

# Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS)

Wildfire Safety Strategy Working Group  
Meeting 2 – July 30, 2025



# Ground Rules

- Chatham House Rule will apply – no personal or organizational attribution will be made to any comments/feedback provided during the meeting by any participant nor in written documentation. Recordings and/or artificial intelligence transcriptions of meetings are prohibited.
- Working group meetings, and other information exchanges are intended solely to provide an open forum for discussion purposes or means for the expression of various points of view in compliance with antitrust laws.
- Under no circumstances shall engagement activities be used as a means for competing companies to reach any understanding, expressed or implied, which tends to restrict competition, or in any way, to impair the ability of participating organizations to exercise independent business judgment regarding matters affecting competition or regulatory positions.
- Proprietary information shall not be disclosed by any participant during any industry engagement meeting or information exchange. In addition, no information of a secret or proprietary nature shall be made available to industry engagement participants.
- All proprietary information which may nonetheless be publicly disclosed by any participant during any industry engagement meeting or information exchange shall be deemed to have been disclosed on a non-confidential basis, without any restrictions on use by anyone, except that no valid copyright or patent right shall be deemed to have been waived by such disclosure.



2024

- Wildfire Safety Symposium – APR. 10-11
- Wildfire Risk Map – JUL. 31
- Wildfire Mitigation Strategies and Priorities – AUG. 14
- Future Operational Strategies and PSPS Enhancements – AUG. 21
- Metrics and Performance Tracking / WSS Content – SEP. 5
- Risk Model Deep Dive Sub-Group Mtgs 1 & 2 – SEP. 26 & NOV. 6
- Putting it All Together – DEC. 12
- Submit WSS to the PUC – JAN. 10

2025

**JUL. 16 Meeting 1** – Hawaiian Electric’s Wildfire Safety Strategy

**JUL. 30 Meeting 2** – Public Safety Power Shutoffs

**Today**

**AUG. 13 Meeting 3** – Land Management

**SEP. 24 Meeting 4** – Ingress/Egress

**OCT. 15 Meeting 5** – Grid Hardening & Undergrounding



# Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- PSPS Program Overview
- PSPS History and Lessons Learned
- What's Ahead: Upcoming Expectations for Forecasting and Technology
- National Weather Service Presentation
- Technosylva Presentation
- Discussion and Q&A



# Welcome



# Today's Speakers

**Shari Ishikawa**, *Hawaiian Electric*

**Lydia Mertyris**, *Hawaiian Electric*

**Derek Wroe**, *National Weather Service*

**Steve Vanderburg**, *Technosylva*

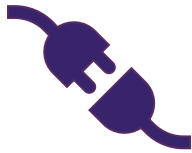


# Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) Overview





# Public Safety Power Shutoff



Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) program was launched on **July 1, 2024**, ahead of the dry summer months. A PSPS is a process electric utilities use to deactivate power in high-risk conditions for safety purposes. It is different from the “fast trip” safety measure.



One of many wildfire safety measures to help reduce the risk of wildfires. It is the **last line of defense** to help protect communities and property in high-risk areas during periods of heightened wildfire risk.



May be triggered by extreme weather conditions, such as strong winds and low humidity, that could exacerbate wildfire hazards by damaging power lines and impacting power infrastructure and any surrounding dry vegetation.



# Inputs and criteria for considering a PSPS

- ▶ Fire weather (NWS Red Flag Warning, Fire Weather Watch, High Wind Warning with low humidity, field observations and data) triggers Hawaiian Electric Incident Management Team to **stand up to evaluate** conditions to determine whether to call a PSPS
- ▶ **3 primary criteria for declaring PSPS** (*keeping in mind that every situation is unique*)

Persistent  
drought  
conditions

Wind gusts  
45 mph and higher






Relative humidity  
below 45%

## Important to know

- ◆ NWS Red Flag Warning **DOES NOT** automatically trigger PSPS
- ◆ Red Flag Warnings have been issued in only 5 of the past 10 years
- ◆ Wind gusts above 45 mph are rare in most areas in summer months



## What happens before, during and after Public Safety Power Shutoff

	PSPS Watch	PSPS Warning	PSPS Outage	Restoration begins	Restoration complete
WHEN:	<p><b>Up to 24-48 hours</b> Before a possible PSPS</p> 	<p><b>0-4 hours</b> Before a possible PSPS</p> 	<p><b>During a PSPS</b></p> 	<p>When it's safe</p> 	<p>PSPS is over</p> 
WHAT:	<p>Weather data, including statements from the National Weather Service, indicate conditions for heightened wildfire risk, and we are considering a PSPS. Activate your emergency plan, keep your home survival kit handy and pay attention to notifications from Hawaiian Electric and its emergency partners.</p>	<p>Conditions for heightened wildfire risk continue to persist and a PSPS event is likely. <b>We'll do our best to provide advance notice, but if conditions are suddenly hazardous we may have to shut off your power with little or no notice.</b></p>	<p>Power is shut off only in high wildfire risk areas for the safety of the community. We'll do everything we can to provide regular updates across multiple media platforms during the event.</p>	<p>Once the fire weather threat has ended, crews will begin patrolling, looking for downed lines and other hazardous conditions. Crews will restore power once it's safe, which may take hours or even days depending on the location and extent of damage.</p>	<p>The immediate threat has passed and power has been restored. But we'll continue to monitor conditions so we can keep our customers and communities safe.</p>
HOW YOU MAY HEAR FROM US:	<p>Email, Text, Hawaiian Electric Mobile App, Public Safety Notification, Social Media, Hawaiian Electric Website, News Media (TV, radio, websites)</p>				



