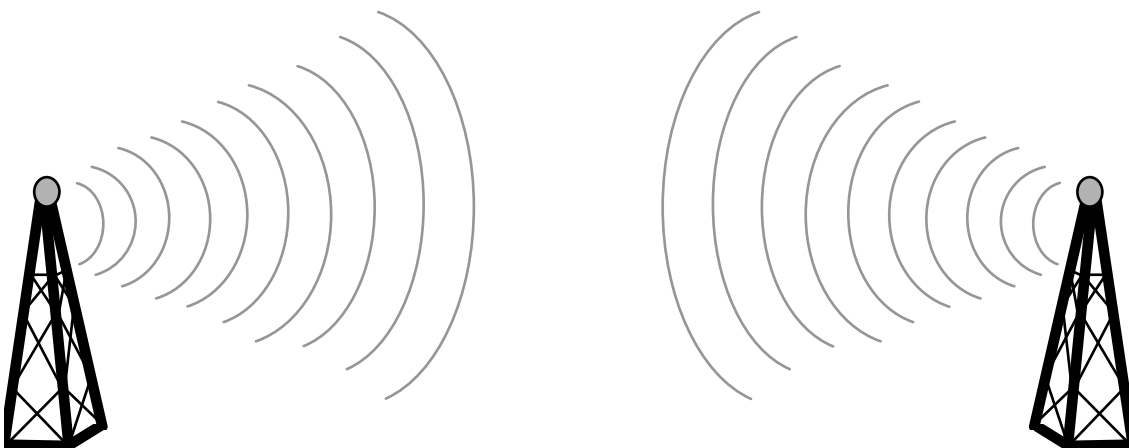


State of Hawaii

**EMERGENCY
ALERT SYSTEM (EAS)
Plan**



June 12, 2003

Change 1 dated Mar 31, 2004

Change 2 dated Oct 26, 2006

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State of Hawaii

EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM (EAS) Plan

I. PURPOSE

- A. The Hawaii State Emergency Alert System (EAS) is part of the national network that enables the President of the United States to address the American people during periods of national emergency. Federal Communication Commission regulations allow the EAS to be used by state and local authorities in times of local emergencies. State and local EAS plans control the use of the EAS by state and county officials and the National Weather Service (NWS) Pacific Region when the system is not in use by the president.
- B. This plan describes the Hawaii State EAS and establishes guidelines and operating procedures for its use. Broadcasters and cable providers are an integral component of the EAS, and provide vital communication links. This document supersedes the State Civil Defense Standard Operating Procedures – Emergency Alert System (EAS), dated March 13, 1998 and becomes effective upon acceptance by the Hawaii SECC, June 12, 2003. The NWS Coastal Flood Warning (CFW), Tropical Storm Warning (TRW), and Tropical Storm Watch (TRA) event codes will be implemented by the end of September 2003.
- C. The Hawaii State EAS includes several “live broadcast” modes, in addition to the standard modes prescribed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Diagrams of various components of Hawaii’s EAS are provided as Attachments A through F.

II. AUTHORITY

The authority for the State of Hawaii Emergency Alert System includes the State of Hawaii EAS Plan, 47 U.S.C. 151, 154(i) and (o), 303(r), 544(g), 606, and Title 47 CFR, Part 11.

III. OVERVIEW

- A. When emergencies and disasters of all types occur, rapid and effective communication of instructions and essential information to the public can significantly help to reduce loss of life and property.
- B. The EAS took effect January 1, 1997, requiring all participants use a common protocol to originate, receive or relay emergency alerts. FCC certified encoder/decoder equipment enables pre-coded digital signals and brief recorded voice messages to be transmitted through established relay stations. Additional FCC approved EAS codes have been implemented, and can be utilized beginning May 31, 2003.
- C. Technical standards for equipment, message protocols, and administrative compliance actions are addressed in Title 47 CFR, Part 11. Additional guidance from the FCC is available to each “participating national” licensee in the form of an EAS Operating Handbook that is required to be available at all operator positions.

IV. EAS NETWORK

The EAS network is comprised of AM, FM, and TV broadcast stations; cable TV providers; participating common carriers; and other non government industry entities operating on a voluntary organized basis to expeditiously disseminate warnings and/or instructions to the general public during times of crisis or emergency.

