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## **GOVERNMENT AND NONPROFIT PARTNERS JOIN TOGETHER TO LAUNCH \$500M MAUI INTERIM HOUSING PLAN**

The collective effort, called the “Maui Interim Housing Plan” commits to securing a pool of 3,000 housing units with 18-month commitments to provide a stable place for households displaced by the Maui fires, currently residing in short-term hotels

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 5, 2024

**LAHAINA, MAUI** — In response to the urgent housing needs caused by the August 8, 2023 Maui wildfires, government and nonprofit partners launched the Maui Interim Housing Plan, collectively committing \$500 million to create a pool of more than 3,000 stable housing units with 18-month commitments. Announced today at Maui Lani in Kahului, which is one of the future build sites included in the plan, this collaborative effort brings together the state of Hawai‘i, County of Maui, Hawai‘i Community Foundation (HCF), Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the American Red Cross (ARC).

Our collective goal is to move all individuals and families who are in short-term hotels into long-term stable housing by July 1, 2024.

Solidifying their commitment through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the partners aim to address the immediate housing needs of individuals and families currently residing in short-term hotels. This ambitious initiative ensures stability and a sense of security during these challenging times and provides individuals and families an opportunity to look forward.

“FEMA’s financial assistance has been a critical piece to addressing the immediate housing needs on Maui,” said Governor Josh Green, M.D. “In addition to the \$250M FEMA is providing for hoteling and rental assistance to individuals, FEMA is currently leasing approximately 1,500 units to house survivors and is designing multiple group sites to house up to 500 households in Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). The estimated costs for these efforts total an additional \$450M, which greatly enhances our ability to house all who need it. This partnership is unprecedented and critical to our collective success as a state.”

Maui County Mayor Richard Bissen said, “We want families to know there is a long-term future for them on Maui—and it starts with providing housing stability right now.”

Governor Green and Mayor Bissen have been actively working with FEMA to extend their commitment to house affected families in existing short term hotels, as this transition occurs.

Currently, 2,400-plus households, totaling more than 5,928 individuals, remain housed in more than 30 hotels throughout Maui, in a program of non-congregate sheltering facilitated by the American Red Cross. The Maui Interim Housing Plan outlines a phased approach to delivering housing, prioritizing options that produce permanent housing, efficient use of funds, and readiness for move-in by survivors. The plan includes: residents returning to original unharmed residences, the [Host Housing Support Program](#), direct leasing, short-term rental transitions to long-term rentals, and new permanent developments.

“We mahalo our more than 250,000 donors from around the world who gave to the Maui Strong Fund. It’s with their support that we can ensure that individuals and families affected by the fires can have hope for their next chapter,” said Hawai’i Community Foundation President and CEO Micah Kāne. “This is just one of the many ways that HCF is convening partners and deploying its resources to support Maui’s people and places.”

The Host Housing Support Program administered by CNHA started as a pilot project in October. It currently provides financial assistance to more than 200 households throughout the state, who are housing more than 500 affected individuals and families. CNHA anticipates that 300 more households will sign up for the program in the coming months.

“There is no easy solution to address the housing crisis on Maui. It’s a kāko’o effort that will take government, private sector, philanthropy and the community working in partnership to overcome this crisis situation,” said CNHA President and CEO Kūhiō Lewis. “The road ahead will be long and challenging, but not impossible when we do it together.”

The Memorandum of Understanding, developed under the Maui County Office of Recovery Office (OOR), led by acting Managing Director Josiah Nishita, follows the FEMA National Disaster Recovery Framework. Members of the MOU are already meeting regularly to drive scalable solutions to assist the more than 12,000 individuals affected by the Maui fires.

“The collaborative work occurring between state, county, the philanthropic and nonprofit communities on behalf of Maui, is unprecedented in ensuring everyone, including the most vulnerable, have the resources they need to recover,” said FEMA Region 9 Administrator, Robert J. Fenton, Jr. “The action of this partnership, so early in the recovery process, demonstrates the commitment at the local level to support the Maui community.”

