



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FOR MORE INFORMATION
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MAUI STRONG FUND COMMITS UP TO \$8 MILLION TO CLOSE FUNDING GAP FOR EMERGENCY SHELTER AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN LAHAINA

Funding enables Ka Hale A Ke Ola to begin rebuilding critical services for West Maui's most vulnerable families and individuals

LAHAINA, MAUI, HI — The Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF), through its **Maui Strong Fund**, has committed **up to \$8 million** to help restore a vital emergency shelter and affordable housing facility in Lahaina, closing a critical funding gap for Ka Hale A Ke Ola Homeless Resource Centers Inc. (KHAKO), one of the island's longest-standing service providers for Maui's unhoused.

KHAKO's Lahaina campus, which was destroyed in the August 2023 wildfires, previously offered family shelter units, dormitory beds, and affordable apartments. These services were a lifeline for West Maui residents without housing, the majority of which have been families with children. With the facility gone, many remain without safe or stable housing.

Now, with support from the **Maui Strong Fund**, KHAKO will be able to rebuild its Lahaina facility.

"This is exactly why the Maui Strong Fund was created—to step in where urgent community needs outpace available funding," said **Keanu Lau Hee**, senior director for the Maui Recovery Effort at HCF. "By closing this gap, we're helping ensure that West Maui families have access to shelter, stability, and a path forward."

The new facility will be built on Maui County land, part of a longstanding public/private partnership to support essential community services, including funding from the Maui Strong Fund, Maui County, FEMA, and private insurance proceeds. The County continues to play a critical role in making these types of projects possible through its commitment to community-serving land use.

The redevelopment will mirror the proven service model of KHAKEO's central Wailuku facility, combining emergency shelter and affordable housing with wraparound support—including case management, childcare, medical respite, employment readiness, and housing-focused education. When the project is completed, it is estimated to provide at least 80 housing units and more than 300 beds.

"This grant is more than funding—it's a foundation for hope," shared Sue Sadecki, KHAKEO executive director. "We're excited and ready to bring back the services our West Maui community has depended on for decades. Rebuilding not only means restoring shelter and affordable housing apartments, it also supports dignity, healing, and belonging."

The award reflects the Maui Strong Fund's current focus on long-term recovery and stabilization. To date, the fund has committed **more than \$130 million** to more than **200 local organizations**, supporting critical needs across housing, health care, mental health, education, economic recovery, and cultural resilience.

The Maui Strong Fund was activated in August 2023 by HCF to respond to the devastating effects of the wildfires on Maui's people and places. With support from donors across Hawai'i and around the world, the Maui Strong Fund quickly mobilized financial resources for trusted nonprofit partners on the ground. HCF uses a four-phase approach to disaster response—addressing urgent needs while investing in long-term recovery, risk reduction, and resilience.

For resources and more information on Maui wildfire recovery, visit strongerhawaii.org. To learn more about the Maui Strong Fund, or to donate, visit hawaiicomunityfoundation.org/strengthening/maui-strong-fund.

About The Hawai'i Community Foundation

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 freshwater 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 their people. HCF works in communities across Hawai'i, with offices and staff located statewide. In 2024, 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 \$172 million in grants to the community from funds at HCF, contracts, and private foundations statewide, including scholarships assisting more than 1,100 Hawai'i students. For more information about HCF, please visit [Hawaiicomunityfoundation.org](https://hawaiicomunityfoundation.org) and follow our social media channels on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [YouTube](#).

About KHAKEO

Ka Hale A Ke Ola Homeless Resource Centers Inc., is a nonprofit 501c3 organization that has been breaking the cycle of homelessness on the island of Maui for almost 40 years. KHAKEO is a housing focused, comprehensive resource center that provides emergency shelter, life skills training, case management, collaborations with a primary care medical clinic, and facilities for childcare. KHAKEO is dedicated to serving the needs of the homeless and hungry on Maui by providing emergency shelter, food, housing, and empowering participants.