- A. **Conditions of EAS Participation.** Participation in this plan shall not be deemed as a relinquishment of program control, and broadcast stations and cable systems transmitting EAS emergency communications shall be deemed to have conferred rebroadcast authority.
- B. **National Level.** A national EAS activation will relay instructions, messages, news and information from the president to the public. The designated National Primary source for Hawaii is the State Civil Defense (SCD) Emergency Operating Center (EOC) at Birkhimer Tunnel in Diamond Head Crater. This relay of presidential information is mandatory under FCC rules and regulations.
- C. **State Level.** The statewide EAS Network disseminates warnings and/or instructions from the governor or his/her designated representative during threats or emergencies affecting one or more counties within the state. The statewide network may also be activated by the National Weather Service Forecast Office to disseminate weather or tsunami related watches or warnings.
- D. **Local Level.** The local EAS Network disseminates warnings and instructions from the mayor or his/her designated representative during threats or emergencies within the county. The local EAS Network may also be activated by the National Weather Service Forecast Office to disseminate weather or tsunami related watches or warnings to the local level.
- E. **Child Abduction Emergency.** The EAS Network includes the event code (CAE) for activating AMBER/MAILE alerts either statewide or countywide. This requires that encoders be installed in each of the county police headquarters since the police will be responsible for initiating child abduction messages on the EAS. The State Department of Transportation is requested to coordinate with county highway and street departments to integrate the use of programmable text highway information signs to alert motorists to Child Abduction and other EAS messages.
- F. **CD and NWS Phone Numbers.** Alternate (night and weekend) phone numbers for county civil defense agencies ring at the police dispatch location in the respective counties.

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>	<u>Alternate Phone Number</u>
National Weather Service	808-973-5270	
State Civil Defense	808-733-4300	808-529-3399
Oahu Civil Defense	808-523-4121	808-529-3399
Hawaii County Civil Defense	808-935-0031	808-935-3311
Maui Civil Defense	808-270-7285	808-244-6400
Kauai Civil Defense	808-241-1800	808-241-1711

V. ACTIVATION

Activation of the system to alert the public of impending danger shall be used judiciously and only after careful consideration of the adverse impacts that could result from premature activation or false alarms. The Hawaii State EAS Network will be activated under one of the following circumstances:

- A. **National Level.** Initiated upon receipt of an Emergency Action Notification (EAN) released at the National level. The notification consists of a digitally encoded notification message followed by an audio transmission (only) of the president's message. The EAN will be received by SCD, the NP source for the State of Hawaii, and **automatically** relayed through the State EAS Network without delay.
1. Participating stations must carry presidential messages live at the time of transmission. An EAN will automatically preempt normal programming. During a national emergency, the radio and TV broadcast network program distribution facilities are reserved exclusively for distribution of presidential messages.
 2. FCC rules have established the following message priorities upon a National Level activation of the alert system:
 - a. Presidential (National) messages
 - b. Local Area messages
 - c. State messages
 - d. National Information Center messages
 3. National programming received from the National Information Center (lowest priority), which is not broadcast within the State/Local EAS at the time of original transmission, should be recorded locally by LP sources for transmission after higher priority messages.
 4. The EAS encoder/decoder should be installed in the audio chain between the station console/audio sources and the transmitter. This allows an EAS activation to go on the air automatically. When the National Level EAS is no longer needed, an Emergency Alert Termination (EAT) order will be transmitted to release control of the National EAS Network.
- B. **State Level.** May be activated by either of two agencies in response to actual or potentially hazardous conditions:
1. The governor or his/her designee, the Director of Civil Defense, may activate the EAS upon determination that sufficient danger exists to pose a threat to the safety of life and property in one or more counties. Coordinated use of the siren warning system with the EAS will occur when required.
 - a. State and local authorities may utilize the EAS system to disseminate locally coordinated information and instructions such as:
 - 1) Evacuation orders
 - 2) Park and facility closures
 - 3) Road closures
 - 4) Other items as the situation requires

