HURRICANE LALA IMPACTS

Facts about the prolonged outages on Hawai‘i Island

Hurricane Lala brought damaging winds and heavy rain to Hawai‘i Island, causing widespread outages and significant damage to electric infrastructure. The majority of the outages were caused by vegetation. Restoration in some heavily damaged areas has been slowed by fallen trees, debris, flooding, washed-out roads and limited access in rural areas. The following areas likely will have prolonged outages. *Provided restoration times are estimates and can be updated depending ongoing working and weather conditions as well as damage assessments.*

NORTH KONA (KALOKO MAUKA) – AUGUST 23

Kaloko Mauka is an upland North Kona community with steep roads, forested lots and dense vegetation near homes and utility corridors. Hurricane Lala caused severe tree, pole and line damage, creating access challenges and extending restoration times. Keahole Power Plant is sited nearby.

Restoration challenges:

- Estimated restoration time to be extended due to severe tree damage, with 16 broken poles identified so far, 2 downed lines, and at least 21 tree-related damages.

NORTH KOHALA – AUGUST 23

North Kohala is a rural area with coastal communities, steep gulches, ranch lands and remote utility corridors below Kohala Mountain. Hurricane Lala brought down trees and damaged poles and lines, especially near Maliu Ridge, making access, clearing and repairs more difficult. Hawi Renewable Development is sited in this area.

Restoration challenges:

- Maliu Ridge has significant tree damage affecting restoration work.
- Initial assessments identified 4 broken poles, 6 downed lines and 1 tree-related damage.

PUNA – AUGUST 23

Puna covers about 499 square miles—nearly the size of O‘ahu—and includes rural subdivisions, rainforest, lava fields, long access roads and albizia-prone areas. Hurricane Lala brought down trees, damaged roads, lines and transmission infrastructure, requiring access clearing and key rebuilds before safe restoration.

Restoration challenges:

- Transmission line serving Upper Puna must be rebuilt.
- Heavy tree damage and blocked access reported across Volcano, Glenwood, Royal Hawaiian Estates, Kulani, Pana‘ewa and Kea‘au.
- Initial damage assessments identified 5 broken poles, 56 downed lines, and 68 tree-related damage.

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KA‘U – SEPTEMBER 8

Ka‘ū is Hawai‘i Island’s southernmost and largest district and is nearly the size of Rhode Island, covering about 920 square miles, with remote communities, long highways and limited access routes. Hurricane Lala caused catastrophic wind, flood, bridge, debris and infrastructure damage across this large service area, requiring extra coordination, road clearance and safety checks before rebuilding and re-energizing lines. Pakini Nui wind farm is sited in this area.

Restoration challenges:

- Transmission line from Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park toward South Point Road must be rebuilt.
- Washed-out bridges, debris and flooding are limiting crew access.
- Flood impacts to a cemetery require careful, culturally sensitive coordination.
- Initial assessments identified at least 35 broken poles, 21 downed lines and 7 tree-related impacts.

View Restoration Maps