

Rescue Tube Initiative

Kauai Lifeguard Association

Dr. Monty Downs

President

Rescue Tube Foundation

Branch Lotspeich

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Rescue Tube Initiative

It started on Kauai

More people have died on Kauai in the ocean than on the highways.

It's hard to imagine, but it's true.

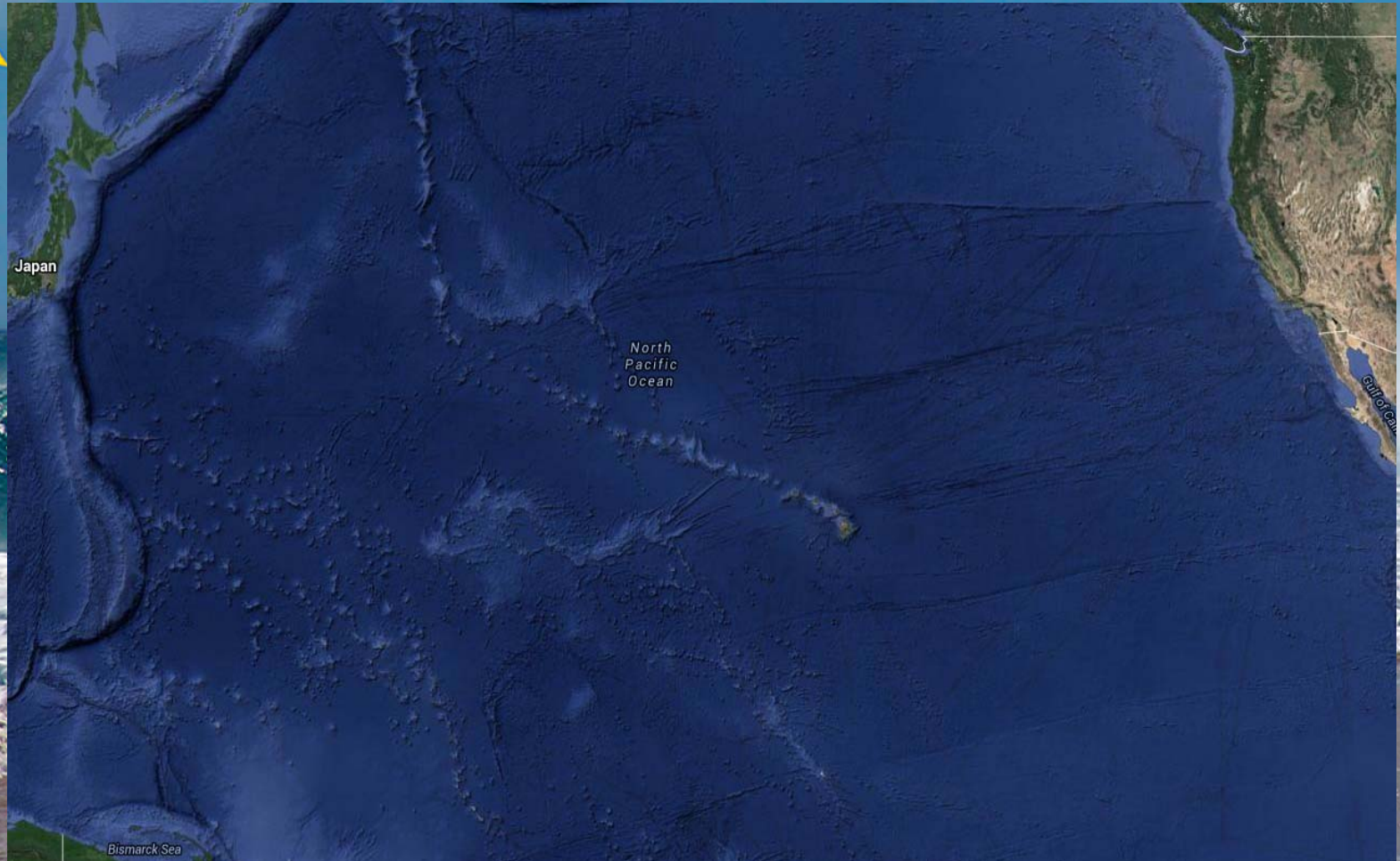
Hawaii, "The Drowning Capital of the US"

We needed to do even more



Rescue Tube Initiatives

Why Us?