5) Child Abduction Emergencies

- b. Live audio and video broadcasts may be used by Civil Defense authorities when public response is required. Live *video* broadcasts are disseminated statewide via the Hawaii Interactive Television System (HITS). TV programmers may interrupt normal programming or cutaway periodically to display updated information. Broadcast TV stations are encouraged to acquire Institutional Television Fixed Service (ITFS) receivers enabling them to receive the live video broadcast feed from the State EOC and use it to supplement normal video programming.
2. The NWS will issue advisories, watches and warnings when adverse weather conditions are expected to impact all or a portion of the state. The NWS in Hawaii operates the local portion of the NOAA Weather Radio (VHF) system, and generates **Specific Area Message Encoding** messages for required events. SAME encoded messages use common protocols and event codes with the EAS, so that any SAME message will be decoded by EAS encoders/decoders at all broadcast/cable provider locations. ***Only those SAME encoded messages listed in Attachment E are to be programmed to activate the EAS.***
 3. EAS activation by the NWS will provide the public and authorities with initial notification of a watch or warning status. For warnings of locally generated tsunamis, the NWS will repeat the EAS activation every five minutes until the event is cancelled.
 4. (Ch 2, Oct 26, 2006 Added) For local earthquakes occurring in the Hawaiian Islands magnitude 5.0M and higher, where Pacific Tsunami Warning Center has determined that **no** damaging tsunami is expected, the National Weather Service will automatically generate a Civil Emergency Message (CEM) EAS system activation to notify the public that no tsunami is expected. This will be based on the PTWC Tsunami Information Bulletin which details the evaluation that no tsunami was generated. If the earthquake has generated or expected to have generated a damaging tsunami, a Tsunami Warning (TSW) event code activation of the EAS will preclude the need for an NWS generated CEM.
- C. **Local Area Level.** Initiated by county government authorities, specifically the mayors or county civil defense administrators, upon determination that sufficient danger exists to pose a threat to life and property in one or more local areas
1. The county can generate an EAS message and/or a coordinated live audio broadcast message.
 2. Video broadcasts by county agencies are not provided for within this plan. This does not preclude county civil defense administrators from developing a capability to generate video programming in their operational area.
- D. **Notification of State and County Warning Points.**
1. Notification shall be made to the State Warning Point using the Hawaii Warning System (HAWAS), which notifies all emergency management agencies within the

State. If the Emergency Operating Centers (EOCs) are closed, notification will be to respective warning points.

2. The NWS will notify civil defense agencies via the most appropriate method (HAWAS, conference call, or individual calls) prior to the release of SAME messages activating the EAS for distant tsunami watches and hurricane/tropical storm watches and warnings
3. In the event of a National level activation, the State Warning Point will receive notification over the National Warning System (NAWAS) dedicated telephone circuit and relay the notice to all others via the HAWAS.

VI. OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

A. (Ch 2, 26 Oct 26, 2006) **The State Emergency Communications Committee** (SECC) acts as an arm the FCC and is responsible for writing state and local EAS plans in coordination with SCD. The SECC, in consultation with the Director of Civil Defense/SCD, may designate specific participating radio stations to function as Local Primary sources. The following interim assignments shall be in effect:

County	Local Primary	Phone Number
Oahu	1 KSSK-AM 590 khz	808-550-9200
	2 KRTR-FM 96.3 mhz	808-275-1000
Kauai	KQNG-FM 93.5 mhz	808-245-9657
Maui	KMVI-AM 550 khz	808-877-5566
Hawaii LP1	KHLO-AM (Hilo) 850 khz	808-935-6950
	KKBG-FM (Hilo) 97.9 mhz	
	KLEO-FM (Kona) 106.1 mhz	
Hawaii LP2	KPUA-AM (Hilo) 670 khz	808-961-0650
	KWXX-FM (Hilo) 94.7 mhz	
	KAQY-FM (Kona) 106.1 mhz	

- B. **Other participating stations** and cable operators are required to monitor the digitally coded messages transmitted through the EAS network and alert their audiences accordingly. At a minimum, participating stations shall:
1. As required by the FCC, be equipped with authorized EAS encoders and decoders properly configured to either store or automatically transmit EAS messages for each FCC specified event code. Assistance to initially configure EAS equipment is available upon request from the State Civil Defense Telecommunications Branch, phone 808-733-4301.
 2. Post copies of the EAS Operating Handbook (FCC publication) at normal duty positions where they shall be readily available for broadcast and cable personnel to refer to during national, state and local alerts and tests.
 3. Monitor at least two (2) specified EAS sources in the following priority, subject to reception capabilities:
 - a. SCD dedicated land-line circuit