“The Maui community is strong — we have seen that strength expressed daily by the individuals and families we continue to support in more than 30 hotels across the island,” said American Red Cross Director of Wildfire Long Term Recovery Programs Amanda Ree. “We’re proud to be working together with our partners to support the transition to more permanent housing solutions, and help those affected on their road to recovery.”

Beyond individuals housed in Maui hotels, more than 1,000 households, including undocumented individuals, Compacts of Free Association migrants, and previously houseless individuals, are estimated to be residing on the neighbor islands.

The collaborative initiative aims to extend its reach to these populations through innovative programs.

The parties have committed initial contributions as follows:

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	\$250,000,000
State of Hawai'i	\$150,000,000
County of Maui	\$40,000,000
Hawai'i Community Foundation, Maui Strong Fund	\$50,000,000
CNHA, Kāko'o Maui Fund	\$5,000,000
Other Philanthropy	\$5,000,000

Total: \$500,000,000

**Please find the MOU between the parties and slides of the housing plan, attached.**

**Photos from the news conference are [here](#).**

### **About the Council of Native Hawaiian Advancement and Kāko'o Maui**

The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA) is a member-based 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with a mission to culturally advance Hawai'i through economic, political, and community development. CNHA provides access to capital, financial education, and individualized counseling services with a focus on low- and moderate-income families and services as a National Intermediary, providing grants and loans targeting underserved communities in Hawai'i. The Kāko'o Maui Fund is providing resources that can be deployed quickly and efficiently to our community impacted by the Maui wildfires. For more information, visit [HawaiianCouncil.org](http://HawaiianCouncil.org) or [HelpingMaui.org](http://HelpingMaui.org).

### **About the Hawai'i Community Foundation and the Maui Strong Fund**

The vision of the Hawai'i Community Foundation is to create an equitable and vibrant Hawai'i in which all our island communities thrive. With our more-than-105-year history, our trusted expertise, and the generous support of donors, we are working to address the root causes of our state's most difficult challenges, including expanding access to affordable housing, conserving fresh water resources, and ensuring the healthy development of Hawai'i's young children. HCF works in communities across Hawai'i, with offices and staff located statewide. For more information about HCF, please visit [hawaiicomunityfoundation.org](http://hawaiicomunityfoundation.org) and follow our social media channels on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#).

The Maui Strong Fund of the Hawai'i Community Foundation is providing financial resources to support the immediate and long-term recovery needs for the people and places affected by the Maui wildfires. HCF works in close collaboration with federal, state and county agencies, nonprofit organizations, and community members to get an understanding of the evolving priorities on the ground and deploys grants to address unmet needs. To ensure transparency, all grantees and award amounts from the Maui Strong Fund are updated regularly and can be found [here](#). The Maui Strong Fund is designed for the long haul, using a four-phase approach that includes recovery, stabilization, risk reduction, and resiliency building. Learn more about our four-phase approach [here](#).

**About the Federal Emergency Management Agency**

FEMA's mission is helping people before, during, and after disasters. All FEMA disaster assistance will be provided without discrimination on the grounds of race, color, sex (including sexual harassment), sexual orientation, religion, national origin, age, disability, limited English proficiency and/or economic status. If you believe your civil rights are being violated, call the Civil Rights Resource line at [833-285-7448](tel:833-285-7448).

**About the American Red Cross**

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. For more information, please visit [redcross.org](http://redcross.org) or [CruzRojaAmericana.org](http://CruzRojaAmericana.org), or follow us on social media.

**For more information:****Office of the Governor, State of Hawai'i**

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## **Interim Housing Memorandum of Understanding**

Between

County of Maui  
and  
State of Hawaii  
and  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
and  
Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement  
and  
Hawaii Community Foundation  
and  
American Red Cross

This non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) effective as of January 5, 2024, is made by and between the County of Maui (“COM”), State of Hawaii (“SOH”), Federal Emergency Management Agency (“FEMA”), Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (“CNHA”), Hawaii Community Foundation (“HCF”), and American Red Cross (“ARC”), and sets forth the terms and understanding between the parties regarding mutual efforts to secure interim housing for the survivor families of the Maui 2023 wildfires.

