIES tab.

Questions / Comments:

The FHAT will be constantly updated to provide the most current available information. Additional layers will be added periodically, so we suggest you bookmark this website for your return visit.

For additional questions and/or comments regarding the Hawaii Flood Hazard Assessment Tool, please contact Marilyn Gambone at 587-0233 or by email at Marilyn.A.Gambone@hawaii.gov
Flood Insurance Rate Maps

Are you currently doing work in the Counties listed here? If so, please take note that FEMA has approved the following Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) for changes to the flood hazard information shown on the current effective FIRM.

Hawaii County
FIRM Panel 0927D
Effective date of revision: June 30, 2008
FEMA Case No.: 08-09-0754P
Flooding Source: Holualoa Drainageway Tributary
Project ID: Holualoa

FEMA Technical Bulletin Updates

The Technical Bulletins provide guidance concerning the building performance standards of the NFIP, which are contained in Title 44 of the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations at Section 60.3.

The bulletins are intended for use primarily by state and local officials responsible for interpreting and enforcing NFIP regulations and by members of the development community, such as design professionals and builders. New bulletins, as well as updates of existing bulletins, are issued periodically, as necessary. The bulletins do not create regulation; rather, they provide specific guidance for complying with the minimum requirements of existing NFIP regulations.

The last update to the Technical Bulletins (TB) was in 2001. FEMA is currently updating 4 technical bulletins. TB1 and TB2 have been finalized. Copies of all effective TBs can be found on FEMA’s website, as well as the Hawaii NFIP website (www.hawaiinfip.org).

The TB5 and TB9 will soon be released.

Base Flood Elevation Notices

Part 67 of the National Flood Insurance Program regulations requires the publication of public notices each time the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) proposes new or modified Base Flood Elevations (BFEs). These notices are for new or modified Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) or Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs), which may be based on FEMA-contracted studies/mapping projects; studies/mapping projects performed by participants in the Cooperating Technical Partners Program; or community-initiated map revisions, including Letters of Map Revision.

Current Notices

City and County of Honolulu
FEMA Case No.: 08-09-0558P
Flooding Source: Manoa Stream
Luaalaea Stream
Appeal Period
Begin: 7/21/08
End: 10/19/08

On-line reader can view notice here

Maui County
FEMA Case No.: n/a
Flooding Source: Kaluiaihakoko Stream
Kamaole Gulch
Waikapu Stream
Appeal Period
Begin: 9/12/08
End: 12/10/08

On-line reader can view notice here

For more info on BFE Notices, visit: https://www.floodmaps.fema.gov/fhm/bfe
The Association of State Floodplain Managers began in 1977 as the supporting organization of professionals involved in floodplain management, flood hazard mitigation, flood preparedness, and flood warning and recovery. The mission of the Association is to mitigate the losses, costs and human suffering caused by flooding and to promote wise use of the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains. Today the ASFPM is the premier voice in floodplain management practice and policy throughout the nation.

The Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) Program was established by the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) in 1999. The emphasis of the program is on knowing the fundamentals of flood mapping, managing floodplain development, and national and state standards, and how to apply them to a locally administered floodplain management programs.

Recently seven individuals took the CFM exam at the 4th Annual Hawaii Floodplain Manager’s Conference in Lihue, Kauai and successfully passed !!!

Congratulations to Hawaii’s newest Certified Floodplain Managers:

Luningning Arabiran, Civil Engineer  
Lyon Associates, Inc.

Carolyn Cortez, Planner  
County of Maui, Department of Planning

Sean Dunckel, Project Engineer  
Lyon Associates, Inc.

Brandon Fujishige, Civil Engineer  
Esaki Surveying & Mapping, Inc.

Jim Lyon, President  
Lyon Associates, Inc.

Dominic Milles, Project Engineer  
Lyon Associates, Inc.

Valentino Reyna, Civil Engineer  
County of Kauai, Department of Public Works

John Dawley

Following the birth of his son in France, John Dawley and his family came to Hawaii fifteen years ago after having spent winters and summers with his grandmother who was a Maui resident in his youth. As a graduate in naval architecture and ocean engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), he has worked throughout the world as an Aerospace Engineer and a Petroleum Engineer. After returning to Hawaii, he has started several businesses including a fine wine wholesale business.

But his desire to return to the engineering field led him to the Department of Land and Natural Resources in November 2007, where he is working as a Dam Safety Engineer in the Flood Control / Dam Safety Section.

Jimmy M Leung, P.E.

After graduating from the University of Hawaii with degrees in Civil Engineering and Meteorology, Jimmy started his engineering career at Fluor Corporation in Irvine, California. In 1986 Jimmy started working for the New Hampshire Dam Safety Bureau as a dam safety engineer. Together with a team of 3 engineers, Jimmy was responsible for the inspection of over 3,000 dams in New Hampshire. Jimmy’s duties include visual dam inspections, hydrology and hydraulic analysis of drainage areas, dambreak analysis, inundation mapping, technical reports and emergency action plans for more

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than 250 high and significant hazard dams. In addition to engineering duties, Jimmy also wrote dam safety rules for the department, and, conducted dam safety and emergency action plan workshops.

In 1999 Jimmy was promoted to the position of administrator for the New Hampshire Dam Maintenance Section. He supervised and performed high level engineering tasks in the Maintenance Section in the New Hampshire Water Division’s Dam Bureau. He managed the engineering staff, contractors and construction crews in the long-term planning, budgeting, engineering evaluation, design and construction required to maintain, reconstruct, repair, and operate over 230 State-owned dams.

However, Jimmy always had a desire to move back to his home state of Hawaii. His desires to serve the people of Hawaii finally materialize in June of 2008 when he joined the team of dam safety engineers in the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources. He brings with him twenty plus years of dam safety experience and is a valuable addition to our dam safety staff.

Jimmy is an ardent University of Hawaii sports fan. He attends UH sport events regularly. Don’t be surprised if you see him cheering loudly from the stand in one of the UH sports events. Aside from just being a sports fan, Jimmy is also a passionate volleyball player. He coached high school girls volleyball for many years in the state of New Hampshire. “I will be looking for opportunity to coach volleyball in Hawaii once I settle down.” He said.

Welcome Aboard John and Jimmy !!!