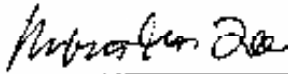
- b. Local Primary source
 - c. NOAA Weather Radio (NWS)
 - d. State and/or County Remote Program Unit (RPU)
4. Conduct operations in accordance with the State EAS Plan during an emergency. State/local EAS participation shall not be deemed as a relinquishment of program control and shall not be deemed to prohibit a broadcast licensee from exercising his independent discretion and responsibility in any given situation. Broadcast stations and cable systems passing EAS emergency communications shall be deemed to have conferred rebroadcast authority.
5. Conform to the following EAS procedures within the State of Hawaii:
- a. Civil Defense authorities will alert the public of impending danger via one or more of the warning systems comprising the Hawaii State EAS (see Attachment A).
 - b. NOAA Weather Radio (SAME messages) is the NWS access point to the EAS. This allows the NWS to activate the EAS (see Attachment B).
 - c. Broadcasters and cable TV providers will receive unscheduled digitally coded EAS activations with an embedded audio message. Follow-up information may be disseminated via a coordinate live audio or video broadcast. The Coastal Flood Warning (CFW) event code will be used for a high surf warning, since there is no FCC assigned event code for high surf.
 - d. Upon activation of the EAS:
 - 1) State and local primary sources are requested to broadcast all EAS activation messages as soon after receipt as possible.
 - 2) All other broadcasters and cable providers are requested to retransmit EAS alerts as soon after receipt as possible. Attachment E lists the recommended handling procedure for each EAS event code.
 - 3) Radio and TV stations are requested to automatically forward all event codes listed in attachment E while operating in the unattended mode.
 - 4) Stations that provide foreign language programming may transmit emergency announcements in the foreign language. TV broadcast stations shall transmit all announcements visually and orally.
 - 5) TV stations and cable operators should be carrying “crawlers” to alert hearing impaired viewers, and carry embedded audio messages contained in any EAS alert activation.
 - e. Upon transmission of a Live Audio/Video Broadcast:
 - 1) Civil Defense authorities will notify participating stations by closed circuit announcement that a message will be forthcoming at a scheduled time, usually within minutes.

- 2) Civil Defense authorities will provide a 60-second countdown to broadcast, at which time participating stations may interrupt normal programming and transmit the live feed.
 - f. Resume normal broadcast operations upon transmission of the alert message.
6. Comply with *FCC mandated* weekly and monthly tests of the EAS and participate in coordinated monthly tests of the Live Audio/Video Broadcast system components. The following requirements regarding both weekly and monthly tests apply to all cable operators and all broadcasters.
- a. Required Weekly Test (RWT). LP stations will initiate RWTs in their areas of responsibility. All broadcasters and cable operators must receive a RWT and generate a RWT to test their encoder/decoder once each week. This will be done on random days at unannounced times except for the week of the monthly test. There are no time-of-day restrictions. This is a 10.5-second test consisting only of the EAS header and end-of-message codes. No further action is required. The NWS also generates SAME encoded RWT messages. This test, conducted each Wednesday between 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m., is designed to verify that the NOAA Weather Radio SAME receiver/decoders available to the public are working, as well as verify EAS connectivity from NWS to broadcasters and cable providers. During significant weather, the test will be postponed until the next day.
 - b. Required Monthly Test (RMT). Monthly tests of the EAS system encoders/decoders will be initiated alternately by State Civil Defense and county civil defense agencies. On odd numbered months, county civil defense agencies will initiate a county only RMT at 11:15 a.m. on the first workday of the month. On even numbered months, State Civil Defense will initiate a statewide RMT at 11:15 a.m. on the first workday of the month. All broadcasting entities receiving the RMT test must retransmit the test within 60 minutes of receiving the test. Times should be logged for both the receipt and retransmission of the RMT test. The FCC monitors for compliance of these requirements.
 - c. Monthly Live Audio Broadcast System or Live Video Broadcast System Test. Monthly test of the LABS and LVBS will be conducted at 11:45 a.m. on the first workday of each month. Broadcasters and cable providers are requested to air the live feeds generated by civil defense authorities. TV operating facilities capable of airing the live video feed disseminated via HITS are requested to broadcast this video during the 11:45 a.m. test.

State of Hawaii EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM Plan, June 12, 2003

APPROVED:

Date



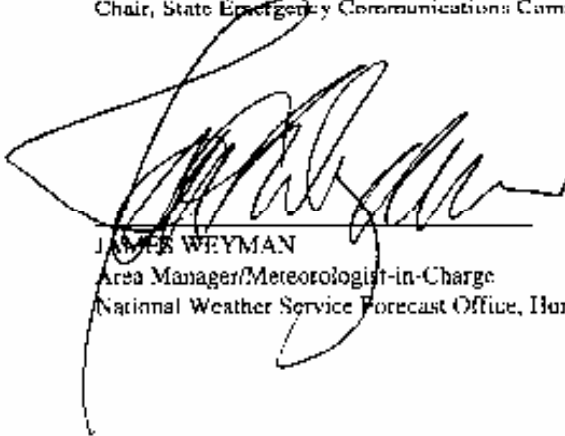
ROBERT G. F. LEE
Major General, HIRANG
Director of Civil Defense

July 21, 2003



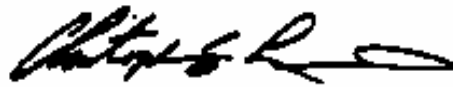
COURTNEY HARRINGTON
Chair, State Emergency Communications Committee

... June 12, 2003



JAMES WEYMAN
Area Manager/Meteorologist-in-Charge
National Weather Service Forecast Office, Honolulu

