



Dear Laie Resident:

The rainy season is upon us bringing life-sustaining water, but also bringing the threat of flooding. As we all prepare for stormy weather, please be aware of the following.

Update on Minor Enhancements

In the past year a few minor upgrades to the community drainage system have been made: the area above the drainage culvert next to Foodland has been enlarged, we've dredged the Wailele Stream after review by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Polynesian Cultural Center has implemented a procedure that creates a little more run-off capacity in its lagoon. While these enhancements will result in a slight increase in drainage capacity, without major improvements to the drainage system (see below) flooding in the low-lying areas of Laie may still occur during heavy rain events.

Flood Prevention and Mitigation

When heavy rain is expected, Hawaii Reserves, Inc. (HRI) crews will work to prevent and mitigate flooding by: (1) checking and clearing streams, (2) checking and clearing drainage system outfalls and inlets, and (3) providing limited traffic control.

We ask that residents, prior to a heavy rain event, remove any items on their properties that could clog the drainage system (e.g., tarps, garbage bags, green waste, toys). We welcome the participation of residents in helping to safely keep drains around their homes free flowing and also encourage each family to have a flood mitigation plan and supplies. There are various flood prevention and mitigation products on the market today.

As another mitigation effort, the Laie Community Association (LCA) has partnered with BYU-Hawaii to direct volunteer student workers, as available, to areas affected by heavy rains. Also, the university will restrict the flow from their retention ponds to allow the community to drain first before draining sections of university property.

Drainage System Improvement Planning

This past year we have had national and local experts review the drainage system to help develop an overall improvement plan that would provide the necessary drainage outfall capacity for the entire Laie community. Such improvements are estimated to cost tens of millions of dollars and would need the approval, participation and support of all stakeholders. The first significant steps are to enlarge the outfall at the Foodland area and provide outfall capacity for the flows of Wailele Stream. This will involve numerous government agencies, the Laie entities and community residents. As such, we are working with the LCA board, as the community liaison, to help bring the right parties to the table. The success of this effort will depend heavily on resident participation – we invite you to be involved in this important process.

We appreciate your *kokua* as we work together to prepare for stormy weather.