Rescue Tube Initiatives

Rescue Tubes are personal floatation devices available to the public 24/7 to stabilize swimmers in distress while they either wait for rescue by lifeguards or find their way to shore



Rescue Tube Initiatives

If you
can't swim,
Do not use
this device
Do not go
in the water

Get help
Call and yell
911

Pull rescue tube
behind you



Use fins if possible

Stay calm



Kick across current
towards shore



rescuetubefoundation.org
© 2011

Graphic safety instructions
on every Rescue Tube

Spanish version

(Japanese and
Chinese coming)

If you
can't swim,
do not use
this device,
do not go
in the water

Si no sabe nadar,
No utilice este dispositivo,
No entre al agua

Get help
Yell and call
911

Grite pidiendo ayuda
y llame al 911

Pull rescue tube
behind you



Use fins if possible

Jale el tubo de rescate
atrás de usted
Use aletas si es posible

Stay calm



Mantenga la calma

Kick diagonally
towards shore



Patalee diagonalmente
hacia la costa,
No contra la corriente

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Rescue Tube Initiatives



Over 230 installed Rescue Tube Stations



Rescue Tube Initiatives

Over 130 successful Documented rescues

Known Rescue Tube saves – as of 11

2008: 1

2009: 7 (people affected by deployment)

February – Hanalei Fire fighters reported the successful use of a rescue tube at Camp Na

***** July – Dr. Michael Ancharski uses Larsen's tube to save family of 3, one at a time.**

***** August – A Poliss son uses the Larsen's tube to attempt to rescue his father. Sadly, the son hung onto the tube and he at least was saved by a Lifeguard jetski that came across**

***** December – A brother used the Secret Beach tube to attempt to rescue his brother. The brother, but the rescuer hung onto the tube and was later himself rescued by a Han Report made to John Tyler of the successful use of a rescue tube at Hanakapia'i.**

2010: 17 (people affected by usage)

***** March 27 – A father uses the Hanakapia'i tube to maneuver himself, his 12 year old onto a ledge in a cave down the coast. Treacherous conditions. A lengthy, skiffed, and dangerous rescue by Lifeguards and firefighters resulted in all 3 being extricated from the cave and saved. (Rescue tube hanging on vegetation, post-set-up not yet in place. Lifeguards, at the end of the rescue, returned the Rescue Tube to its hanging spot.)**

April 23 – Report from Fire Capt. Lee: A local man in his 20's somehow ended up in the ocean at Queens Bath. (Not sure if he got knocked in or if he fell in). He (wrongly) attempted to climb back up, but the waves were injuring him and he couldn't do it. So he (rightly) swam out – and his friend jumped in with the Queens Bath Rescue tube. They worked their way to Hialeways and emerged safely.

***** Early May -- Jim Ingham, Haena Beach Park Lifeguard, called to a rescue situation in the lagoon in front of Hanalei Colony Resort. Near-victim and lay rescuer were hanging onto the rescue tube, Jim pulled them safely to shore.**

June 29: Larsen's tube used. A man was swept out. Another man grabbed the tube and went out after him. The would-be victim actually released from the rip, regained control of himself, and made it back in unaided over the reef. The rescuer made use of the tube to himself get back to safety, and we're counting him as a save.

No rescuer injured
No adverse events for those rescued

July 5: Beach Matsuki made one of the other than Hanakapia'i Beach Park Tower tubes to make a rescue. Apparently he floated this on a fairly regular basis, after Lifeguards have gone off duty.
July 22: Analeha Lifeguard Kay Williamson reported to me the use of an Analeha rescue tube for an after-beach rescue.
July 23: John Tyler called with a young man who has used the Lualaba River Mouth Rescue Tube twice in the last few weeks.
July 24: Hanalei Rescuer Robert DeChant talked with a man who recently used a rescue tube for a rescue. At this time I'm not sure if he is the brother of the brother.

