



One 'Ohana Initiative and One 'Ohana Fund FAQs

Q. What is the One 'Ohana Initiative?

A. The One 'Ohana Initiative is about ensuring that Hawai'i's future remains our own. The Initiative provides a framework for developing a Hawai'i-centric solution for Hawai'i's recovery from the August 2023 wildfires on Maui that can serve as a model for use beyond Hawai'i. The intent is for key local stakeholders—the One 'Ohana Initiative partners—to work to ensure that through the One 'Ohana Fund, the families of those who lost loved ones or were seriously injured in the wildfire can voluntarily 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.

Q. What is the One 'Ohana Fund?

A. The One 'Ohana Fund, as part of the One 'Ohana Initiative, is a humanitarian effort by Governor Josh Green, M.D., alongside state partners. Phase I of the fund seeks to allow Maui wildfire survivors and their families, as well as those hospitalized or seriously injured in the fires, to participate in settlements that will enable them to avoid lengthy, uncertain litigation in pursuit of claims for the August 8, 2023, wildfire-induced loss of loved ones and/or serious personal injury. The fund website for potential claimants refers to the One 'Ohana fund as the Maui Wildfires Compensation Program.

Q. Can individuals opt out of participating in Phase I of the One 'Ohana Fund?

A. Yes. Participation in the One 'Ohana Fund is voluntary, and individuals may opt to pursue litigation if they choose to do so.

Q. Who are the One 'Ohana Initiative partners?

A. The One 'Ohana Initiative partners include the state of Hawai'i, the County of Maui, Hawaiian Electric Co., Kamehameha Schools, Charter/Spectrum, HawaiianTel, and West Maui Land Company.

Q. What is the reason for starting the One 'Ohana Initiative?

A. This recovery initiative 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. The goal is to provide funds quickly to families who have lost loved ones or suffered personal injury so they can avoid protracted litigation and move forward with recovery from this tragedy.

Q. What will the One ‘Ohana Initiative do?

A. The One ‘Ohana Initiative partners have financed a fund that will be used to compensate the families of those who lost loved ones or were seriously injured in the Maui wildfires.

Payments from the fund will be made in two phases. Phase I of the initiative will provide substantial compensation to families of those who died, to individuals with life-altering physical injuries, and to individuals who were physically injured, in predetermined amounts. Phase II will involve the settlement of commercial and residential property claims.

Q. Will those who suffered emotional damage from the wildfire receive compensation?

A. No. This fund is intended to assist people who were severely injured or have suffered life-altering injuries.

Q. Are the One ‘Ohana Initiative and Fund intended to “bail out” Hawaiian Electric or any other entity that is being sued?

A. No.

- By proactively providing financial support to the families of those lost or seriously injured in the wildfire and recovery efforts, the One ‘Ohana Initiative and One ‘Ohana Fund seek 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.
- The One ‘Ohana partners will be providing substantial monetary sums to the families of those lost or seriously injured much faster than they could receive through litigation.
- This initiative provides clarity and a quicker path to healing for our state. It provides a means of avoiding protracted legal conflicts that could jeopardize our future, and also severely delay reconstruction and economic recovery.

Q. What is “securitization” and what securitization plans are being considered to assist financing of the recovery efforts?

A. Securitization is a financial mechanism for generating funds that could be expended on recovery efforts. The One ‘Ohana Initiative partners will be considering multiple options, looking for what works best for the people of Hawai‘i.

Q. Will utility rate payers’ rates increase as a result of these payments?

A. No. The goal is for HECO to cover related costs to minimize the impact on rate payers and that’s what this approach will do.

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