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Kauai Floods

Recently, the weather has been pretty crazy all over the world with major fires, hurricanes, blizzards, and floods. My heart goes out to all of you who have been affected by any of these disasters.

A few weeks ago, our island of Kauai made the national news because of record-breaking rainfall and floods. I've gotten dozens of emails from customers asking if I was OK. Thanks so much to all of you for your concern. The quick answer is . . . yes, I am fine. Some of my friends and neighbors were not so lucky. There was massive flood and mud damage, particularly here on the north shore, and several communities are still cut off and can only be accessed by helicopter or boat.

Saturday night April 14, the night of the flood, was quite spectacular here. We had continuous lightning and thunder from about 10 pm until 5 am. There was at least one lightning strike per minute most of that time. And from about 4:00 to 4:30 am the lightning was every two to three seconds. I started counting "One Mississippi, two Mississi-" and I rarely made it through "three Mississippi" before the next strike. The thunder was louder than I've ever heard. It was amazing!

I live on the bluffs in Princeville, about 300 feet above sea level. Up here we got 14" of rain in 24 hours. The town of Hanalei, just five minutes down the hill, got a record 28" before the rain gauge malfunctioned. And a little ways down the road from there, the town of Wainiha recorded 32" of rain in 24 hours. (As a comparison, the average ANNUAL rainfall in Los Angeles is 13", San Francisco is 21", Seattle is 37", and Hanalei is 78".)

Just this past week, the National Weather Service in Honolulu updated the totals and reported that *"preliminary data downloaded from a remote rain gage in north Kauai indicate that rainfall during the flash flood event on April 14-5, 2018 broke the U.S. 24-hour rainfall record. The rain gage, located in Waipa about one mile west of Hanalei, recorded 49.69 inches of rainfall during the 24-hour period at 12:45 pm HST April 15. This total, if certified will break the current U.S. 24-hour record of 43 inches at Alvin, TX on July 25-26, 1979,"* which was during Tropical Storm Claudette.

The clean-up will take many, many months, and some areas will be changed forever. But an uplifting aftermath of this devastating flood has been the amazing aloha spirit of the people who live here. We're all pitching in to help our neighbors, friends, and the entire island in any way we can. Just like the beautiful waterfalls and rainbows we get here after the rain . . . community spirit and volunteerism are flourishing after the flood.

Since our weather has been in the national news, and some of you weren't really sure which island I live on . . . I thought this would be a good time to tell you a bit about Hawaii. Check out my article at the bottom of this newsletter, right below the sale section, to learn fun facts about Hawaii and my island of Kauai.



Aloha,
Sylvia