*** Late August 2008. (Shouldn't have been by Nick Brown). After the Hanalei Lifeguard crew had checked and pulled back to front of the beach, 3 women were pulled out and were struggling and waiting for help. Nick and another man went out on the beach. The man grabbed the rescue tube and used it to rescue the 3. One of the 3 is now in a wheelchair due to a shoulder injury sustained at the time of the rescue. About a week ago I brought this up to the 3. They said they were glad they were saved. I was glad to hear that. I had to see the 3 on their own terms. I had to see the 3 on their own terms.
September 20: A woman got swept out on by a dog in Hanalei. A man on the beach grabbed a rescue tube, but he could get it out. Another man with a surfboard had his surfboard out. He used it to rescue the woman. The Lifeguard called me to tell me how impressed they were by the success of the rescue. The man who had the surfboard could not get it out. He was still on the beach. The man who had the surfboard could not get it out. He was still on the beach. The man who had the surfboard could not get it out. He was still on the beach.
*** September 29: A rescue team helped get a child out of a cave at the end of Analeha Beach. The child was stuck in a cave. The rescue team used a rescue tube to get the child out of the cave. The child was safe and sound. The rescue team was very helpful. The child was safe and sound. The rescue team was very helpful.

2011 11 (people affected by deployment)

Feb. 23 – Rescue tube used at Camp Na. A man was swept out and rescued by a rescue tube.
May 20: – Rescue tube used at Analeha Beach. A man was swept out and rescued by a rescue tube.
July 13 – Rescue tube used at Hanalei. A man was swept out and rescued by a rescue tube.
July 17 – Another big rescue case at Analeha. A man was swept out and rescued by a rescue tube.
*** December 12 – Rescue tube used at Hanalei. A man was swept out and rescued by a rescue tube.

2012 21 (p

*** January 10: – Rescue tube used at Hanalei. A man was swept out and rescued by a rescue tube.
*** January 20: – Rescue tube used at Hanalei. A man was swept out and rescued by a rescue tube.
*** February 10: – Rescue tube used at Hanalei. A man was swept out and rescued by a rescue tube.
*** March 10: – Rescue tube used at Hanalei. A man was swept out and rescued by a rescue tube.
*** April 10: – Rescue tube used at Hanalei. A man was swept out and rescued by a rescue tube.
*** May 10: – Rescue tube used at Hanalei. A man was swept out and rescued by a rescue tube.
*** June 10: – Rescue tube used at Hanalei. A man was swept out and rescued by a rescue tube.
*** July 10: – Rescue tube used at Hanalei. A man was swept out and rescued by a rescue tube.
*** August 10: – Rescue tube used at Hanalei. A man was swept out and rescued by a rescue tube.
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*** November 10: – Rescue tube used at Hanalei. A man was swept out and rescued by a rescue tube.
*** December 10: – Rescue tube used at Hanalei. A man was swept out and rescued by a rescue tube.

2014 = 20 people affected

NOTE: There is always the rescuer (S&I and S&I trouble trying to save the one person affected, or 2

March: Family of 4 saved by a man restaurant in Hanalei. Beach was spot
June 11: 12 year old surfboard. Went away from beach. S&I and S&I. Lifeguard. Rescue Tube. Beach was spot
6/12 Lifeguard Greg Shover told me Queens Bath ridge. A couple of weeks

December 19: Lifeguard Eric Peters reported to me in a conversation that a little while ago he was driving by PK, saw a woman in distress, out in the water and waving her arms. He jumped out of his car, saw the rescue tube right there, grabbed it and rescued her.
December 1: Lifeguard Greg Shover told me about an after-beach man who grabbed a rescue tube at Hanalei and rescued 2 people who had been pulled out, about a week ago. One of them was stuck down the coast. They a few feet from the shore and brought them all, including rescue tubes, back to Hanalei. Greg found that the tubes had to Hanalei and to be stored there.
December 23: Remarkable rescue of Kailua Beach, by the rescuer. A man was swept out and rescued by a rescue tube. The rescuer was very helpful. The man was swept out and rescued by a rescue tube. The rescuer was very helpful.

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was off duty after hours, about that on Kailua Beach walking his dog. He saw 3 young women in trouble, grabbed one of our rescue tubes, got to them and got them in. One had swallowed enough H2O that she had to get medical attention. Garrett was impressed as how the tube could hold 4 people.

