

JOSH GREEN, M.D.

GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

FUND ANNOUNCED FOR MAUI WILDFIRE SURVIVORS WHO LOST LOVED ONES, OR WERE INJURED

Fund is Part of the One 'Ohana Initiative

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date November 8, 2023

HONOLULU – Governor Josh Green, M.D., announced a significant initiative today toward a collective path forward to recovery from the catastrophic Maui wildfires of August 8, 2023.

A new recovery fund which will exceed \$150 million, will distribute money to families of those who died, and to those who suffered severe personal injuries in the Maui wildfires. The settlements will allow those who have already endured such tragedy, to begin healing more quickly.

Beneficiaries who voluntarily opt in to the program will receive payments of more than \$1M as early as the second quarter of next year after an administrator is selected and a protocol is finalized.

"I have been talking about this fund for the last three months and I am beyond grateful to be able to formally announce initial details today," Governor Green said. "This fund is made possible by the state and multiple partners who are committed to seeing our Maui community and our whole state, heal from the most devastating disaster most of us will ever see. When we all join as one, we can diminish suffering," the Governor said.

The Governor's Path Forward letter formalizes the next step in the recovery process.

To help finance the recovery effort, all options will be considered, including securitization plans that are in the interest of all of Hawai'i. To protect consumers from significant increases in their energy and insurance bills as a result of the fire, a comprehensive legislative package will be submitted to protect consumers while

allowing for fund generation going forward, to improve and harden the grid and address the impacts of climate change. Additional actions will be taken to better protect Hawai'i from fire risks going forward.

Initial partners in the fund include the State of Hawai'i, Hawaiian Electric, Kamehameha Schools (KS), and Maui County. More organizations are anticipated to join in support of this healing effort as part of Governor Green's One 'Ohana Initiative, which describes the many recovery programs the state has initiated, or which have been launched as part of numerous efforts to benefit the entire state. These include the \$100M Maui Relief TANF Program; the updated siren policy by the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency; Hawaiian Electric's wildfire safety strategy, and many others.

The One 'Ohana Initiative will proactively continue to provide financial support to those needing help after wildfire and recovery efforts to promote Hawai'i's recovery in a manner that will best serve the people of Hawai'i and Maui, rather than the interests of mainland and international banks. Partners are providing substantial monetary sums to victims much faster than they could receive through litigation. Those who choose to receive money from the fund will waive their ability to bring legal action related to associated claims.

The One 'Ohana Initiative is our framework for developing a global, Hawai'i-centric solution for Hawai'i's recovery from the August 2023 wildfires on Maui. The intent is for key local stakeholders—the One 'Ohana Initiative partners—to work to ensure that the families of those lost or seriously injured in the wildfire can choose to obtain swift and generous financial payment for their losses, without the need to go through time-consuming litigation, and to finance the rebuilding of Lahaina in a manner that embodies Hawai'i values and traditions.

“Our hope is that those families who choose to engage in this process can find a healing path to closure,” said Maui County Mayor Richard Bissen.

This recovery fund was created to provide compensation in a similar way to funds set up following other catastrophic tragedies including 9/11, the Boston Marathon Bombing and, the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, to name a few.

“One of the strengths of Hawai'i is that we understand we are all one 'ohana. When we come together in force and with aloha, we build a stronger future for Maui and everyone in Hawai'i,” said Shelee Kimura, president and CEO of Hawaiian Electric. “I appreciate the courageous leadership of Governor Green to forge a path that allows us to work together toward solutions that can help Maui's people and communities in a way that reflects Hawai'i's values.”

Hawaiian Electric recently announced the advancement of its wildfire safety strategy created in 2019, acknowledging the heightened risks for wildfires across the state. The utility is building upon its current strategy, implementing new and expanded practices to further reduce the risk of wildfires.

"I have worked closely with the Governor on a compensation fund to provide some immediate relief to the families who have suffered such tragic losses," said attorney Mark Davis, founding partner of Davis Levin Livingston, a prominent plaintiffs' attorney who is representing Maui families. "Throughout this complicated process, the Governor has maintained a steadfast sensitivity and commitment to navigating a reasonable outcome for our community. His willingness to listen carefully to the concerns of the many families impacted by this tragedy is part of the leadership this difficult process requires," Davis said.

"It is a very positive sign that the state is proactively working to bring relief and closure to families who suffered terrible loss," said attorney Rick Fried, a founding member of Cronin, Fried, Sekiya, Kekina & Fairbanks. "This kind of effort sets Hawai'i apart from other states and how they dealt with similar crises."

"We commend the Governor for his leadership in bringing the parties together, recognizing the kuleana that we collectively have to help make our community whole," said Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement CEO Kūhiō Lewis.

After the recovery fund has helped the victims' families, and the injured, the next phase of the One 'Ohana Initiative will focus on property owners and businesses that were severely impacted by the wildfires.

