

The IRC Gazette



FEMA

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Recovery Support Functions Overview – Community Assistance (CA)

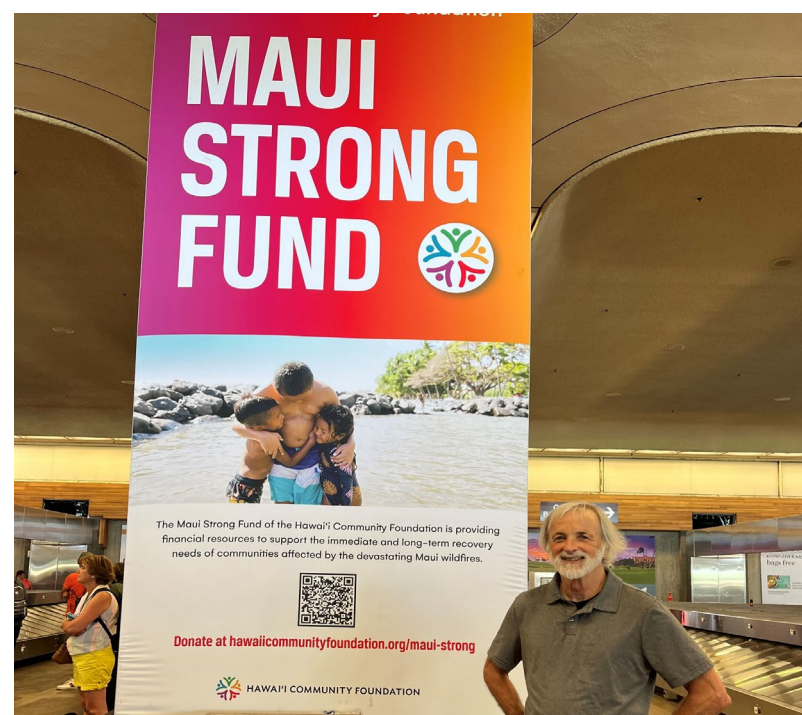
Coordinating Agency: U.S. Department of Homeland Security/
FEMA

Primary Agencies: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban
Development (HUD)

After a disaster, communities must lead complex efforts to recover. The Community Assistance (CA) RSF supports tribes and localities by building relationships, providing training, and supporting efforts to plan, prioritize, and implement their recovery goals and objectives.

The CA RSF is coordinated by FEMA and consists of a National Coordinator and team at FEMA Headquarters, Regional Coordinators in each of FEMA's 10 regions, and a cadre of staff available to assist in pre-disaster planning and disaster deployment.

The CA RSF unifies and coordinates expertise and assistance programs from across the federal government as well as nongovernment partners to aid local and tribal governments in building their local capabilities to effectively plan for and manage recovery and engage the whole community in the recovery planning process.



Fundraising from the moment we arrive! Pictured above Lawrence Leahy, FEMA IRC poses with the Maui Strong sign at the Maui airport.

Tip/Fun Fact from Civil Rights Advisor

“The Fair Housing Act helps ensure landlords and mortgage lenders base their business decisions independent of race, religion, sex, national origin, familial, and/or disability status. This provides diversity and inclusivity in our neighborhoods.”

This Week in the IRC

Community Assistance RSF

CA continues to provide direct technical assistance to Maui's Office of Recovery. This week CA created a Community Engagement Scope of Work for Maui County's consideration. CA also created a Funding Milestone Timeline of federal recovery programs.

Economic RSF

The ERSF team along with SBA met with the Center Director for Innovate Hawaii (HTDC Hawaii Tech Development Corp). They are also a NIST MEP, located at the Foreign Trade Zone in Honolulu. HTDC is attached to the state Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) providing support for small and medium manufacturers. They are challenged by the magnitude of needs including training, retraining, business and manufacturers location. They are also looking at the magnitude of how to recover in these manufacturing and business sectors. Both SBA and EDA provided multiple suggestions from resources, to tools and potential support towards developing a economic disaster recovery and resilience plan with a separate focus on manufacturing and tech businesses, and potential multi-agency resource webinar/workshop.

Health and Social Services RSF

The Human Services Branch Director met with Maui First Lady (Isabella Bissen), a Parks and Recreation Representative, and HI Medicaid Director to discuss childcare and unmet needs, review needs assessment (community review and validation of needs assessments) and discussed immediate feedback and incorporation of community input. Their input will directly speak to future recovery projects.

Housing RSF

National Housing Coordinator and Housing RSF meet with Senator Schatz delegations to discuss how they can assist us by advocating the legislation.

Infrastructure RSF Provided

USACE and EPA met with Maui County Department of Public Works (DPW). DPW requested a master drainage plan for Lahaina and possible expansion of their R1 wastewater system.

