

# The IRC Gazette



FEMA

DR-4724-HI

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## This Week in the IRC:

IRC is in the final stages of completing the Joint County, State, and Federal version of DR 4724 HI Recovery Needs Assessment which covers needs and gaps heard by each recovery support function and validated by local and state partners. The next phase is to develop Recovery Strategies by recovery support function.

### Community Assistance RSF

CA drafted a Long-Term Recovery Plan scope of work with a suggested timeline for recovery to Maui County for consideration.

### Economic RSF

EDA and Novaces team held meeting with US Census addressing quantitative data gaps. It was agreed that NOVACES would develop a dashboard with the data requested by EDA and with the ability to update as primary sourced data is updated.

### Health and Social Services RSF

HSS RSF Deputy Field Coordinator collaborated with West Maui Hospital Board of Directors, and partners from Kaiser Permanente and USDA (for rural development) for the establishment of a new facility enhancing communities' access to healthcare services.

### Housing RSF

National Housing Coordinator, Housing RSF, USDA RA and HUD HQ met with FEMA and Red Cross to discuss how HUD can assist with the transitioning of survivors (HUD assisted pre-disaster) from NCS to potential HUD and USDA RA housing units that might be available.

### Infrastructure RSF Provided

USACE made connections for potential risk analysis efforts needed to make risk informed decisions in the recovery.

### Natural and Cultural Resources RSF

On November 8, NCR RSF hosted a meeting at the IRC with Maui County NCR RSF contacts and two Maui County Community Advisory Committee members and a local bioremediation expert to work together on Maui County's NCR needs and priorities. They stressed the need for FEMA assistance so that the following work before the rains arrive: improve stormwater management Best Management Practices, raising barriers in Lahaina from 4 inches to 18 inches; injecting bioremediation fungus into BMPs to breakdown contaminants; and implementing soil erosion control measures on upcountry burn areas. Maui County officials met IRC members and FEMA leadership and remarked they wanted to work together more closely on disaster recovery efforts. They also asked FEMA leadership to explain the Mission Assignment process and to clarify how to successfully request more Federal and State assistance. FEMA provided a demonstration of its GIS capabilities, how it can be shared for use by Maui County, and asked Maui County how it would like it to be improved.

## Recovery Support Functions Overview – Economic RSF

The Economic RSF supports states, localities, tribes, and territories' (SLTT) return to a state of economic health and development of new economic opportunities that result in a sustainable, economically resilient community.

The Economic RSF is coordinated by the Economic Development Administration on behalf of the Department of Commerce, and consists of a National Coordinator, staff at EDA Headquarters and EDA's six regional offices. After certain catastrophic disasters, Economic RSF field coordinators deploy to help SLTTs advance their recovery goals and priorities.

The mission of the Economic RSF is to integrate the expertise of the federal government to help SLTT and the private sector sustain and/or rebuild businesses and employment and develop economic opportunities that result in sustainable and economically resilient communities after large-scale and catastrophic incidents.

## SBA Business Resource and Assessment Center



Nov 7, 2023 FEMA and Econ RSF Contractor attended a site visit to the SBA Business Resource and Assessment Center located at the Maui Research Technology Center. SBA Hawaii Deputy District Director Hazel Beck hosted the team at the center. The facility also houses SBA's Business Recovery Center, and the Maui Small Business Development Center (SBDC). An Economic RSF meeting with Director Wayne Wong of Maui SBDC concluded the site visit. Attendees learned about SBA's disaster and steady-state programs, Resource Partners, and learned of business community needs from Director Wong.

## Tip from Disability Integration Advisor

Ever notice as individuals get older, they slow down, they adjust what they do, how they do things? Well, we're all getting older and someday we'll be that too. It's referred to as making an 'accommodation', what is yours?

# Skyline Conservative Initiative Tour by Judy Provitch



Visit to the Skyline Conservative Initiative; a nonprofit organization dedicated to the Kula community, who, as survivors of the August 8, 2023, fires have banded together to take action to restore burned lands. The attendees included FEMA, Natural and Cultural Resources, US Army Corps of Engineers, and the Department of Transportation. The overarching purpose of the tour was to show the watershed and burn scars to the Federal agencies. Additionally, the Alliance wanted to impress upon us the relevance of acting now to avoid a second disaster, through neglecting to curb more erosion. During the tour it was explained that the focus of the Alliance is to stabilize, protect, restore, and maintain the privately owned lands that were burned in and around Kula's Pohakuokala Gulch and its surrounding watershed. With the guidance of subject matter experts, they have joined together as neighbors in unified support of the land's recovery from the fires and the establishment of a safer landscape and optimum watershed health in our area. As we recover from the wildfire, we look beyond the bounds of the burn scar to the greater Kula community in hopes of converting our entire area into a more resilient landscape. We listened to Joe Imhoff, Skyline Conservation Initiative / Kula Watershed Alliance (KWA) who showed us the restored area that they have been working on for 20 years. We felt as if we were walking into the future. Additionally, we were shown parts of the Kula Gulch Burn Area and the restoration (soil erosion control measures) they are implementing.

The spirit in which the tour was conducted exemplified the connection to the forest, the land, the ocean and to the residents of this treasured community. The nature of the tour inspired a contemplative and a reverence for all that we all experienced, inclusive of the privilege of planting native trees, with the view of bringing back the natural canopy. They explained that they need funding assistance and any help that FEMA can provide. The high winds from the Kula fire made the zipline inoperable, which brought in tourist dollars, and their hope is to restore it. Natural Resources Conservation Service will be doing work in Kula, but it is unclear if they will be able to do so before the inevitable wet season arrives, staving off a possible second disaster. Kula Gulch could be restored to reduce stormwater runoff, sedimentation, and migration of contaminants, into the ocean. The hope is that what is being accomplished in the Kula Watershed can be done in and around other Maui watersheds that were impacted by the Maui Wildfires.



## US Department of Transportation

USDOT accompanied the infrastructure team and met with the Kula Community Watershed Alliance to examine the Kula wildfire damaged areas. The community's main bridge (shown left) is at the center of the wildfire site and was burned. USDOT arranged for the bridge to be inspected, enabling any necessary bridge repair work to be initiated. USDOT also coordinated an inspection of uninsulated electric wires above the bridge, which pose a danger of igniting nearby tree branches. USDOT also participated with the Kula Community Watershed Alliance in planting some native Hawaiian trees.

## US Department of Agriculture Advisor

USDA Rural Development participated in the grand opening/blessing of the [Maui Food Innovation Center](#) (shown right). The agency supported the University of Hawaii Maui College with more than \$70,000 in Rural Business Development Grant funds to assist with this project, a 4,300 square foot facility supporting the value-added food industry and the overall sustainability of locally based agriculture. When the Salvation Army's facility in Lahaina was destroyed in the fires, the Maui Food Innovation Center opened its facility to the Salvation Army to prepare meals.



## Who's Packing your Parachute?

We wanted to extend a heartfelt thank you to Kelsey Anderson for her exceptional support.

Kelsey has been a driving force behind the scenes and has supported the FDR0s immensely. Kelsey's support is a testament to the power of collaboration and teamwork. We are deeply grateful for her willingness to always lend a hand on anything no matter how big or small. Although she will be demobilizing soon, her impact will continue to be felt for years to come on Maui.

On behalf of the FDR0s, thank you, Kelsey, for your support and for being such a committed part of our team!

If you would like to recognize someone who has packed your parachute, send info to [deborah.costa@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:deborah.costa@fema.dhs.gov)