



# IAEM-USA Statement on Hawaii EMA False Emergency Alert

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January 15, 2018

The U.S. Council of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM-USA) acknowledges this very unfortunate incident in which the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency accidentally issued a ballistic missile warning. This error led many residents to report that they were frightened and confused. People nationwide have echoed those feelings. We understand that the public would be concerned about a mistake of this type.

IAEM-USA is monitoring this event. More importantly, IAEM-USA believes this incident can be a learning exercise for other local emergency management agencies across the United States. Learning from the mistake will provide better experiences in future emergency alerts.

Despite this significant error, IAEM-USA encourages residents and visitors to Hawaii and across the nation to follow the guidance provided by local officials when prompted during an emergency. It is important to “take cover, tune in, and take action.” The Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) and a Emergency Alert System (EAS) remain critical components in the national ability to provide critical warning and information. We know that emergency managers in Hawaii and nationwide will work to reinforce America’s confidence in this new and evolving technology.

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