### **BACKGROUND**

The severity and complexity of the impacts caused by the fires of August 8<sup>th</sup> (the “Fires”) on the people and place of Maui are unprecedented. Immediately following the Fires, the world galvanized around the communities of Lahaina, Olinda, and Kula in hopes of bringing stability and hope for those individuals and families impacted. Since then, hundreds of millions of dollars from government, public and private sources flowed into Maui. It is estimated that nearly 12,000 residents of Maui were directly impacted by the three fires.

Families who lost their place of residence seek housing stability over the next 18-24 months as work is completed to allow the physical rebuilding to begin. Today, over 2,700 households (estimated 6,200 individuals) remain housed in more than 30 hotels throughout Lahaina and Ka’anapali and an additional 1,500 households (estimated 4,000 individuals) are residing on neighbor islands. Included in this population are more than 300 undocumented individuals and

Compacts of Free Association (COFA) migrants and more than 150 previously houseless individuals.

In addition to Federal, State, and County efforts, many organizations and individuals stepped up to meet the immediate needs of Maui. Specific to this interim housing MOU, the support provided by the hospitality industry since the Fires has been timely, collaborative and extremely resourceful. They remain a very important partner as we transition families from non-congregate shelter to interim safe and stable housing. In addition, families throughout Hawai‘i have opened their homes to house those in need. Adding to the effort, non-profits, private companies, and philanthropists from around the world lent their support of time, talent, and treasure to help in the recovery.

Based on currently known data, approximately 2,600-3,000 families are in need of interim housing that will provide a home for the next 18-24 months (“Interim Housing”). As many current hotel agreements for housing families expires in February 2024, the Parties have set a goal of having interim housing solutions to these families beginning March 1, 2024. It is recognized that some of these solutions, especially new construction solutions, may not be completed by that deadline, and that the Parties will continuously, and in a coordinated manner, monitor the solutions and needs.

This effort to provide Interim Housing will follow certain key principles. While the focus is on Interim Housing solutions, in order to minimize disruption to families and maximize use of resources, all efforts and decisions will prioritize:

- Sense of urgency away from non-congregate shelters;
- Return to residence (with full cooperation from families);
- Interim new builds that can also serve as Permanent; and
- Cost efficient options to ensure funds can be used to fund other important wrap-around (mental health, transportation, other household) or separate needs (education, workforce, etc).

## **PARTIES TO THIS MOU:**

### **Maui County:**

Per the FEMA National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF), *“the **local government** has primacy in preparing for and managing the response and recovery of its community. Individuals, families and businesses look to local governments to articulate their recovery needs. The local government leads pre-disaster recovery and mitigation planning efforts and has the primary role of planning and managing all aspects of a community’s recovery post-disaster.”*

Accordingly, the County of Maui, under the leadership of Mayor Richard Bissen, is the lead agency in disaster recovery efforts that directly affect Maui. Accordingly, they are primarily responsible for securing safe housing options in emergencies and disasters, with the support of the State, Federal, private and philanthropic technical and financial resources.

**State of Hawai'i:**

Also per the NDRF, *“States assist local governments post-disaster by identifying, securing, and leveraging recovery resources and funds for local governments ....In addition to managing federally provided resources, state governments may develop programs or secure funding that can help finance and implement recovery projects. States may also enact new or existing exemptions to state laws and/or regulations to facilitate rebuilding activities and promote safe, stronger, and smarter building and oversee volunteer and donation management in coordination with Federal partners, including FEMA Voluntary Agency Liaisons.”*

Accordingly, the State of Hawaii, under the leadership of Governor Josh Green, is the primary supporting agency for Maui County Recovery efforts and seeks to jointly develop programs that meet Maui County objectives, particularly in the area of housing, and more importantly secure funding and regulatory variances toward that end.

The State of Hawai'i has established several disaster housing programs for survivors to find safe, secure, and stable housing including: the Hawai'i Fire Relief Housing Program, the State Department of Human Services Airbnb Program, and the Pu'u honua o Nene Pre-Disaster Houseless Village in partnership with the State Department of Human Services and Project Vision Hawai'i. These programs have evolved from the beginning of the housing mission and will continue to meet the needs of disaster survivors in collaboration and cooperation with all partners.

