

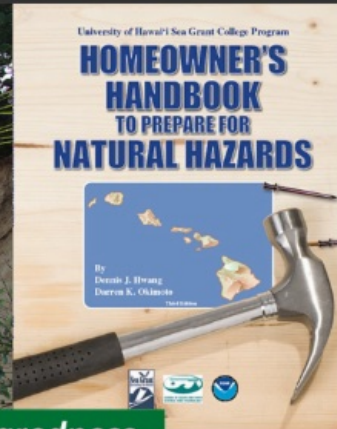
Sea Grant Postcard from the Field



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Preparedness in Paradise

Hawai'i Sea Grant publication has been helping homeowners on the islands and beyond prepare for disasters since 2007



“Although there is a hurricane season or preparedness week, preparation should be year round.”

- Dennis Hwang, Hawai'i Sea Grant Coastal Hazard Mitigation Specialist and co-author of *Homeowner's Handbook to Prepare for Natural Hazards*



Preparedness in Paradise

September is [*National Preparedness Month*](#).

When it comes to preparing for natural disasters, Dennis Hwang wrote the book - literally.

Hwang is a Coastal Hazard Mitigation Specialist with Hawai'i Sea Grant and co-author of the *Homeowner's Handbook to Prepare for Natural Hazards*. Since its first publication in 2007, the handbook has gone through three editions, with a fourth edition on the way thanks to appropriated funds from the Hawaii Legislature. Over 75,000 copies have been distributed, and the electronic version is also freely accessible online.

Written specifically for homeowners, the handbook is based on three main principles: (1) Providing information in a way that is easy to understand, with pictures and step-by-step instructions; (2) Educating and informing the homeowner of hazard risks in their area; and (3) Offering as many options or solutions to the homeowner as possible that are relevant, reasonable, and cost effective.

The handbook has also been adapted and used by other Sea Grant programs around the country; Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, Florida, Delaware, Massachusetts, Texas (English and Spanish), Republic of the Marshall Islands (English and Marshallese) and the Mariana Islands (including Guam) all have

adapted local versions of the guide. In many instances, Hwang traveled to these programs to help them get started and connect with their local partners.

[Read more about Hawai'i Sea Grant's Homeowner's Handbook.](#)

Image description: Two images, both courtesy of Hawaii Sea Grant. Left: Beach erosion in Hawai'i; right, the cover of the Hawai'i edition of the *Homeowner's Handbook to Prepare for Natural Hazards*.

Have an idea for a postcard? Share your program's work with Sea Grant!

[Submit your ideas for a Postcard from the Field.](#)

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