

DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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"Puna Geothermal Venture and the Mayor were right to offer immediate relocation assistance to nearby residents," he said.

"We also appreciate the Mayor's willingness to continue to pursue geothermal development.

"I have visited geothermal plants in Italy. I have seen residences, farms and businesses located side-by-side with geothermal wells. People, plants and animals can co-exist with geothermal," Blyth said.

"HIGA also wants to thank the many County and State workers who put in long hours round-the-clock to help Puna residents. The police, firemen and civil defense workers did a commendable job.

"HIGA's membership includes several engineers who will be monitoring the investigation of this incident," he said.

"We also are also urging the County to move ahead with the rules and regulations of the Asset Fund to expedite the county's ability to use the money contributed by the developer and State to assist impacted residents.

"The Mayor is right; the people of this island need more electrical power. We need the electricity that the Puna Geothermal Venture power plant will plug into the islandwide network, hopefully in early July. However, nearby residents must also be cared for. We believe everyone has learned from this situation and that additional precautions are needed," Blyth said.

"The Puna community has been justifiably 'huhu' but reasonable. We respect their restraint and their willingness to try to work this out fairly," he concluded.

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