

August 19, 2023

Aloha displaced Maui residents,

HHFDC's Hawai'i Fire Relief Housing Program is making progress. To date, the program has found homes for 65 families that were displaced due to this month's Maui brushfires. Landlords and homeowners have offered up approximately 1,000 individual rooms, units and houses for immediate occupancy.

Our staff at HHFDC continues to respond personally to those among you who've reached out to us either with questions or for guidance. We have received an overwhelming response and we thank you for your patience as we work as quickly as possible to respond to everyone.

The list of available housing options that you can find on our website continues to be updated twice a day. Please visit frequently for changes.

We also want to note that there are other housing assistance programs presently available to survivors of the wildfires through the State of Hawai'i's Joint Housing Task Force.

For those in need of immediate relief, the state task force is coordinating with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and American Red Cross to house survivors in hotels on Maui.

FEMA also provides funds directly to eligible individuals and households displaced by a disaster to rent housing accommodations. Survivors must register with FEMA to be eligible for rental assistance. Rent and other lease terms are private contractual agreements between landlord and tenant.

FEMA may also directly lease units within multi-family buildings from building owners and offer them to displaced individuals and households. FEMA will place eligible displaced households when they lease the units.

To learn more about the FEMA efforts, go to: <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4724>

Finally, here are a few other details and reminders about HHFDC's Hawai'i Fire Relief Housing Program:

- The program operates essentially as a referral service displaced Maui residents and property owners offering to rent their properties. Rent and other terms of occupancy are private contractual agreements between the owners and tenants.
- HHFDC staff members are not property agents and are unable to provide advice on landlord-tenant law.
- Further details about the HHFDC Hawai'i Fire Relief Housing Program can be found in the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section here: <https://dbedt.hawaii.gov/hhfdc/hawaii-fire-relief-housing-program/>.

If you still have additional questions after visiting HHFDC's Hawai'i Fire Relief Housing Program land page, please email HHFDC at hhdcfirereliefhousing@hawaii.gov or call 808-587-0469.

Each of you has lost so much. The rest of the state watches in awe as you face this adversity with resiliency and grit. We are grateful for the opportunity to assist you.

The HHFDC Hawai'i Fire Relief Housing Program team