2016

1/14/16: Ran into Lifeguard John Matlock. He told me that a couple of months ago he had a day off and was near Hanalei Beach, seeing out on the beach with his parents, when he noticed a woman in distress. He was very happy to see a rescue tube and he grabbed it and went out and stabilized her and brought her to safety.
Lifeguard Spinner told me about a recent incident out on Queens Point (in Polihali) where a rescue tube "went in" very handy.

1/31/16 John Ferris came up to me at The summer got pulled out in a rip in the street. Someone went out to help. 2 men went swimming today and got pulled out, couldn't get back in, waving for help. One man grabbed a rescue tube, another a boogie board, and all were stabilized + but still being swept towards the huge waves. Mattie's boat was responded and launched from the shore at about 10:00 and quickly got all 4 to shore.

1/31/16 Paul Stecher, a man from Hanalei machine's water. 2 men went in after him + was on the trail and heard the rescue tube use if he had that, got everyone safe.

2/15/16 Queens Bath rescue of 2 people who were knocked off the ledge. Someone threw their rescue tube, both fell onto a sand beach. Lifeguards came around from Hanalei and rescued them. (This is caught on video YouTube)

5/24/16 Our "12th Man" Tyler McGee (previously mentioned on 10/14/14) used the Shipman's rescue tube to rescue 3 people who were in serious trouble. He's quite sure that had he and the rescue tube not been there, at least one of them was going to drown. The other 2 very much appreciated his assistance.

5/23/16 Rescue tube and a man came to the rescue of a woman swept out on Hanakapia'i. They ended by hooking themselves on rocks down the coast. Hanalei Harbor "Gone" on the "mess".

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Rescue Tube Initiatives



Rescue Tube Foundation shop
Kilauea, Kauai



rescuetubefoundation.org

Rescue Tube Initiatives



Easy installation



Rescue Tube Initiatives



The Rotary Club of Hanalei Bay
installed 23 Rescue Tube Stations
on Hanalei Bay, Kauai
in one morning



Rescue Tube Initiatives



Pacific Missile Range Facility
Barking Sands
Naval Base, Kauai



Rescue Tube Initiatives

Around the islands



Rescue Tube Initiatives



Even canoes need Rescue Tubes



Rescue Tube Initiatives

Sometimes there are questionable innovations



Rescue Tube Initiatives

Why do we do it?



Newlyweds saved
by Good Samaritan using a Rescue Tube
Kealia Beach, Kauai
Christmas Eve 2013



Rescue Tube Initiatives



Family of 5 rescued by
off-duty Firefighter, Jeff Maki
using two Rescue Tubes
Pololu Valley, Hawaii
2014



Rescue Tube Initiatives



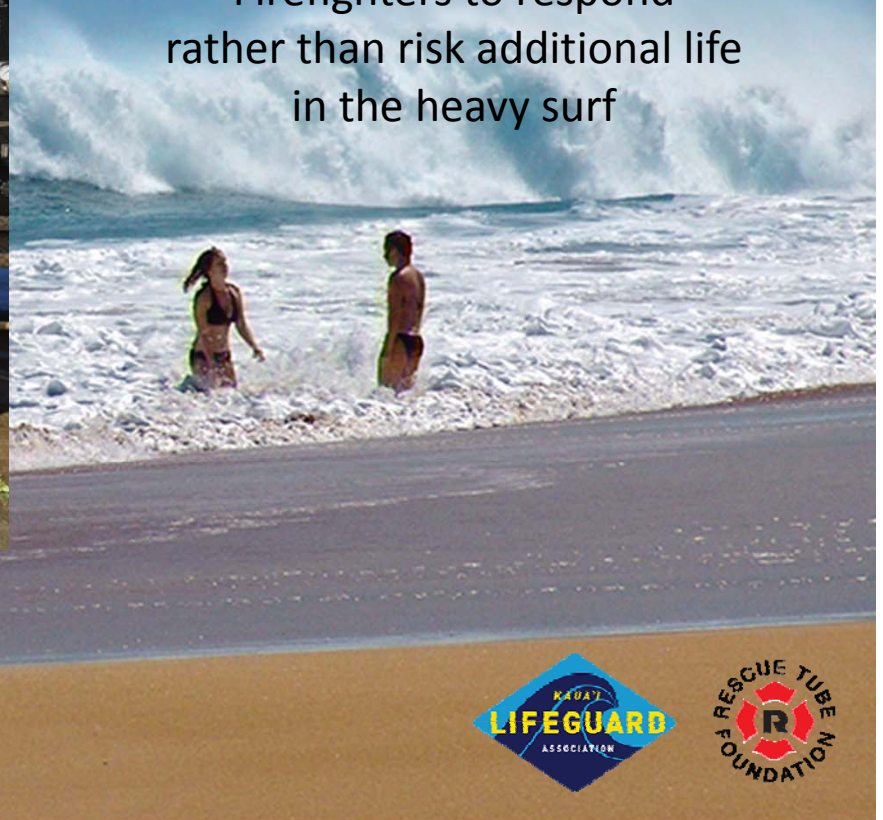
Sons saved by their father using a Rescue Tube
Hanakapiai Beach, Kauai
April 2010



