

ISLAND SECURITY POLICY INSTITUTE

ispiglobal.com · ISPIGlobal@proton.me · (808) 999-0544

COMMENTARY

Security, Risk, and ESG in Island Operations

What Corporations Operating in Hawaii and the Pacific Must Know

Research Pillar: Governance & Global Policy — Corporate Security & ESG Risk

Document Type: Commentary

Author: Warren Pulley, Founder & Executive Director

Institution: Island Security Policy Institute — Honolulu, Hawai'i

Published: 2026

Contact: ISPIGlobal@proton.me · (808) 999-0544 · ispiglobal.com

Keywords: corporate security Hawaii ESG, island operations security, resort security Hawaii policy, corporate ESG Pacific Islands, island business security, hospitality security Hawaii, corporate emergency preparedness Pacific, ESG indigenous community Hawaii

RESEARCH INDEPENDENCE STATEMENT

The Island Security Policy Institute is a nonprofit, nonpartisan research organization registered in the State of Hawaii. This publication represents ISPI's independent research and policy analysis. Views expressed do not necessarily reflect the position of any funder, sponsor, or affiliated organization. ISPI maintains full editorial independence on all research outputs. Commissioning clients do not influence ISPI's research conclusions, policy recommendations, or published findings. Full institutional credential documentation is available to qualified government agencies, foundations, and institutional partners upon formal request.

A major hotel corporation operating in Hawaii completed a comprehensive security and ESG risk assessment using a standard continental framework. It was professionally executed and substantially inadequate for the Hawaii operational context — because the framework was designed for continental operating environments and did not account for five structural differences that make corporate security and ESG risk in island communities fundamentally different.¹

Continental business continuity planning assumes supply disruption scenarios of hours to days with alternative sourcing available within the disruption window. Island business operations face supply chain disruption scenarios that can extend to weeks with no alternative sourcing mechanism when port infrastructure is damaged or suspended.

Hawaii's hospitality industry operates with workforce characteristics — 73 percent annual turnover, broad physical access footprints, small island community social density — that create insider threat risk profiles that standard corporate security frameworks do not address.

Corporate emergency preparedness mainland templates applied without island-specific modification represent both a safety gap and a documented legal liability. The August 2023 Lahaina wildfire produced significant wrongful death litigation based substantially on failures of duty of care in emergency preparedness and response.

The ESG Accountability Gap

ESG frameworks that treat a land acknowledgment statement as adequate community accountability in Native Hawaiian and Pacific Island operating contexts expose corporations to reputational and regulatory risk from increasingly sophisticated indigenous community governance bodies and informed investors who can distinguish performative ESG from substantive accountability.²

ISPI Recommendations

1. Conduct island-calibrated security and ESG risk assessments — not continental assessments with island footnotes — for all Hawaii and Pacific Island operations.
2. Engage Native Hawaiian governance bodies in genuine partnership on ESG accountability, not land acknowledgment theater.
3. Commission ISPI for independent corporate security assessment incorporating island supply chain vulnerability, hospitality insider threat,

emergency preparedness duty of care, and indigenous community ESG accountability.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

ABOUT THE ISLAND SECURITY POLICY INSTITUTE

The Island Security Policy Institute (ISPI) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan research organization based in Honolulu, Hawaii. ISPI produces practitioner-led research, policy analysis, training programs, and commissioned research on public safety, emergency preparedness, insider threat, and security policy for island and coastal communities worldwide. ISPI is registered as a federal contractor on SAM.gov under NAICS 541720. Warren Pulley, Founder & Executive Director.

Website: ispiglobal.com · Email: ISPIGlobal@proton.me · Phone: (808) 999-0544 · LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/warpul13](https://www.linkedin.com/in/warpul13)

© 2026 Island Security Policy Institute. All rights reserved. This publication may be reproduced for noncommercial purposes with full attribution to ISPI.