**Federal Government:**

Federal Government supports in both emergency response and recovery efforts include a priority for safe shelter and housing. FEMA and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development are the key federal agencies that support a disaster affected community and local government in the area of emergency, temporary and permanent housing.

Accordingly, for eligible survivors, FEMA has been and will continue to be a primary provider and funder of emergency and temporary housing options, among other housing-related supports.

**Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs):**

Per the NDRF, “NGO support is provided by a range of organizations from small community-based nonprofits to national organizations with extensive experience in disaster response and recovery.”

NGOs play a wide range of roles in the response and recovery efforts. Because of that, the depth of understanding of individual and collective situations that should inform interventions and resources is extremely valuable.

“NGOs play a critical role in the implementation of an inclusive, locally led recovery organization and planning process.”

The **Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA)** is a party to this MOU because of the key role it has and will continue to play in housing Maui families and well as serving as a key data partner for housing. To date, CNHA has played the following roles:

- Direct navigator support to survivors at the Kako'o Maui Resource Hub
- Provider of innovative temporary housing options consolidated at a centralized website:
  - Founder and operator of the Host Family program
  - Home leasing program (Property owner leases to CNHA who subleases to survivor family)
  - Loan Forgiveness program for county-approved accessory dwelling units (ADU)
- Data aggregator for survivors (FEMA, Red Cross, Kako'o Maui, and others)

The **Hawaii Community Foundation (HCF)** has provided technical and financial resources devoted to all 4 phases of disaster. Most significantly, for the Maui wildfire, the Maui Strong Fund (MSF) has been established to support all phases, with safe and secure housing a significant priority. Additionally, opportunities to fund high impact funding gaps and leveraging other sources of funds aligned with the intent of donors is an important objective of the MSF.

The **American Red Cross (ARC)** is a key NGO in all disaster response and recovery and has provided case management and funding support for survivors from the time the disaster hit to now. They have been an integral partner in housing strategies like the non-congregate shelter (NCS) and the Host Family program with CNHA.

The magnitude of need and complexity of the disaster requires collaboration, trust, strategy and structure to give affected families the greatest opportunity for success. Therefore, key stakeholders have joined together under this MOU to commit to this initiative.



NOW THEREFORE, the Parties agree as follows:

## **I. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

While the parties agree that this Interim Housing Plan and the work therein will be a collective effort, the section sets forth the understanding of projects and efforts that each party will lead.

See Exhibit A

## **II. FUNDING**

This Interim Housing Plan establishes an ambitious goal of delivering up to 3,000 safe and stable homes for up to two years beginning March 1, 2024. To accomplish this, the estimated financial need is \$500,000,000 over the two years.

The parties have set forth an approximate allocation of those costs as:

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	\$250,000,000
State of Hawai'i (SOH)	\$150,000,000
County of Maui (COM)	\$ 40,000,000
Hawaii Community Foundation MSF	\$ 50,000,000
CNHA, Kāko'o Maui Fund	\$ 5,000,000
Other philanthropy	<u>\$ 5,000,000</u>
Total Estimated Contribution	\$500,000,000

## **III. DURATION**

Through March 1, 2026

## **IV. COUNTERPARTS**

This MOU may be executed in any number of counterparts and by the parties hereto on separate counterparts, each of which when so executed and delivered shall be an original, but such counterparts together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

## **V. NON-BINDING AND NO LEGAL PARTNERSHIP OR JOINT VENTURE**

This MOU is non-binding on any of the parties and does not create any legal or other duty or requirement. This MOU is meant to set forth a collective purpose and understanding that will assist in moving specific programs, funding, and effort to accomplish the goals and intentions provided for in this MOU. Notwithstanding the foregoing, because each party will be undertaking efforts pursuant to this MOU, there is an expectation that any party will notify the other parties if their intent materially differs from this MOU. However, any specific binding

expectation must be created through a binding agreement between any of the parties. Thus, the parties agree that they are not entering into a legal partnership, joint venture or any other business arrangement, nor is the purpose of this MOU to enter a commercial undertaking for monetary gain. Neither party will refer to or treat the arrangements under this MOU as a legal partnership or joint venture or take any action inconsistent with such intention.

