

Summary of Maui Efforts

My office and I remain fully focused on assisting all of our families and communities affected by the August 2023 Maui wildfires. I have joined my Hawai'i Congressional delegation and our state, local and community partners in assuring that our federal government does all it can to respond fully at all levels to this tragedy.

While the federal response has been generally positive, clearly much more remains to be done, starting with continued federal funding for survivor assistance and recovery efforts. I have pursued and continue to pursue this assistance primarily through my Appropriations Committee, including my Homeland Security Subcommittee with jurisdiction over our main federal agency currently helping Maui, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). As one example, I spoke about how FEMA's assistance has been extremely valuable to the recovery process in a hearing with the then-Acting Administrator of FEMA in my Appropriations Homeland Security Subcommittee.

Visits

- August 21, 2023: [Joined](#) President Biden and the rest of the Hawai'i Congressional delegation to review the damage in Lahaina and talk to survivors.
- September 4, 2024: Participated in a [House Committee on Oversight field hearing](#) on the federal response to Maui Wildfires.
- March 2025: [Visited](#) the Lahaina Courthouse area to learn more about the status of debris removal and FEMA Public Assistance, as well as the Kilohana Temporary Group Housing Site that can house up to 167 households.

Securing Federal Funding

- September 30, 2023: Supported emergency supplemental funding of \$16 billion for FEMA's DRF in the 118th Congress' [H.R. 5860, the Continuing Appropriations Act of 2024 and Other Extensions Act](#), much of which was allocated to Maui
- September 26, 2024: Supported a Continuing Resolution which replenished FEMA's DRF in the 118th Congress' [H.R. 9747, Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act of 2025](#), which allowed FEMA's disaster recovery efforts on Maui to continue.
- December 21, 2024: Supported a [Continuing Resolution](#) that included \$29 billion to replenish the DRF, \$12 billion for Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds, \$1.5 billion for the Economic Development Administration (EDA) for disaster-related purposes, \$2.2 billion to replenish the

Small Business Administration's (SBA) Disaster Loans Program and \$210 million for the U.S. Coast Guard to respond to damage caused by various natural disasters, including the Maui wildfires.

Letters

- September 2023: [Letter](#) urging the Small Business Administration to extend the deadline for applications of physical damage loans through SBA's disaster loan program.
- September 2023: [Letter](#) requesting SBA provide Maui businesses with additional relief, including by pausing payments and interest accruals for SBA disaster loans that pre-date the wildfires for at least a year and reevaluating the need when payments are scheduled to resume.
- September 2023: [Letter](#) urging the Army Corps to provide the Hawaii Department of Education (HIDOE) with the resources and support it needs to build a school to temporarily replace Kamehameha III Elementary School as quickly as possible.
- September 2023: [Letter](#) requesting that the Department of Interior provide support for the environmental recovery and cultural preservation efforts on Maui and Hawai'i Island.
- September 2023: [Letter](#) urging US Citizenship and Immigration Services to assist members of the immigrant community in replacing important legal and identification documents, as well as alleviating other challenges they might face during the recovery process.
- November 2023: [Letter](#) urging the U.S. Department of Agriculture to grant the Hawaii Department of Education the flexibility to provide all students on Maui with free school meals for at least the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year.
- March 2024: [Letter](#) asking the Internal Revenue Service to provide filing and payment extensions for individuals and businesses impacted by the Maui wildfires, resulting in a filing extension to August 7, 2024.
- August 2024: [Letter](#) to Congressional leadership requesting supplemental funding for Maui recovery efforts, including an additional \$20.9 billion for the DRF and \$3.5 billion for CDBG-DR.
- February 2025: [Letter](#) requesting FEMA waive the collection of fair-market value rent from survivors of the Maui fires participating in FEMA's Direct Housing program.

Committee Remarks

- April 2024: [Spoke](#) about housing needs for wildfire victims in a House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security hearing. I asked Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas about FEMA's decision to focus on rehousing over rebuilding, underscoring the fact that leaving people in hotel rooms indefinitely was not a viable option.
- May 7, 2025: [Spoke](#) about how FEMA's assistance has been extremely valuable to the recovery process in a hearing with the then-Acting Administrator of FEMA in my Appropriations Homeland Security Subcommittee.

Legislation

- Co-led [H.Res. 752](#), a resolution recognizing and honoring the first responders and those who lost their lives in the Maui wildfires in August 2023 that affected thousands of people, in the 118th Congress.
- [Introduced H.R. 7061, the HEAL Maui Act](#), in the 118th Congress. The bill aimed to augment the SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program by providing immediate advances, creating a new loan program modeled after the Payroll Protection Program and offering two-year loan deferments.
- Cosponsored [H.R. 6037, the MAUI STRONG Act](#), in the 118th Congress. The bill aimed to provide nonprofits, small businesses with 25 or fewer employees, and independent contractors that experienced revenue loss because of the Maui fires grants of \$20,000 to help with a variety of expenses.
- Cosponsored H.R. 7604, the Hawai'i Wildfire Disaster Unemployment Assistance Continuity Act, in the 118th Congress. The bill aimed to extend the availability of federal Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) benefits for residents impacted by the Maui wildfires.
- Cosponsored H.R. 5873, the Natural Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2023, in the 118th Congress. The bill aimed to lessen the tax burden on people impacted by major natural disasters in 2023.

Wildfire Prevention Plan

- Worked with federal and local leaders to create a [comprehensive guide to federal resources](#) to assist our Hawai'i in preventing, mitigating and responding to continuing wildfire risks across the state. It has guided my efforts to maximize

federal assistance toward preventing, mitigating and responding to any other wildfire disasters statewide. Some successes thus far included the following provisions in the House's FY2026 draft appropriations bills:

- \$123 million for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Damage Management Program.
- \$360 million for the FEMA Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Program.
- \$360 million for the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grants Program.
- Direction to our military to identify investments needed to support wildland firefighters located on Schofield Barracks that support any wildfire on O'ahu.