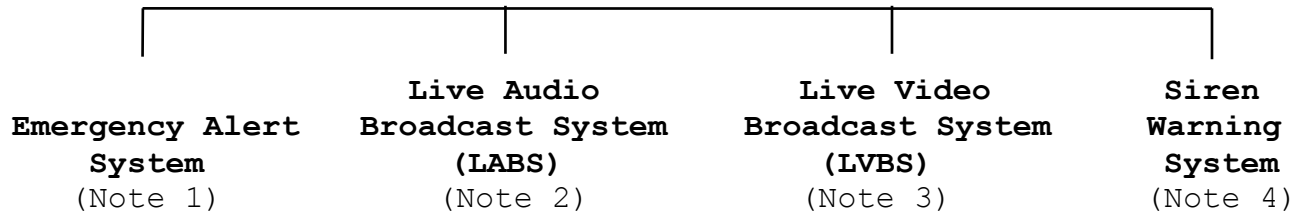
July 2, 2003



CHRISTOPHER S. LEONARD
President, Hawaii Association of Broadcasters

June 12, 2003

**HAWAII STATE
EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM
(EAS)**



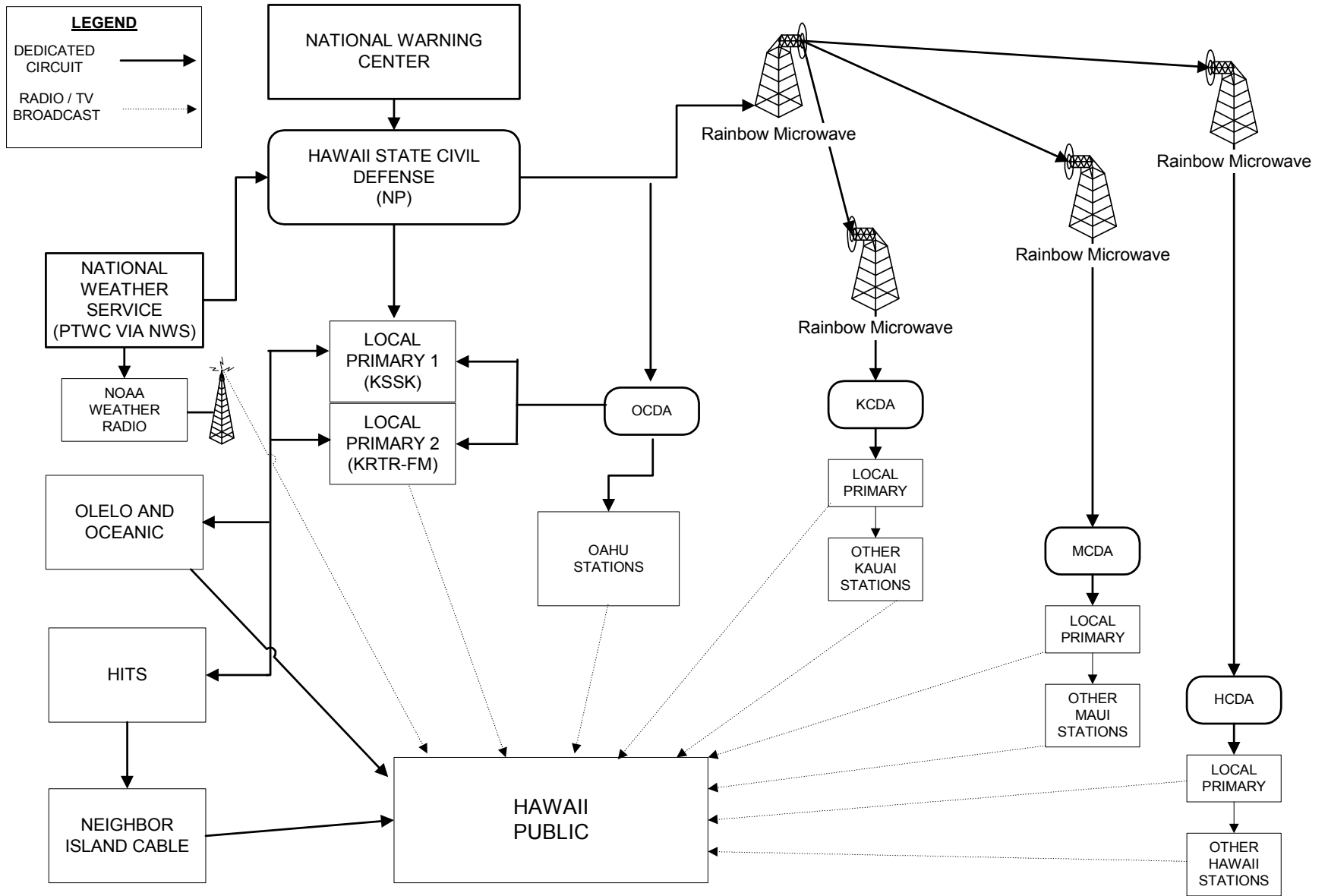
Note 1: This system provides a “store and forward” means to send “EAS alerts” using digitized event codes that are automatically processed by EAS encoder/decoder equipment. Microwave and dedicated land-line hookups between Emergency Operating Centers and selected broadcasters are the primary monitoring source when available.