Rescue Tube Initiatives

Not all remote situations are appropriate for Rescue Tubes

In 2016 on Secret's Beach, Kauai bystanders waited for Firefighters to respond rather than risk additional life in the heavy surf



Rescue Tube Initiatives



Couple pulled out at Larsen's Beach, Kauai
Husband saved by Good Samaritan using a Rescue Tube
Wife saved by Firefighters

July 25, 2016



Rescue Tube Initiatives

Harold Sperazza

Larsen's Beach Rescue Tube save
July 25, 2016

“Quite frankly, I thought I was drowning. All of the sudden, out of nowhere, is this guy with a Rescue Tube. He was just there.”

“This guy saved my life. I’m not melodramatic, but this guy absolutely saved my life.”

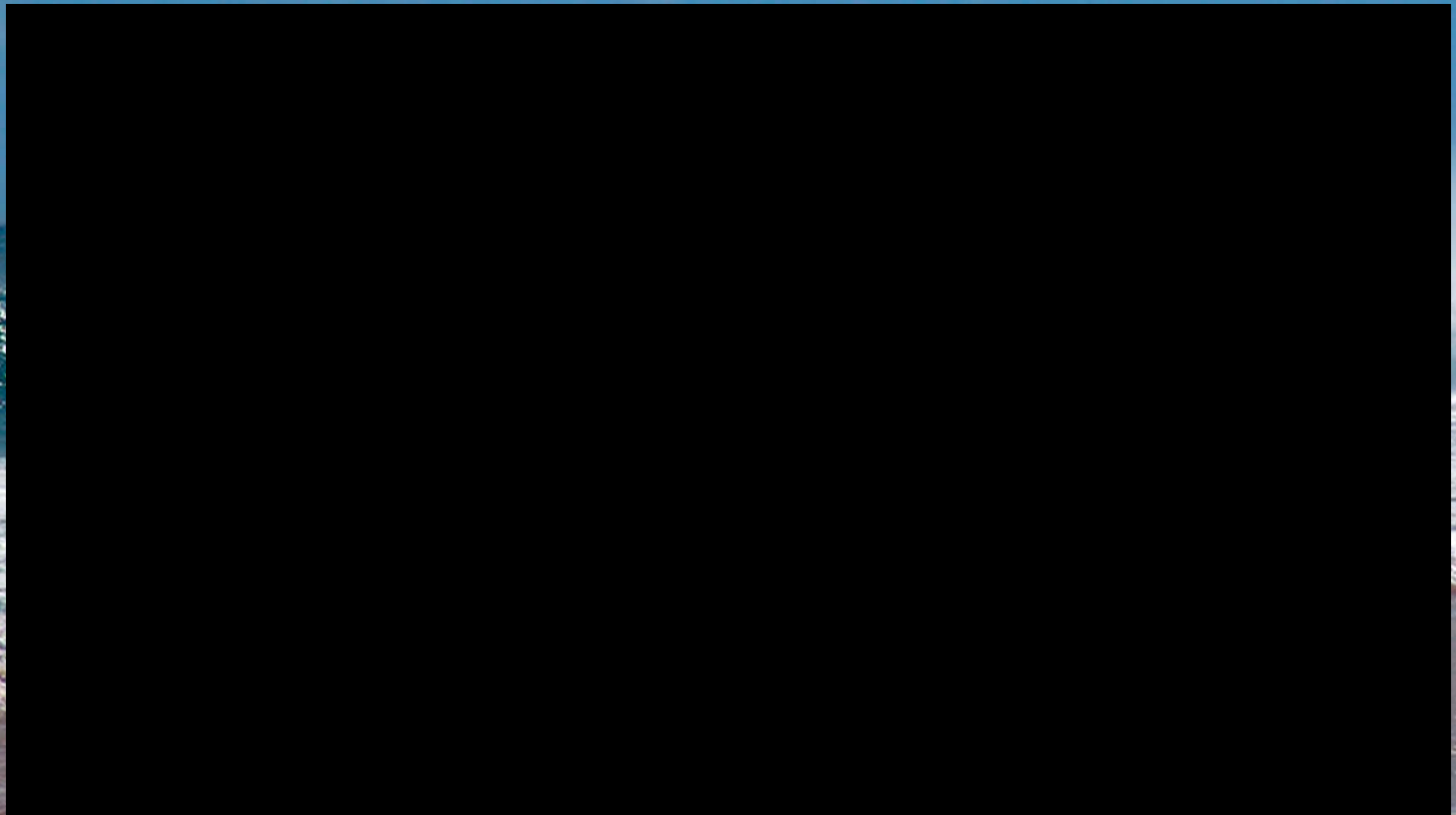
the Garden island Newspaper

“Once I got ahold of that thing,
I was able to calm down”



Rescue Tube Initiatives

A Rescue Tube can keep swimmers alive until lifeguards arrive especially on unguarded beaches



Rescue Tube Initiatives

Where are they today?

Kauai



Hawaii



Maui



Rescue Tube Initiatives

Where else are they?



Navarre, FL



Cape Fear, NC
and
