

## IRIDeS and G-Safety Students visit Hilo, Hawaii and the Tsunami Pacific Museum (2016/9/14)

Theme: World tsunami awareness day, Disaster Archives, Communicating Disaster Science  
 Location: Hilo, Hawaii, USA

On Sept 14th, 2016, 5 students from Tohoku University G-Safety Program visited Hilo, Hawaii, as part of the Extended Convergence-Laboratory of G-Safety and Pre-field survey for “World tsunami awareness day Pre-event: Communicating Disaster Science”. They were accompanied by three IRIDeS faculty: Prof. Shuichi Kawashima (Japanese Disaster Culture), Assistant Professor Elizabeth Maly (International Disaster Resilience) and Assistant Professor Kazuya Sugiyasu (G-Safety). As part of their field study of how historic disasters are documented and how their lessons are shared, the group visited the Pacific Tsunami Museum in Hilo, Hawaii. At the Museum, they met the Executive Director, Ms. Marlene Murray, and received a tour and explanation of the exhibit from Curator and Archivist Ms. Barbara Muffler. The explanation included the detailed history of the 1946 and 1960 tsunamis that devastated Hilo, including factors such as scientific causes, evacuation behavior, stories and experiences from disaster survivors, and how this information is preserved and shared through the museums’ activities. Deeper understanding was also gained from opportunity to meet and hear the stories of Mr. Ken, who directly experienced both tsunamis, and visiting tsunami-affected areas around Hilo. After this survey, G-Safety students presented this experience at “Communicating Disaster Science” held on Sept 16th, 2016.



Pacific Tsunami Museum Curator Ms. Barbara



Explanation about past tsunamis and Hilo



Learning from the museum exhibit



Explanation from Mr. Ken, the disaster survivor