



**HAWAI'I COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Hawai'i Community Foundation

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**PHILANTHROPIC LEADERS ESTABLISH MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR MAUI RECOVERY FUNDERS
COLLABORATIVE**

*Hawai'i Community Foundation, Kaiser Permanente, and Maui United Way Launch Transformative
Funding Partnership to Support Lahaina's Recovery*

LAHAINA, HAWAI'I – The Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF), Kaiser Permanente, and Maui United Way today announced the formation of the Maui Recovery Funders Collaborative (MRFC), a pioneering philanthropic network designed to support communities impacted by the 2023 Maui wildfires. This innovative model streamlines access to funding for organizations serving affected Maui communities, providing more exposure to potential funders than applicants may otherwise have.

The collaborative effort includes a variety of funders, including [American Red Cross](#), [Harold K.L. Castle Foundation](#), [The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation](#), [HCF](#), [Kaiser Permanente](#), [Maui United Way](#), and [Nuestro Futuro Foundation](#). The availability of funding comes at a critical time, as government, nonprofit, and private sectors focus on long-term recovery planning and rebuilding.

“This initiative marks a significant shift in Maui's recovery journey,” says Keanu Lau Hee, senior director of the HCF Maui Recovery Office. “By aligning our resources and working directly with community partners, we’re creating a framework that galvanizes our collective efforts. We responded to community need right away in the immediate aftermath of the fires and since then have provided critical support for housing, economic resiliency, health and social services, and natural, historical and cultural resources. Many of our grantees also benefited from the support of other foundations and we quickly understood the need for a collaborative approach that could provide wraparound services and usher in long-term resilience.”

HCF, Kaiser Permanente, and Maui United Way co-founded the MRFC with a shared commitment to long-term recovery and as established philanthropic organizations trusted by the community.

After the August 2023 fires, the sign in front of the Kaiser Permanente Lahaina Clinic was the only thing left standing. Despite the loss, they continued to serve the community, deploying physicians and care teams to the shelters as the first survivors began to arrive, and operating mobile health vehicles and first

aid stations providing care to all in West Maui for eight months. In addition to providing care, Kaiser Permanente's commitment to Maui's recovery now exceeds \$8 million, including implementing a charitable health coverage plan for Maui residents who do not qualify for any other health coverage, Medical Financial Assistance awards absolving West Maui residents of medical debt owed to Kaiser Permanente, and over \$4.5 million in grants to community organizations to support housing, behavioral health access, health care workforce development, emergency feeding, and other priorities.

"Kaiser Permanente has been an early funder and advocate for critical efforts that have now raised millions of dollars in follow-on funding from government and other donors," said David Tumilowicz, senior director of community health at Kaiser Permanente. "This includes the Maui Wildfire Exposure Study as well as the Ke Ola Hou behavioral health resiliency center, which is now a key component of Maui County's long term recovery plan to provide behavioral health support to survivors for decades to come. The Maui Recovery Funders Collaborative allows us to work together with other funders to grow these important initiatives."

Maui United Way has a long history of addressing Maui's most pressing needs by uniting resources and solutions, making them well positioned to bring immediate relief to individuals and organizations. "The Maui Recovery Funders Collaborative allows us to coordinate funding efforts more effectively, reducing the burden on organizations seeking support and ensuring that aid reaches those who need it most," says Jeeyun Lee, director of impact at Maui United Way. "We are particularly excited to support initiatives that not only rebuild but also strengthen our community's infrastructure and social fabric. As a funder, our goal is to use this model to create a similarly efficient system for 'blue sky' times in the future."

Maui Recovery Funders Collaborative will expand access to funding, particularly for underserved groups, through an open application process that requires no invitation. The model focuses on funding critical recovery areas including housing, behavioral health, economic development, cultural preservation, healthcare access, youth support, and education. This comprehensive approach recognizes that effective disaster recovery must address both immediate needs and long-standing community challenges while building resilience against future impacts.

The initiative represents a scalable model for collaborative philanthropy that can be adapted to address other community challenges. Through formal and informal channels, it incorporates direct community input to shape priorities and share insights, while creating opportunities for funders to learn from local expertise and innovative, community-led solutions.

Each funding partner first independently reviews applications to assess alignment with their specific requirements. The partners then convene to discuss requests, share insights, and identify opportunities to leverage support across organizations.

Organizations interested in applying for funding can submit applications through the Collaborative's website at mauirecoveryfunders.org.

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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-108-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. We focus our efforts through the CHANGE Framework, which identifies six essential sectors affecting the overall well-being of these islands and its people. HCF works in communities across Hawai'i, with offices and staff located statewide. In 2023, HCF stewarded more than 1,160 funds, established by individuals, businesses, and organizations who share our passion for a better Hawai'i. We distributed over \$107 million in grants to the community from funds at HCF, contracts, and private foundations statewide, including scholarships assisting more than 1,000 Hawai'i students. 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, which has already distributed \$128 million to over 200 organizations through its grantmaking. 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 Kaiser Permanente

Kaiser Permanente is committed to helping shape the future of health care. We are recognized as one of America's leading health care providers and nonprofit health plans. Founded in 1945, Kaiser Permanente has a mission to provide high-quality, affordable health care services and to improve the health of our members and the communities we serve. We currently serve nearly 12.5 million members in 8 states and the District of Columbia. Care for members and patients is focused on their total health and guided by their personal Permanente Medical Group physicians, specialists, and team of caregivers. Our expert and caring medical teams are empowered and supported by industry-leading technology advances and tools for health promotion, disease prevention, state-of-the-art care delivery, and world-class chronic disease management. Kaiser Permanente is dedicated to care innovations, clinical research, health education, and the support of community health. For more information, go to about.kp.org.

About Maui United Way

For nearly 80 years, Maui United Way (MUW) has been a trusted community champion, working diligently to forge connections and build a network of trust across Maui, Lāna'i, and Molokai. In response to recent wildfires, MUW has intensified its efforts to provide critical support to survivors and aid in

recovery. MUW commits to ensure that every member of the Maui County community has access to the resources they need to thrive. By collaborating with local nonprofits, businesses, and community members, MUW is a catalyst helping to fund essential programs that promote 'ohana health, wellness and resiliency building, while bridging resources to enhance education, workforce development, and stable housing. For more information, visit www.mauiunitedway.org or contact us at (808) 244-8787 or info@mauiunitedway.org.