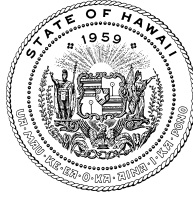
A copy of Governor Green's address and the One 'Ohana Initiative Path Forward letter are attached; the video can be viewed on the Governor's Facebook page.

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EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

November 8, 2023

A PATH FORWARD

The State of Hawai'i has embarked on a constructive and collaborative process with top statewide partners to help address the many tragic impacts of the Maui wildfires that occurred on August 8, 2023. These partners will help the state, its people and our land heal from the damage the fire caused, and it will take a commitment from everyone in the state if we hope to recover completely.

An initial group of key stakeholders has committed itself to forming a recovery fund to support the families who lost a loved one or who have a relative that was severely injured in the fire. This group, which initially includes the State of Hawai'i, Hawaiian Electric, Kamehameha Schools and Maui County, feels that we must help these families immediately. These families will be offered a settlement—consistent with other tragedies of this kind—immediately so that they can avoid a lengthy legal process and the costs associated with it. This will help people to begin to heal right away.

The partners will follow this first phase of the recovery effort with a plan to support property owners and businesses who have been severely impacted by the fire. With the support of a statewide coalition of prominent businesses, political leaders and community leaders there is growing confidence that Hawai'i can avoid protracted legal conflicts that would neither benefit the state or its people, and could not only jeopardize Hawai'i's energy future, but could also severely delay reconstruction and economic recovery.

To help finance the recovery effort, all options will be considered, including securitization plans that are in the interest of all of Hawai'i. To protect consumers from significant increases in their energy and insurance bills as a result of the fire, a comprehensive legislative package will be submitted to protect consumers while allowing for fund generation going forward, to improve and harden the grid and address the impacts of climate change.

Additional actions will be taken to better protect Hawai'i from fire risks going forward. Finally, substantial support will be made available to the Lahaina community to rebuild in a manner that is respectful of its cultural and historical significance.

In summary, key statewide stakeholders will work in good faith to develop a global solution for Hawai'i's recovery from the August wildfires. Support for families of those lost or seriously injured in the wildfire can begin the process of trust and recovery, strategic statutory and regulatory changes will follow in early 2024 to protect Hawai'i's energy future, and finally Lahaina will be rebuilt in a compassionate and thoughtful way as directed by its people.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Green M.D." in a cursive style.

Josh Green, M.D.

Governor, State of Hawai'i

Aloha.

Today marks three months since devastating fires swept through Lahaina and other parts of Maui.

I'd like to give an update on our recovery efforts to date, and share the path forward for the areas affected by the disaster and for all of Hawaii.

But first I'd like to share a brief update on the progress we've made on a number of other issues that are also important to our state.

Red Hill

We are making important progress on draining the fuel from Red Hill so it can be shut down for good.

The military began removing the fuel on October 16th, more than five months ahead of schedule.

Over 78 million gallons of fuel have already been removed from the tanks, which is more than 75% of the total of 104 million gallons.

We are currently on track to drain 98% of the fuel at Red Hill by November 18th.

The goal of the Red Hill Joint Task Force is to remove over 99% of the fuel by the end of January, so we can continue with the plan to close the facility permanently, so that it never again poses a threat to our health or the safety of our water.

Gun Buyback

On October 21st, the state held our first gun buyback event.

In just a few hours, the Departments of Law Enforcement and Public Safety were able to get almost 500 firearms off our streets in exchange for Foodland gift cards, with no questions asked and no ID required.

We collected ghost guns, sawed off shotguns, many semi-automatic weapons, and even an uzi.

Our children and our communities are safer today because we took this direct action, and I have asked the directors of these departments to continue holding gun buyback events on a regular basis to get more guns off our streets and protect our keiki from deadly violence.

The Healthcare Education Loan Repayment Program (HELP)

This fall we also announced a groundbreaking loan repayment program to address the growing shortages of physicians and other healthcare professionals across Hawaii.

Developed by JABSOM, the Healthcare Association of Hawaii, the State Department of Health, and funded by the Hawaii State Legislature, the Healthcare Education Loan Repayment Program will provide an unprecedented \$30 million in educational loan debt repayment to health professionals licensed or otherwise certified to provide care to patients in Hawaii.

A diverse list of healthcare professions will qualify for loan repayments up to \$50,000 per year in exchange for two years of full-time or half-time service in Hawaii, providing care for at least 30% of vulnerable patients. In the first month, alone, we had over 800 applicants for the HELP scholarships.

This program will prioritize healthcare professionals with deep ties to our state, and we are placing extra emphasis on selecting mental health and addiction treatment professionals to address heightened concerns that have arisen from the COVID era and the current crisis on Maui.

This program will help ensure that rural and under-served communities across our state have access to the doctors, nurses, and other healthcare providers they need.

Aid and Assistance for Maui

Over the last 90 days, the American Red Cross, the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, and FEMA have relocated thousands of displaced families to dozens of hotels and hundreds of short-term rentals on Maui.