Note 2: Microwave and dedicated land-line hookups between Emergency Operating Centers and selected broadcasters will also be used when available to allow emergency managers to coordinate the interruption of normal broadcasts and make announcements on the air.

Note 3: This system uses fiber optic cable hookups with OLELO and Hawaii Interactive Television System (HITS) to access cable providers with video and audio information regarding impending or ongoing emergencies.

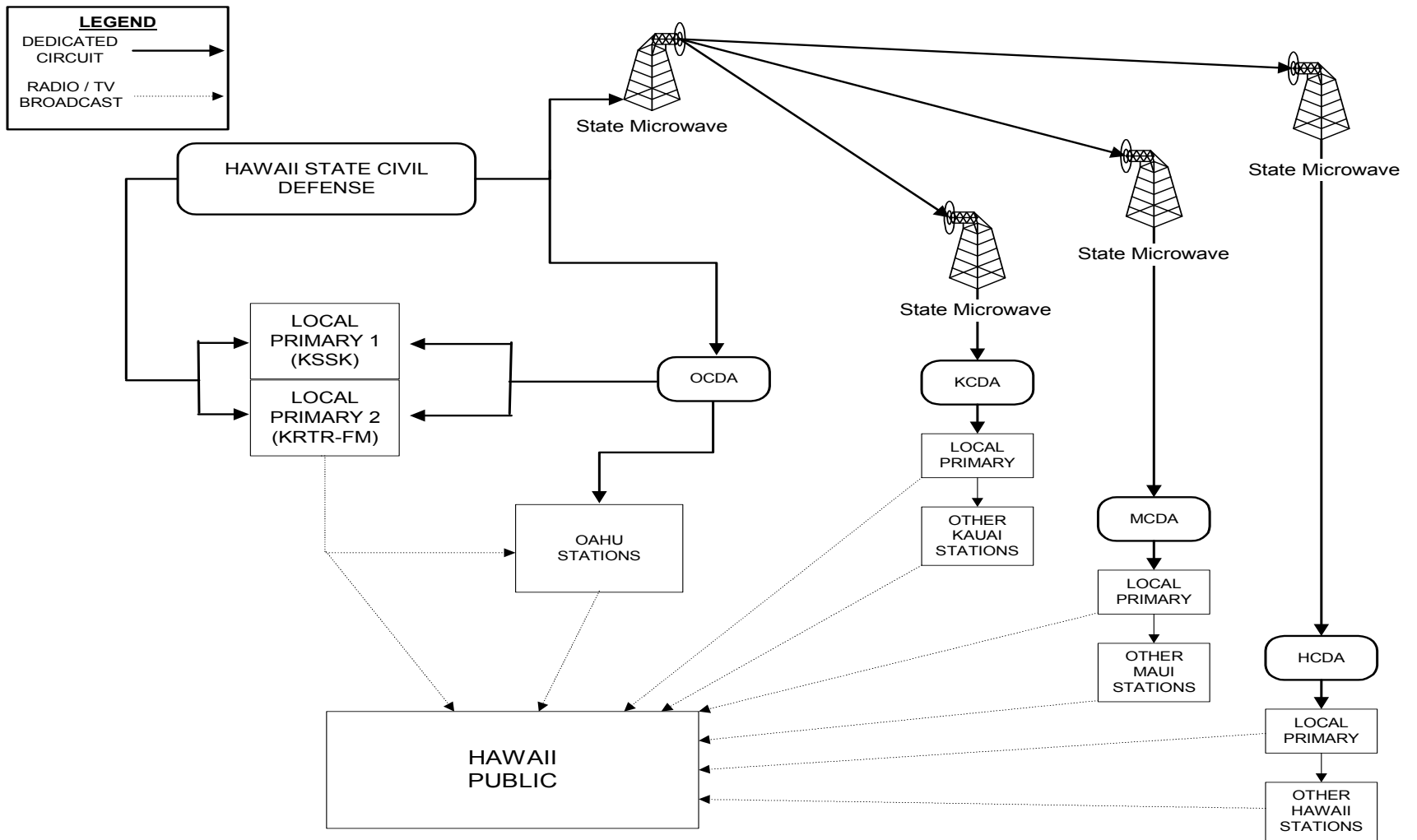
Note 4: This system uses pre-positioned sirens in populous areas throughout the State to sound an alert signal that prompts residents to tune in their radios or televisions for additional information.

