

National Weather Service Forecast Office Honolulu, HI Contact Person: Mike Cantin, 808-973-5270

## Hau'ula Recognized as StormReady & TsunamiReady



From left to right: Mike Cantin, NWS; Maj. Gen. Wong, HI National Guard; Dotty-Kelly Paddock, Hau'ula Community Association; Burt Greene, Hau'ula Emergency Leadership Preparedness Committee; Maria Lutz, HI Red Cross; Mel Kaku, Oahu Department of Emergency Management.

On Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012, the community of Hau'ula (Oahu) was recognized as only the second municipality to become StormReady and TsunamiReady in the State of Hawaii. National Weather Service personnel were part of the celebrations, which were held in Hau'ula. Hau'ula joins Kailua (Oahu), Marine Corps. Base Kaneohe, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, and Hawaii Volcanoes National Park as recognized communities throughout the state. In addition to these communities, all four counties are recognized in the state of Hawaii.

Officials from the National Weather Service office worked closely with the Hau'ula Neighborhood Board and Hau'ula Emergency Leadership Preparedness Committee (HELP) throughout the process of certification. The community leaders of Hau'ula made tremendous additions to the preparedness level of community residents including creating a community disaster plan and an informational flier that was shared with each member of the community. Additionally, they also created a fully-functional emergency operations center in Hau'ula, created and passed legislation regarding private sheltering, and successfully garnered state grant monies to assist in gathering needed preparedness supplies and materials.

Congratulations to the community of Hau'ula for all of their efforts in enhancing preparedness and safety in their community!