Emerald Isle, NC



Custer Lake, SD

In planning

- Monterey, CA
- Panama City, FL
- Coos Bay, OR
- Kyoto, Japan
- Taipei, China
- and many more



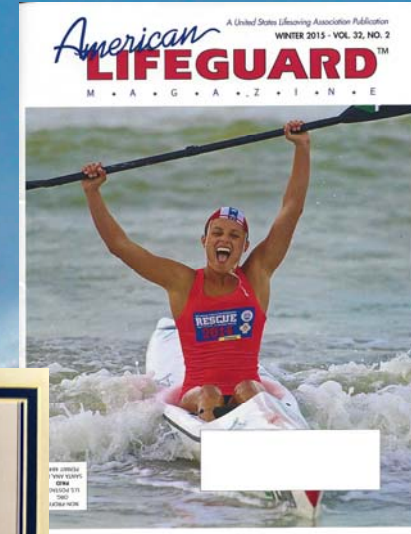
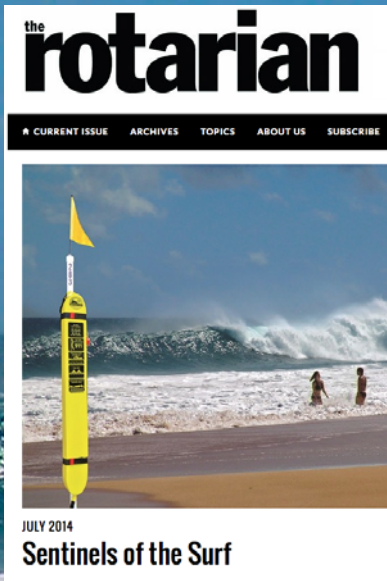
Rescue Tube Initiatives

What does it take to start a Rescue Tube Program?

- Understand the needs, remote beaches first
 - Consult with local lifeguard departments
 - Coordinate with local authorities and colleagues
 - Resolve liability issues, County and DLNR
 - Seek community support
-
- Acquire initial funding and plan for the long term
 - Create a Rescue Tube placement and priority strategy
 - Plan installation schedule
 - **Implement a regular maintenance program**
 - Spread the word, get press



Rescue Tube Initiatives Press and Recognition



Rescue Tube Initiatives

Started on Kauai, there are now over 20 communities Worldwide using Rescue Tube Stations or in the planning stages

Hawaii is looked to as a world leader in water safety and this is just another example of how we made our waters safer



Rescue Tube Initiatives

It's simple

Rescue Tubes Save Lives!

