



HAWAI'I COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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**HAWAI'I COMMUNITY FOUNDATION LAUNCHES STRONGER HAWAI'I INITIATIVE
TO SUPPORT DISASTER RECOVERY ON MAUI AND ACROSS THE STATE**

HONOLULU, HAWAI'I – The Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF) today launched the [Stronger Hawai'i](#) initiative to provide information and resources to Hawai'i communities when faced with disasters.

Designed to support the community during times of disaster, the initiative is unique to Hawai'i and features partner-driven resources, important updates from community organizations, and highlights collaborative solutions on the ground.

Over the past year, HCF has granted more than \$110 million to nearly 200 organizations to respond to immediate and long-term recovery needs for the people and places affected by the 2023 Maui wildfires. The platform will feature a collection of resources from many of these organizations, in addition to critical resources from County, State, and Federal entities.

“In all of these disaster experiences we recognize that recovery happens at the community level,” says Keanu Lau Hee, Senior Director for the HCF Maui Recovery Effort. “We are proud to partner with the many organizations that uphold systems of support focused on meeting the needs of those impacted.”

HCF plays a unique role in disaster preparedness and response. Over the past six years, HCF has supported relief efforts responding to four major disasters across the state. Through collaboration with partners, both inside and outside the philanthropic sector, HCF has contributed to a coordinated effort for maximum community impact in the most efficient manner. Operating with a four-phase approach to disaster relief, HCF's commitment acknowledges both the immediate and long-term recovery needs for the people and places affected by disasters.

While currently focused on providing resources for Maui, the platform is designed to serve events occurring across the state. In the event HCF responds to a new disaster, the Stronger Hawai'i initiative will be responsive in the information and resources made available by key partners and its own responsive grantmaking for community recovery. As a permanent tool, the platform will expand to include educational information and resources responsive to community needs as they evolve and develop over time.

This initiative is part of a strategic focus as HCF centers prioritized needs, complementing and leveraging public resources rather than duplicating them, providing support for affected populations, and making decisions as data-informed as possible. The Stronger Hawai'i initiative encourages people to access disaster case management as a starting point to ensure that all survivors and their families are attended to in a way that they feel safe, comfortable, and equipped to move toward long-term recovery.

Access resources and more information at the Stronger Hawai'i website at www.strongerhawaii.org.

For the Maui Strong Fund One-Year Impact Report and accompanying message from HCF CEO and President Micah Kāne, please visit <https://www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/strengthening/maui-strong-fund>.

Nonprofit organizations seeking funding from the Maui Strong Fund, please visit this page on the HCF website for detailed instructions on how to apply for a Maui Strong Fund grant: <https://www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/strengthening/maui-strong-fund/apply-for-a-grant>.

To donate to the Maui Strong Fund at HCF, please visit <https://www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/maui-strong>.

For questions or additional information on giving, please contact Donor Services at (808) 566-5560 or donorservices@hcf-hawaii.org.

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About the 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-107-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 hawaiicommunityfoundation.org and follow our social media channels on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#) 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.