### **Contact Information**

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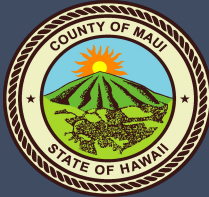
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## EXHIBIT A

Project	Lead Party	Support	Temporary (T), Permanent (P) or Both (B)	Other Needs
Return to residence	County		B	Funding likely needed for home preparation (new appliances), repair, and moving costs
Host Families	CNHA	HCF, ARC	T	
Direct Lease (Short Term Rental – STR)	FEMA	CNHA	T	FEMA Program
ADU/TDU	County		B	
Hotels	State	ARC	T	FEMA funded Program, administered by the State
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	State		T	State Program, administered by DHS, rental and mortgage assistance
Rental Assistance Program (RAP)	State		T	State Program, administered by DHS, use of Airbnb units.
State Build	State	Developer	B	State Program
FEMA Build	FEMA	County	B	
Private Build	County	Developer	B	

# Maui Housing Recovery



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# *Maui Interim Housing Plan*

- Collectively committing to creating a pool of 3,000 total units by July 1, 2024.
- This will ensure safe and secure housing units for households currently residing in hotels.
- Maui Lani - future build site for mid-term housing; 34 units



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# *The Issue We're Addressing*

- 2,400+ individuals and families who have been in hotels for the last 5 months need stable housing options for the next 24 months while more permanent solutions are determined.



# *Our Shared Commitment*

- **Solidifying our shared commitment through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**
- **The partners aim to address the immediate housing needs of individuals and families currently residing in hotels.**
- **This ambitious initiative extends housing support for up to 24 months.**



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# *Timeline and Transition*

- This commitment holds all of us accountable to deliver on these options over the next several months, with much more detailed plans and timetables.





# Housing

## Longer-Term OBJECTIVES

- Enhance the availability of resilient and affordable housing
- Provide support to affected homeowners
- Reinforce housing infrastructure; increased resilience
- Align housing solutions with evolving workforce needs
- Ensuring stability and sense of security



# Mid to Long-Term Housing

GOAL: 3,000 HOUSEHOLDS SUPPORTED FOR 18-24 MONTHS

	DEC	NOW	MARCH 1	JULY 1
<b>SHORT TERM HOTEL</b>	<b>3,000+</b>	<b>2,400+</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>HOST FAMILY PROGRAM</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>NON SHORT-TERM HOTELS</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>688</b>	<b>688</b>
<b>LONG TERM RENTALS</b> (INCLD STR CONVERSION/2ND HOME)	<b>50</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,500</b>
<b>RETURN TO RESIDENCES</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>ADU/TDU</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>350</b>
<b>FEMA BUILD</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>PRIVATE/MOU PARTNERS BUILD</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>TOTAL MID - LONG TERM OVER TIME</b>	<b>756</b>	<b>1,459</b>	<b>3,071</b>	<b>4,200+</b>

# Our Partnership

FEMA	\$250M
STATE OF HAWAI'I	\$150M
COUNTY OF MAUI	\$40M
MAUI STRONG FUND (HCF)	\$50M
KĀKO'O MAUI FUND (CNHA)	\$5M
OTHER PHILANTHROPY	\$5M
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$500M</b>



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# *Help / Resources*

- **WEBSITE: [HELPINGMAUI.ORG](https://helpingmaui.org)**
- **CALL: 808-204-2722**
- **VISIT: THE KĀKO'O MAUI RESOURCE CENTER**

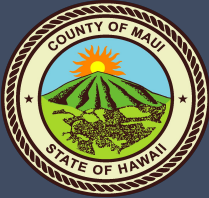
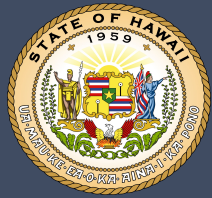


# Additional Updates

- If you, or someone you know, is interested in leasing units to FEMA for the Direct Lease program:
  - Email: [mauihousing2024@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:mauihousing2024@fema.dhs.gov)
  - Call: (510) 499-6069



# Mahalo / Q&A



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