



HAWAI'I COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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TAGNAWA PROGRAM ADDRESSES BARRIERS TO RECOVERY FOR MAUI'S FILIPINO COMMUNITY FOLLOWING MAUI WILDFIRES, SUPPORTED BY \$150,000 FROM THE MAUI STRONG FUND *Grant to Support Comprehensive Disaster Response for Filipino Community*

LAHAINA, MAUI — Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF) and grassroots organization Tagnawa today announced funding support committed to redefining disaster response for Lahaina's Filipino community affected by the devastating Maui wildfires. The \$150,000 grant from the Maui Strong Fund of the Hawai'i Community Foundation will support Tagnawa in establishing a Filipino values-based approach to serve Filipinos affected by the Maui fires crisis.

The program will:

- Conduct mass needs assessment
- Facilitate financial resource assistance enrollment at hotel and hubs sites
- Alert Filipino survivors to existing assistance programs and new forms of aid as they emerge, including needs for collective advocacy
- Serve as the bridge between non-Filipino organizations and Filipino immigrants
- Secure a paid volunteer coordinator and train and pay stipends to Filipino volunteers
- Educate partners on Filipino specific needs and strengths
- Implement cultural restoring forms of mental health care and recovery, and more.

Filipinos are a significant immigrant population on Maui, making up 40 percent of residents in Lahaina, according to Tagnawa. Tagnawa, in operation since the crisis began, with the fiscal sponsor Hawai'i Workers Center, has been using an Ilokano and Tagalog team to translate key information to survivors in collaboration with the all-immigrant umbrella group, Roots Reborn. Tagnawa has led the only on-the-ground and Filipino-specific needs assessment and financial assistance campaign at hotels and community hubs, having served 800 survivors experiencing displacement from their homes and job loss.

"Filipino residents are an important part of the beautiful, diverse community in Lahaina—and they are also one of the core backbone communities of its workforce," says Micah Kāne, chief executive officer and president of HCF. "We are proud to partner with Tagnawa and the incredible network of organizations they partner with to meet the needs of this community with a cultural, values-aligned approach, and with a long-term view that Filipino residents can remain on Maui."

Partners for this initiative include Mauna Medics Healers Hui, 'Āina Momona, Help Maui Rise, Chef Hui, LAING Hawai'i, the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU), Our Hawai'i, Filipino Mental Health Initiative, and Kīpuka Maui.

“Tagnawa is deeply grateful for the support provided through the generous grant from the Hawai‘i Community Foundation,” says Tagnawa volunteer Nadezna Ortega. “This funding empowers us to continue our crucial work in addressing the diverse and pressing needs of our Filipino community following the Maui wildfires.”

For more information about Tagnawa and its initiatives, please email tagnawaformai@gmail.com.

Sergio Alcubilla, executive director of the Hawai‘i Workers Center, says, “The Hawai‘i Workers Center is proud to serve as fiscal sponsor for Tagnawa through this generous grant from the Hawai‘i Community Foundation. Tagnawa for Maui has done an incredible job through its grassroots efforts of reaching our Filipino community impacted by the fires, and we look forward to continuing to work together in helping the community rebuild. We thank the donors from around the world for their generosity in supporting the Maui Strong Fund of HCF that allows us to do the important work ahead.”

The grant was made possible by donations to the Maui Strong Fund. As of November 27, HCF has awarded \$33,970,218 to 147 partners working to meet the immediate and long-term recovery needs for the people and places affected by the devastating Maui fires. The Hawai‘i Community Foundation is committed to transparency in our grantmaking. [The Maui Strong Fund webpage](#), includes all partners that have received Maui Strong Fund grant awards, the day the grant was approved, the amount granted, and the work each partner is doing on Maui.

HCF has a unique role in disaster preparedness and response. The organization collaborates with partners, both inside and outside philanthropy, for a coordinated effort to secure maximum community impact. HCF has demonstrated its ability to raise funds quickly—and deploy grants rapidly to community organizations that are at the heart of emergency response efforts.

For nonprofit organizations seeking funding from the Maui Strong Fund, please visit the HCF website [here](#) for detailed instructions on how to apply for a grant from the Maui Strong Fund.

For donations to the Maui Strong Fund at HCF, please visit <https://www.hawaiicomunityfoundation.org/maui-strong>.

*****VISUALS*****

For photos of Tagnawa members doing outreach in the Filipino community, please visit [this Dropbox link](#).

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About Hawai‘i Community Foundation & 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 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 Tagnawa

Tagnawa seeks to reimagine the conventional one-size-fits-all emergency disaster response by establishing a Filipino-values-based approach to serve “hard-to-reach” populations of Filipinos affected by the Maui fires crisis. Tagnawa has been working in Maui communities since the first day of the crisis and has been using Ilokano and Tagalog teams to translate key information to survivors in collaboration with the all-immigrant umbrella group Roots Reborn. Since then, Tagnawa has led the only on-the-ground and Filipino-specific needs assessment and financial assistance campaign at both hotels and community hubs where Filipinos are aggregated. To date, Tagnawa has served about 800 Filipino survivors of the Lahaina fires. Find Tagnawa on Instagram @tagnawaformaui and on Facebook (Tagnawa for Maui).