Natural and Cultural Resources RSF

NCR RSF has researched and drafted a Resource Needs Assessment piece on disaster recovery and restoration of the Moku'ula and Loko o Mokuhinia, significant Sacred Native Hawaiian historic sites and wetland complex located in the Lahaina burn area. NCR RSF has been working with Maui County archeologist, Native Hawaiian Maui County RSF contacts, and Infrastructure RSF. NCR RSF will expand outreach to experts at State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD), FEMA Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation (EHP), Lahaina Restoration Foundation, Maui Historical Society, and Hawaiian Native Organizations, and others as we proceed forward with Maui County.

Joint Keiki Health Fair/University of Hawaii Resource Fair

Commander Yoon Kong IRC RSF HSS Recovery Specialist



This past Saturday, October 28th, Whaler's Village on Ka'anapali Parkway hosted the much-anticipated Disaster Recovery Resource Fair. This event resulted from a partnership between the Hawai'i Department of Education, the University of Hawai'i, and HSS, aimed at providing critical information and resources to families in the community. Coinciding with the Keiki Health Fair, the University of Hawai'i initiated a collaboration with the health fair's organizers to maximize resource utilization and outreach. This collaborative effort unified healthcare wellness initiatives and disaster relief services, streamlining access to essential resources for community members on their recovery journey.

The Disaster Recovery Resource Fair featured key agencies, departments, and organizations that provided their unique services and contributions to this event, including Hawai'i Legal Aid, University of Hawai'i, Hawai'i DOE,

Small Business Administration (SBA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Infrastructure Services, FEMA's Integration and Coordination, Individual Assistance, Human Resources, External Affairs, Mitigation, Philanthropic, Logistics, Information Technology (IT), and Health and Social Services (HSS). The fair's primary goal was to inform parents and students about the available services, programs, and information pertinent to disaster recovery following the Lahaina fires.

During the Disaster Recovery Resource Fair, FEMA Individual Assistance (IA) was able to provide support to a total of three individuals. This support included language assistance in Spanish for one attendee, information provision for two others, and a status check on an assistance application for one individual. SBA played a significant role at the fair, with their Customer Service Representatives and a Human Resources Assistant engaging directly with the community. The SBA team assisted eight individuals with disaster loan applications and provided job information relevant to SBA local-hire opportunities to one individual.

Health and Human Services (HHS) added a creative and interactive element to the fair by helping with the face painting for 45 children and organizing a rock painting activity that attracted 80 participants.

Historically, Lahaina's annual Halloween celebration has been dubbed the 'Mardi Gras of the Pacific,' marking a significant community holiday. In the spirit of this beloved tradition, families and volunteers donned festive costumes and decorations. Volunteers' tables and chairs were adorned with Halloween-themed decorations and an array of Halloween décor with the spooky inspired knick-knacks festooned with a cornucopia of sweet treats. As families made their way through Whaler's Village, they found opportunities to connect with service providers, access resources, and obtain additional assistance for recovery. This event served as a central hub for community engagement and collective progress. Forging ahead towards a stronger Maui, the spirit of Ohana pervaded and prevailed. Mahalo nui loa to all with special kudos to Marla Echevarría Vélez, Pizeme Tchara and Linda Landers.

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US Department of Agriculture Advisor

USDA Forest Service created a fact sheet on their Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) report to better educate and explain the process. USDA is coordinating with Hawaii Department of Forestry and Wildlife and they will provide a state point of contact and are reviewing hosting the material on their website.

Philanthropic Advisor

The philanthropic community is eager to participate and help lead the efforts to establish a long term recovery group in partnership with the State, FEMA, Local government and non-profit community.

External Affairs Advisor

In addition to ongoing traditional media engagements, external affairs posted the following videos to social media.

- One week left to apply for assistance.
- Disaster Legal Services ASL video.
- Properties wanted for direct housing ASL video.

Small Business Administration Advisor

SBA briefed Lt. Governor Sylvia Luke's staff. They explained the SBA disaster loan program for businesses and residents and answered questions about how SBA can help with the long-term recovery efforts. They also informed the staff of the Nov. 9 physical damage application deadline and the May 10, 2024 EIDL application deadline.

Unified Federal Review (UFR) Advisor

Attended the County Council Meeting held by the Efficiency Solutions and Circular Systems Committee regarding the proposed bill to add the Moku' ula Complex to the list of eligible sites for funding under the Hawaiian Culture State Revolving Fund. The bill was passed. The UFR Advisor used the opportunity to network with local and federal reps in attendance.



Who's Packing your Parachute?

Expressing gratitude for Linda Lander! As the liaison for HSS Linda has had much of her space and time taken by the growing HSS team. Linda has been gracious and patient in working with new team-members and has taken extra time to ensure efficient reporting. Linda has demonstrated excellent FEMA flex with the changing and growing HSS RSF team!



Emily Ziniel, PMHNP-BC
LTJG, U.S. Public Health Service

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