# New Message Broadcast tool for PSPS notification



## Online Tool

Multiple methods to reach customer



### SMS TEXT

- Dynamic, outbound SMS text directly to customers in PSPS area
- Best for providing updates



### EMAIL

- Provides links to additional information
- Less intrusive for those who don't want an automated voice call



### AUTOMATED VOICE

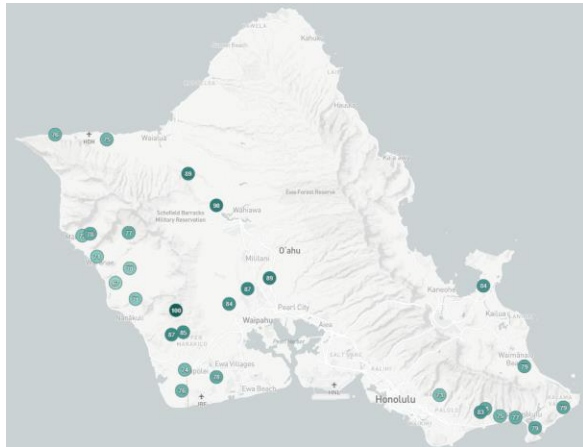
- Outbound voice recordings to phone
- Leave voicemail messages

- 24/7 messaging system
- Delivers targeted messages to residents of PSPS areas
- Ability to send messages in different languages
- Can receive responses
- Confirms message received



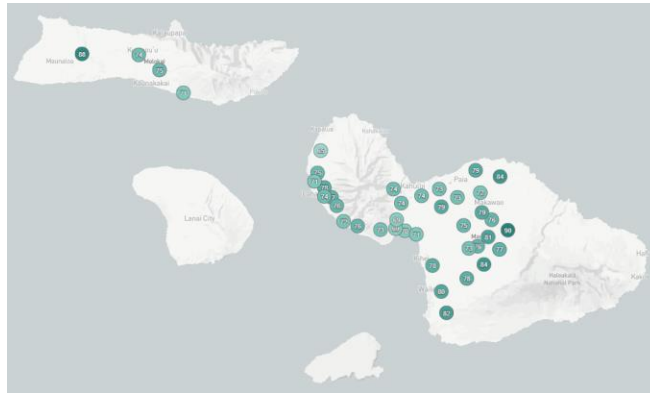
# Situational Awareness Update: Weather Stations

O'ahu = 29 Weather Stations

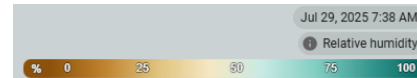
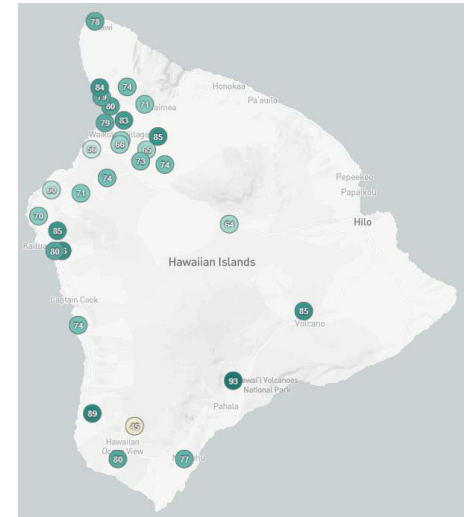


