



- Home
- Local News
- World & National
- Sports
- Weather Tracker
- Traffic Report
- Newscast Highlights
- CrimeStoppers
- Specials & Features
- Hokule'a - The Voyage
- Hawaii Superferry

LOCAL NEWS

Posted: August 11, 2007 05:52 PM

[PRINT STORY](#)



Make Your Home Hurricane Proof

Julia Norton-Dennis - jlittle@kgmb9.com

Despite all the information, when a hurricane or severe storm strikes, many are caught off-guard. Displaced homeowners may be forced to go to shelters.

"If you go to a shelter, first of all there's a question you may be able to get in, because it may be crowded," said Dennis Hwang from the University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program. "And secondly, if you do get in, you'll only have 10 square feet of space."

Hwang believes your home can be your best shelter if it's built or retro-fitted to withstand a hurricane.

Darren Okimoto, also from the UH Sea Grant College Program, is rebuilding his Kapahulu home with hurricanes in mind. "You can see the hurricane clips on there and then you see the plate ties that connect the studs," he said as he walks around his unfinished home.

Okimoto and Hwang have co-authored the book, entitled "Homeowner's Handbook to Prepare for Natural Hazards," to help homeowners prepare before a hurricane strikes. So, you can stay home when disaster hits.

"And they'll be a lot more comfortable," Hwang said. "They'll be able to take care of the elderly, they'll be able to take care of their pets and they won't be in crowded conditions."

Besides dispelling myths about hurricanes among other helpful preparation instructions, the book contains tips on strengthening your home.

"The first thing they put in was the anchor bolts," Okimoto said as he pointed to the floor of the home.

Besides hurricane clips, you can have special shutters and window coverings installed.

Okimoto is spending more money on rebuilding his home, so it can withstand a hurricane.

"In my case, you know, for our house, we asked the structural engineer and architect to build it stronger than code," Okimoto said. "So, that's why you see a lot of, a lot more hardware on our house."



- ADVERTISEMENT -



- ADVERTISEMENT -



- ADVERTISEMENT -



Enter Keyword



Weekdays at 3 p.m.



Weekdays at 6:30 p.m.



Weekends at 4:30 p.m.





The extra hardware and labor to make Okimoto's home hurricane-strong cost him about \$3,000. But, he says it's worth it. Hwang visited New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, and remembers the deplorable conditions when the superdome was used as a shelter. He's hoping more homeowners will strengthen their homes, so they don't have to go to a shelter.



If you'd like to order the book, which is free, call Cindy Knapman at 956-7410 or log onto the website at: www.soest.hawaii.edu/seagrant. You can also write to the University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program at: 2525 Correa Rd., HIG 208, Honolulu, HI 96822.



- ADVERTISEMENT -

Send News Tips

Please send information about news and events to kgmbnews@kgmb9.com or call 973-9889.



- ADVERTISEMENT -



- ADVERTISEMENT -

[About KGMB9](#) | [Employment](#) | [Advertising Information](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Site Index](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Home](#)
© Copyright 2007 KGMB9 - TV All Rights Reserved.