In 14 days this coalition successfully housed over 8,000 displaced people and hotel employees in more than 2,400 units across some 40 properties.

To date, FEMA has received over 17,000 registrations for services and will support more than 18 months of rental assistance for survivors.

We have already disbursed over \$120 million in housing assistance to those affected by the disaster, and they will receive another \$130 million in state and federal aid.

These accommodations continue to provide meals, casework services, financial recovery resources, and other disaster relief assistance to those affected — and we will provide housing, medical care, mental health services, and other needed support to displaced families for as long as is necessary.

FEMA will assist us with direct leases and rental assistance grants to ensure that people stay housed well into 2025, and these costs will be covered by federal assistance, state resources, and humanitarian aid.

If these housing options are not adequate for the people of West Maui, FEMA will authorize the construction of hundreds of transitional units in the region to make sure we have enough housing for our needs.

I worked with President Biden and his administration directly to ensure that federal funds will pay for 100% of debris removal and emergency protective measures in the disaster areas, for 6 and 12 months respectively.

Generosity in the form of tens of millions of dollars continues to pour into Hawaii from around the world, through the American Red Cross, the Hawaii Community Foundation, the Maui United Way, and other organizations.

I've authorized \$100 million dollars from a special Temporary Assistance for Needy Families fund, or TANF, to match what others donate, effectively doubling the power of their contributions to help affected families pay for housing, transportation, food, clothing, and other needs.

To date, nearly a thousand families have applied for these funds.

We have also begin to provide relief to local businesses in the form of emergency grants distributed by the Maui Economic Opportunity team, aimed at preventing bankruptcies.

Working with House and Senate leaders and in partnership with Maui County, we have made \$12.5 million available in the form of forgivable loans up to \$20,000 to help local businesses survive and recover.

This complicated effort has started slowly but will soon accelerate to help the businesses across Maui.

One Ohana Initiative

These programs that I've just described, developed with public officials, community, and business leaders from across the state, are what we refer to as the 'One Ohana Initiative' — created to provide resources and support to local families affected by the Maui fires and other emergency needs.

An important new part of the One Ohana Initiative which I'd like to announce today is the **Maui Recovery Fund**, which is intended to rapidly provide funds to Maui families who have lost loved ones or who have suffered serious injuries in the fires.

It will be modeled after the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund that was created to support families who lost loved ones in that tragedy.

Participation in the Maui Recovery Fund will be completely voluntary, and the goal is to get as much money as possible to affected families as quickly as possible — cutting out delays and eliminating uncertainty.

We already have commitments of well over \$100 million to the Maui Recovery Fund from our initial partners, including the state, Maui County, Kamehameha Schools, and Hawaiian Electric.

In the coming weeks we anticipate many other organizations and individuals across Hawaii will join this coalition to support those affected and help them recover.

Our message is clear — in Hawaii, during difficult times, we come together to help one another, and right now we are coming together to help those who have suffered the most.

Over time, the fund will also be used to help families in West Maui recover from the disaster in other ways, including rebuilding homes they have lost.

In order to finance the next phase of the recovery effort, all options will be considered to supplement charitable giving, including securitization plans that are in the interest of all of Hawaii.

To protect customers from significant increases in their energy bills as a result of the fire, a comprehensive legislative package will be submitted to protect consumers while allowing for fund generation going forward, to improve and harden the grid and address the impacts of climate change, and to establish a program to provide coverage for future catastrophic events and to help keep homeowners insurance available and affordable.

All of these actions will be taken to better protect Hawaii from fire risks going forward.

In the coming weeks we will be holding meetings on Maui with potentially eligible individuals and their families and advisors in this phase of the recovery to listen to their concerns and to make more details about the fund available, including information on eligibility, expected availability of payments, and other aspects of the fund.

The Road to Recovery

The state has received assurances of continued federal support and investment to help Maui recover and rebuild, and we will support and care for those affected by this disaster for as long as it takes.

As governor, I will continue to make sure that Maui receives every resource possible, and that these resources get to the people who need it.

As I've said before, the people of Lahaina will have as much time as they need to heal and recover, and we will begin to rebuild only when the people on Maui are ready, according to the timeline they choose.

To help support those affected by the Maui fires, we continue to ask people to give to the American Red Cross or the Hawaii Community Foundation's Maui Strong Fund, both of which will make sure the resources go to those in need.

Again, I'd like to say I am incredibly proud of the entire Maui community for their courage and commitment as they continue to show aloha and support to those affected, and for their patience as during the process of recovery.

I will continue to keep you updated on our aid and relief efforts as we move forward, both in daily updates and in more comprehensive monthly assessments of our efforts.

It's going to be a long process for us to rebuild and heal, and we are grateful for all the love and support coming to Maui and all of Hawaii from across the country and around the world.

Right now, it's important that we come together as a state, as one ohana, to support each other and offer help to those who need it most — the families who have suffered tragedy.

Please continue to keep Maui and our entire state in your hearts and your prayers.