Maui County = 41 Weather Stations

- Maui = 37
- Moloka'i = 4



Hawai'i Island = 31 Weather Stations



101 weather stations deployed across the Hawaiian Electric service territory



WILDFIRE SAFETY



# Situational Awareness Update: Video Cameras

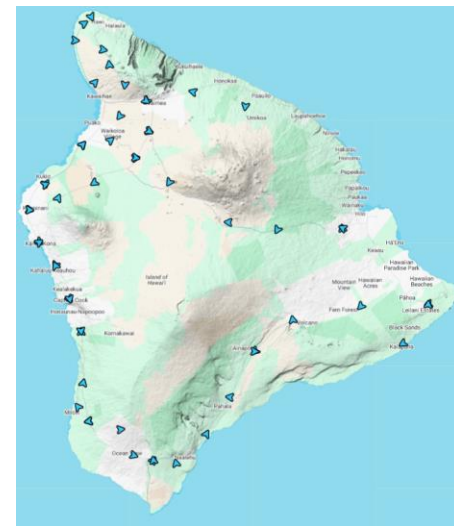
## Maui County = 49 sites

- Maui = 33
- Moloka'i = 13
- Lāna'i = 3

## O'ahu = 45 sites



## Hawai'i Island = 41 sites



135 AI-enabled video camera sites deployed across the Hawaiian Electric service territory



WILDFIRE SAFETY



# History and Lessons Learned

How it started, and how it's going, one year since launch



# PSPS History

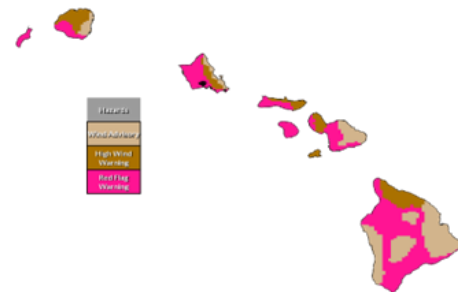
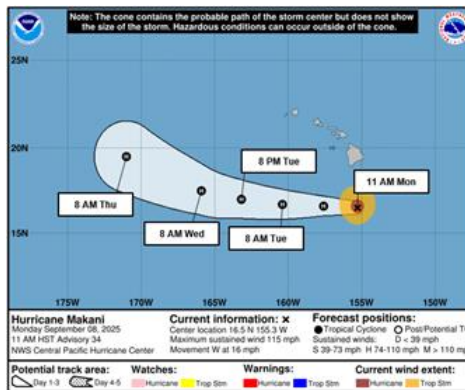
## 2024 PSPS Protocols Implemented

- 2024 PSPS Exercise Series: 11 Workshops and Tabletop Exercises
- Four (4) PSPS IMT Activations, no PSPS de-energizations
  - 08/22/24 TS Hone + RFW
  - 10/16/24 RFW
  - 11/14/24 Fire Weather Watch
  - 12/11/24 RFW
- **Feedback:** Since there was no actual de-energization, processes remain untested; EOC representation critical component in communication process.



# 2025 PSPS Exercise Series

<b>Exercises:</b>	3 Workshops 4 Tabletop Exercises
<b>Participation:</b>	Internal and External Stakeholders
<b>Mission Area:</b>	Response
<b>Threat/Hazard:</b>	Tropical Storm Red Flag Warning
<b>Scenario:</b>	Hurricane Makani develops in the eastern Pacific. As the storm passes south of the islands, strong gradient winds and exceptionally dry conditions create dangerous wildfire conditions throughout the state.



Federal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Weather Service</li> <li>US Army Garrison Pohakuloa Training Area</li> </ul>

State
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HI-EMA</li> <li>Hawai'i DLNR</li> <li>Hawai'i State DoH</li> <li>Hawai'i State DoT - Highways and Harbors Divisions</li> <li>Hawai'i State Energy Office (ESF-12)</li> </ul>

Total Participants: (Internal & External)	170
Participating Organizations:	29



# 2025 PSPS Exercise Series: Strengths

- **Strong Coordination:** Cross-functional collaboration and ICS use ensure unified emergency response.
- **Prepared Teams:** Staff are knowledgeable and committed to continuous improvement.
- **Effective Communication:** Reliable channels and EOC presence enable fast, informed decisions.
- **Public Outreach:** Multilingual materials, direct messaging, and scalable call centers support customer engagement.
- **Partner Engagement:** Active coordination and strong interagency relationships enhance response efforts.



# 2025 PSPS Exercise Series: Areas for Improvement

- **Improved Communication:** Multilingual messaging, media coordination, and alignment with local alert systems enhance public outreach.
- **Stronger Stakeholder Engagement:** Expanded collaboration with elected officials, critical infrastructure, and telecom partners strengthens preparedness.
- **Enhanced Operational Coordination:** Standardized protocols, clear roles, and reliable data sharing improve response efficiency.
- **Increased Internal Readiness:** Focused training, staffing improvements, and targeted exercises build organizational capacity.



# 2025 PSPS IMT Activation: Lessons Learned

- In-person post-event discussions with partners is a critical component of the continuous improvement process
- Addition of Meteorology staff support
- Continued refinement of IMT activation criteria in absence of NWS fire weather products
- Cameras play a vital role in enhancing situational awareness across all agencies—their value cannot be overstated



# What's Ahead

Upcoming Expectations for Forecasting and Technology



# PSPS Updates in 2025

- Updated process to include a “watch period” and “warning period”
- Hawaiian Electric uses forecasting and other tools to monitor conditions that may warrant a PSPS event, including:
  - Persistent drought conditions
  - Wind gusts 45 mph and higher
  - Relative humidity below 45%
  - Red flag warnings



# Future of PSPS

- As grid hardening measures are implemented, PSPS triggers are reevaluated and may be changed to reflect the integrity of the grid.
- Upcoming technology expectations
  - Forecasting, modeling, availability, data (historical) (Technosylva)
  - On-board full-time meteorologist
  - Future review of risk areas and PSPS threshold based on models and data
  - Better advanced notice



# National Weather Service Presentation

## Technosylva Presentation

### Discussion and Q&A





Mahalo for your time.

[HAWAIIANELECTRIC.COM/WILDFIRESAFETY](https://hawaiianelectric.com/wildfiresafety)