Components of the Hawaii State Emergency Alert System (EAS)

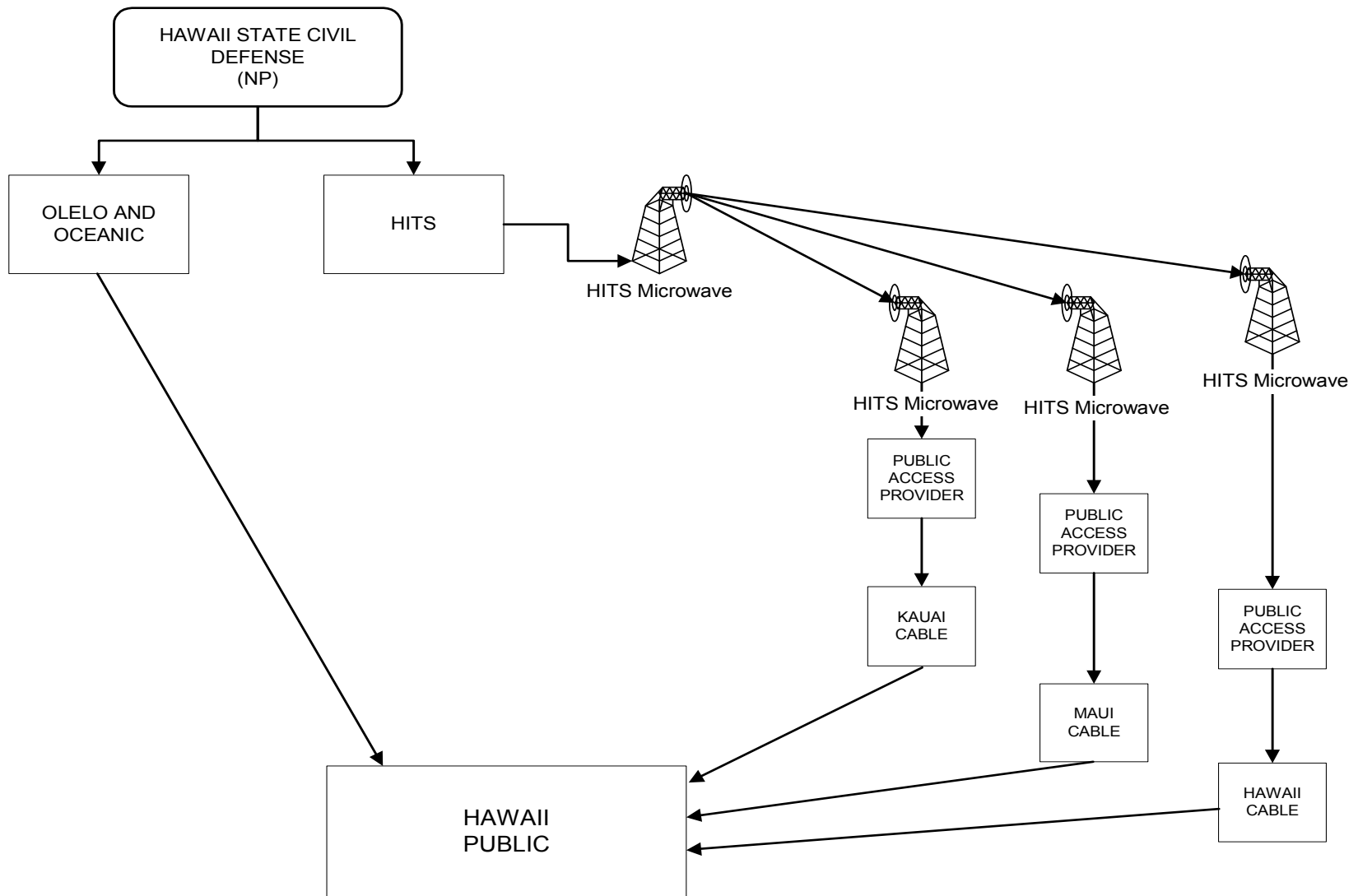


State Level of Emergency Alert System (EAS)

UPDATED 06/10/2003



Live Audio Broadcast System (LABS)



