



Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Dear Hale'iwa Families,

On Wednesday, September 24, 2025 beginning at 8:15am, Hale'iwa will conduct its annual emergency drills practice which concludes with our tsunami evacuation walk. Over the next few weeks, in our classrooms, we will review with all of our students what needs to be done in case of emergencies.

On Wednesday, September 24, we will conduct the following drills:

- **Lockdown/shelter-in-place:** classrooms will practice locking down with everything shut and locked
- **Earthquake:** students will practice taking cover under their desks in the event of an earthquake
- **Tsunami evacuation:** the entire school will practice evacuating from the campus quickly in the event of a locally generated tsunami which could reach Oahu within 15 minutes of the first tremors

The tsunami evacuation will require ALL students and staff to walk at a brisk pace, across Hale'iwa Road, through the big dirt lot and through the agricultural fields owned by Kamehameha Schools Bishop Estate. Normally, our route takes us across Kamehameha Hwy at the stoplight, and we continue walking until we are under the Joseph Leong Bypass. However, because of the dangerous conditions we faced last year with numerous large vehicles driving down the hill from under the Bypass, we will be stopping our drill near the Red Barn, before having to cross Kamehameha Hwy. In an actual tsunami emergency, we would continue walking to the bypass and continue to go as far as we can to be safely out of the inundation zone. But since our practice is just a drill, we will not place our students in an overly dangerous position unnecessarily.

It is always our goal to complete this evacuation within 15 minutes. Staff members will be escorting students throughout the entire evacuation route and will ensure that everyone crosses Hale'iwa road safely. Upon reaching our destination, everyone will take a water break. When the group is ready to return, we will walk back to campus following the same route, however, the pace will be relaxed and more comfortable.

Our pre-school students and EOEL students will conduct a modified tsunami evacuation drill that will have them remaining on campus. There are also staff members who are unable to join in the walk because of health and safety situations. **If you feel that your child should remain on campus for health and safety reasons (serious asthma condition, sprained ankle, anxiety, etc), please inform your child's teacher immediately.** Students who are unable to participate in the off-campus evacuation will be supervised by our staff members in our library. We will have our Hale'iwa golf carts and utility vehicles escorting our evacuation. If anyone needs assistance, the carts will be readily available to provide a ride to anyone who might need it.

Because of the different terrain we will be walking over, **all students should wear covered shoes and comfortable clothing for the tsunami walk.** Hats and sunscreen are also advised. However, if a student does not have shoes, he/she will still need to participate in the tsunami evacuation. All students are encouraged to bring their own plastic (disposable) water bottle. NO STANLEYS, YETIS OR OTHER NON-DISPOSABLE WATER CONTAINERS will be allowed on the walk. The school will provide additional water for everyone at the resting point near the Red Barn. The total exercise should take no more than 45 minutes. In past years, we have returned to campus between 9:00 - 9:15am.

If you have any questions, please contact us at our email address: haleiwaschool@haleiwa.k12.hi.us or at 808-637-8237.

We appreciate your support and we look forward to continuing to work together to keep all of our students and staff safe.

Sincerely,

Malaea Wetzels, Principal