

The IRC Gazette

DR-4724-HI



FEMA

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This Week in the IRC:

Community Assistance RSF

CA presented the analysis of community public testimonies to the Lahaina GREAT committee, over 9 sessions (totally over 30 hours), starting 9/27, to the Community Planning RSF (County/State/Federal) meeting on 11/30. Key discussions were focused on issues related to public safety, rebuilding historic Front Street, inclusion and protection of Native Hawaiian cultural sites, expanding water rights, land use zoning, and infrastructure policy. Maui County will share out the analysis to County staff and leadership.

Economic RSF

SBA to support Teacher Outreach Event at Maui Schools 12/4-12/7, will have an IA/SBA representative sit in each of the schools for a full school day

Health and Social Services RSF

Responded to priority data/information request from the Office of the First Lady regarding teacher support efforts on Maui, specifically via leave expansion and housing assistance. Coordinated with FEMA Individual Assistance (IA) and Small Business Administration (SBA) to have an IA/SBA representative sit in each of the schools for a full school day between now and 12/11 deadline for IA/SBA applications.

Infrastructure RSF

Received USACE FPMS funding for central Maui H&H modeling effort (Honolulu District) for \$50K.

Natural and Cultural Resources RSF

On 11/29, NCR RSF participated in the Operational Coordination Meeting between FEMA Response and FEMA Recovery. Regarding contaminants sampling and testing, improved coordination of FEMA Response and Recovery operations have led the former to issue Mission Assignments to USGS and FWS. HI DOH continues to develop a comprehensive contaminants program and contract. Local community members and Maui County NCR leads continue to urge bioremediation approaches be used in the short-term (for stormwater) and long-term (either as part of the debris clearing or soon thereafter) to bind contaminants and enable restoration of soil health in Lahaina. The NCRS and USFS will be holding public meeting soon to present their emergency watershed protection and emergency reforestation programs. It is not yet known when NRCS will conduct watershed restoration work on the Kula Gulch. Maui County NCR leads, and community members continue to call for NCR disaster recovery to support expansion of native plant nurseries, and composting/mulching capacity; creation of a park/memorial for the historic, culturally significant Moku' Ula site; and establishment of the West Maui Greenway (WMG). The planned haul road to the local landfill for Lahaina debris and ash could be converted into the southern segment of the WMG.

Who's Packing your Parachute?

"Over 1/3 of the teachers and staff in the four Lahaina schools lost their homes in the wildfires. They have continued to teach and support their students who also lost their homes. With a shortage of substitute teachers, leave is almost impossible to take to care for their own disaster related needs. To support the teachers and staff, IA and SBA responded quickly to a request to provide services for a day at each of the four Lahaina schools. This provides an opportunity to register if they haven't already and ask questions in a familiar environment reducing stress. Thank you to Colleen Zafarana and Brian Bui for their willingness to pack the teachers and school staff's parachutes."

- Linda Landers

If you would like to recognize someone who has packed your parachute, send info to annie.sebastiani@fema.dhs.gov

Cultural Protocol Task Force Advisor

In preparation of the upcoming Tongan Resource Fair scheduled on 12/02, CPTF leveraged independent community relationships with Tongan public figure, Tongan Consulate, and Governor's Tongan Community Liaison to amplify notice and awareness, coordinated with FEMA and State partners to justify increased numbers of Tongan interpreters offered at the event based on updated attendee estimates and language access commitments to Maui's multicultural, multilingual survivor community, and shared fliers with Tongan houses of worships and private non-profits.

Disability Integration Advisor

DIA lead presented a Responder Briefing and Onboarding to educate those joining the mission on inclusiveness, equitable practices, accessibility, and what could constitute as access and functional needs of the disabled/elderly community.

External Affairs Advisor

On the FEMA-4724-HI webpage, posted a series of videos designed to help Maui wildfire survivors understand FEMA's housing programs and other available services, such as ASL and crisis counseling.

Unified Federal Review Advisor

Kicked off a standing coordination meeting this week between existing and rostered UFAD to improve the overall transitioning of duties.

Spotlight on Economic Development Administration

By Frances Sakaguchi

Within the US Department of Commerce is a very small agency called the Economic Development Administration or EDA. Although several federal agencies conduct economic development work, EDA is the only federal agency whose work exclusively focuses on economic development.

EDA's mission is to "To lead the federal economic development agenda by promoting innovation and competitiveness, preparing American regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy". To accomplish this, EDA has various investment programs which are grant funding programs. Those programs and distribution of funds are for the purpose of establishing sustainable job growth and the building of durable regional economies, thus EDA's grant programs (investments) revolve around creating jobs and building economic capacity.

EDA has a bottom-up approach working with communities, agencies and regions to assure the economic development is locally driven and the capacity for economic development is based on local conditions and needs. EDA's basic grant programs in planning, technical assistance, and public works, are designed to leverage existing regional assets and allow for innovation and responsiveness to changing economic conditions and needs. These needs include recovery and resilience from disasters. EDA's role in disaster recovery is to facilitate the timely and effective delivery of our federal economic development assistance programs to support long-term community economic recovery planning and project implementation, re-development and resilience. On behalf of the Department of Commerce, EDA serves as the federal coordinating agency for the ERSF.

Though there are many organizations eligible for federal funding, for EDA, the purpose of the funding must be driven towards economic development. Note that EDA does not fund for-profit organizations, and individuals. Listing of funding and eligible applicants on table below:

EDA Funding Programs:	Applicant Eligibility:
Planning Partnership	State, county, city or other political subdivision of state
Local Technical Assistance (includes University Centers)	Institute of Higher Education
Public Works (construction, facilities, etc)	Economic Development Districts (EDD)
Economic Adjustment Assistance (most flexible funding, includes supplemental funding such as Disaster Supplemental)	Public or private non-profit organization or association acting in cooperation with officials of a political subdivision of a state
Revolving Loan Fund	Federal recognized tribes or tribal organizations
Various HQ funding, usually highly competitive, Innovation/Tech oriented	

Across the country EDA has a network of Economic Development Districts and University Centers who are partnered with EDA to provide technical assistance supporting economic development work and are especially impactful for recovery work. Also, key in EDA's economic development work is EDA's staffing of Economic Development Representative (EDRs) as the 'go to' field rep to work with the local communities and agencies to understand their needs and potential for projects.

In addition, EDA's Economic Development Integrator (EDI) supports the interagency work and collaboration and can provide future support such as development of REDS (regional economic diversification summits) which are specific workshops during the recovery process as needed. As EDA's work revolves around funding investments, the identification of projects and projects needs is key in determining EDA's role in supporting the Maui recovery.

Recovery Support Functions Overview Health and Social Services RSF

The Health and Social Services (RSF) is a federal coordinating agency. Healthcare is an economic driver in many communities, which if damaged make this sector critical to most communities' disaster recovery.

Social Services have a major impact on the ability of a community to recover. The support of social services programs for at-risk and vulnerable children, individuals, and families affected by a disaster can promote a more effective and rapid recovery.

The Health and Social Services RSF outlines the Federal framework to support locally led recovery efforts to address public, health, health care facilities and coalitions, and essential social services needs. Displaced individuals in need of housing will also need health and social services support. *NDRF, 2016*

Public Assistance

Completed site inspection for critical infrastructure facility, King Kamehameha III Elementary School Permanent Work Project.

Philanthropic Advisor

Had a Scoping call on 12/30 with Dept of Education and Kaboom regarding playground equipment and funding possibilities for the temporary school facility

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