Live Video Broadcast System (LVBS)

EVENT CODE	DESCRIPTION	Autoforward Messages	Manual Forward Messages
ADR	Administrative Message		X
CAE	Child Abduction Emergency* (Note 1)	X	
CEM	Civil Emergency Message	X	
CDW	Civil Danger Warning*	X	
CFW	Coastal Flood Warning* (Note 2)	X	
CFA	Coastal Flood Watch		X
DMO	Practice/Demo Warning		X
EQW	Earthquake Warning*	X	
EVI	Evacuation Immediate	X	
FRW	Fire Warning*	X	
FFA	Flash Flood Watch		X
FFS	Flash Flood Statement		X
FFW	Flash Flood Warning	X	
FLW	Flood Warning	X	
HMW	Hazardous Material Warning*	X	
HUA	Hurricane Watch (Note 3)		X
HUW	Hurricane Warning (Note 3)	X	
HWW	High Wind Warning (Note 4)	X	
LEW	Law Enforcement Warning*	X	
LAE	Local Area Emergency*	X	
RHW	Radiological Hazard Warning*	X	
RMT	Required Monthly Test	X	
RWT	Required Weekly Test		X
SPW	Shelter in Place Warning*	X	
SMW	Special Marine Warning*		X
SPS	Special Weather Statement		X
SVA	Severe Thunderstorm Watch		X
SVR	Severe Thunderstorm Warning	X	
SVS	Severe Weather Statement		X
TOA	Tornado Watch		X
TOR	Tornado Warning	X	
TRW	Tropical Storm Warning* (Note 3)	X	
TRA	Tropical Storm Watch* (Note 3)		X
TSA	Tsunami Watch (Note 3)		X
TSW	Tsunami Warning	X	
VOW	Volcano Warning*	X	

* - Event Codes Added May 2002

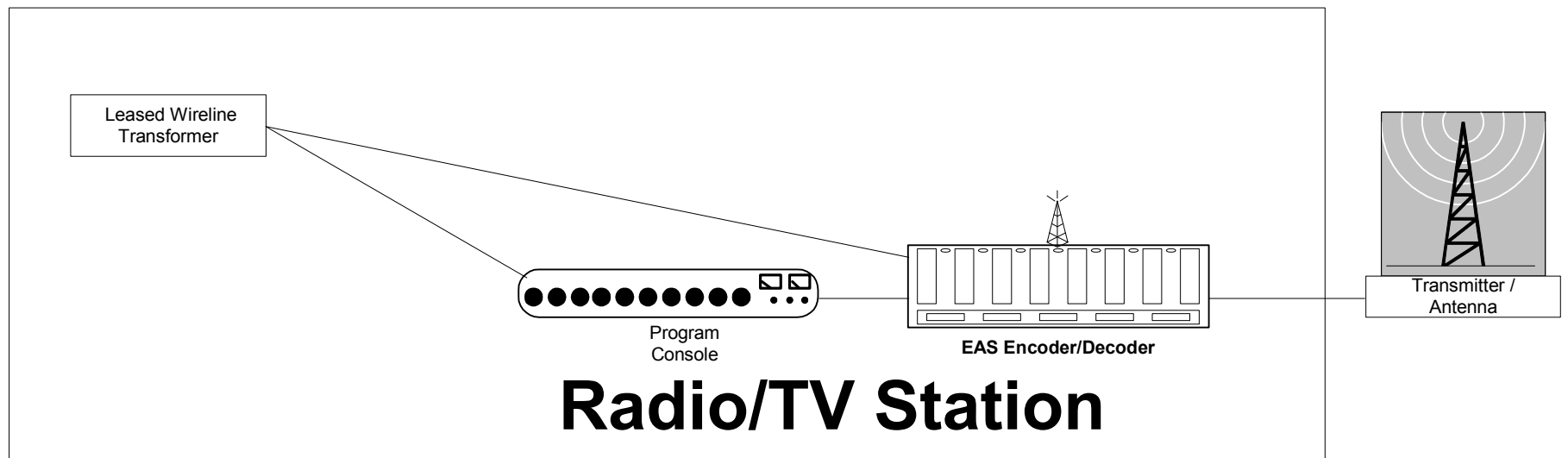
Note 1: CAE event code is used for AMBER or MAILE Alerts.

Note 2: CFW event code is used for High Surf Warnings.

Note 3: NWS to notify Civil Defense Agencies prior to issuance of SAME Message activating the EAS.

Note 4: SAME activated only for lower elevations; not used for the summits and upper slopes of the volcano.

EAS Simplified Diagram



Parallel Use of Land Line Circuits for EAS and LABS