



**American
Red Cross**

**COUNCIL for
NATIVE HAWAIIAN
ADVANCEMENT**



**HAWAI'I COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

NEWS RELEASE

October 3, 2023

CNHA ANNOUNCES HOST HOUSING SUPPORT PROGRAM

In partnership with the County of Maui, American Red Cross and Hawai'i Community Foundation, the new program aims to provide financial support to households that have taken in Maui wildfire survivors

KAHULUI, HAWAI'I – Today the County of Maui, American Red Cross and the Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF) announced that the [Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement](#) (CNHA) will administer a newly-launched **Host Housing Support Program**. This program offers financial support to households providing shelter to individuals and families displaced by the Maui wildfires. Eligible host households can receive a monthly stipend of up to \$1,500 for up to six months, with a maximum of \$375 for individuals under the \$1,500 cap.

"In the face of the devastating wildfires, our community has stepped up to 'mālama' (care for) others. They have provided shelter for those who have lost everything. This program honors those who have shown 'aloha' and embraced the 'kuleana' to 'mālama' others while encouraging them to continue their aloha," said **Kūhiō Lewis**, CEO of CNHA.

The August 8, 2023, wildfires in Maui left thousands of individuals displaced. Data collected at the Kāko'o Maui Resource Center and recent townhalls hosted by Mayor Richard Bissen indicate that 25% of displaced families and individuals are staying with friends or relatives. The Host Housing Support Program seeks to provide relief to these generous hosts.

"As Maui continues to heal, I am heartened by this program, which represents a collaboration of our county teams and non-profit partners supporting those who have opened their doors to our people in need displaced by the tragic disaster," said **Mayor Richard Bissen** of the County of Maui, who played a pivotal role in creating this program. "We are grateful to the American Red Cross, Hawai'i Community Foundation and Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement for their continued care and support. This program reinforces the values of aloha that continues to be the hallmark of our community. The kindness shown by hosting families who have taken in those in great need deserve our support as well. "

Amanda Ree, director of wildfire long-term recovery programs for the American Red Cross, stated, "No one organization can possibly meet the multitude of needs created by the impact of such a destructive disaster. We are honored to work collaboratively with the County of Maui, CNHA, and

CNHA ANNOUNCES HOST HOUSING SUPPORT PROGRAM

Add 1

HCF to support the people of Maui and embrace a community-led recovery. Strong partnerships like these enhance our collective ability to offer a wide range of vital recovery services.

The Host Housing Support Program will be piloted for six months with a commitment of \$4 million dollars. Additional funding may be allocated if the pilot is successful.

Micah Kāne, CEO & president of the Hawai'i Community Foundation, said, "The host housing program will have an immediate impact by providing financial support to households that have opened their doors to families in need of housing. Our hope is that this funding eases some of the costs associated with hosting larger households and encourages more people to join this effort."

Financial assistance provided through the program can be used to cover additional costs incurred by host families, including rent, utilities, groceries, household improvements, and other necessities.

Host Housing Support Program Eligibility & Application Process

Interested applicants are encouraged to apply at CNHA's Kāko'o Maui Resource Hub located at Maui Mall in Kahului or apply online at www.HawaiianCouncil.org/HostFamily. Applicants can also contact CNHA at (808) 596-8155.

Eligibility Criteria

Host households must meet the following criteria for participation in the program:

- Resident of the State of Hawai'i hosting a family/individual(s) affected by the Maui wildfires
- Must provide address of family/individual(s) whose home was damaged by the Maui wildfires
- Must pass a Housing Quality Standard inspection
- Comply with monthly assessments of applicant qualifications
- Impacted family or individual must certify that they are living with the host

For more information about the Host Housing Support Program, visit

www.HawaiianCouncil.org/HostFamily.

Photos and videos from today's event can be downloaded from this [link](#). Please credit Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement.

About the Council of Native Hawaiian Advancement & Kāko'o Maui:

The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA) is a member-based 501(c)3 non-profit organization with a mission to culturally advance Hawaii through economic, political, and community development. CNHA provides access to capital, financial education, and individualized counseling services with a focus on low and moderate-income families and services as a National Intermediary, providing grants and loans targeting underserved communities in Hawai'i.

CNHA ANNOUNCES HOST HOUSING SUPPORT PROGRAM

Add 2

The Kākoʻo Maui Fund is providing resources that can be deployed quickly and efficiently to our community impacted by the Maui wildfires.

About Hawaiʻi Community Foundation & Maui Strong Fund

The vision of the Hawaiʻi Community Foundation is to create an equitable and vibrant Hawaiʻi in which all our Island communities thrive. With our more-than-105-year history, our trusted expertise, and the generous support of donors, we are working to address the root causes of our state's most difficult challenges, including expanding access to affordable housing, conserving fresh water resources, and ensuring the healthy development of Hawaiʻi's young children. HCF works in communities across Hawaiʻi, with offices and staff located statewide. For more information about HCF, please visit hawaiicomunityfoundation.org and follow our social media channels on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#).

The Maui Strong Fund of the Hawaiʻi Community Foundation is providing financial resources to support the immediate and long-term recovery needs for the people and places affected by the Maui wildfires. HCF works in close collaboration with state and county leaders, nonprofit organizations, and community members to get an understanding of the evolving priorities on the ground and deploys grants to address unmet needs. To ensure transparency, all grantees and award amounts from the Maui Strong Fund are updated regularly and can be found [here](#).

About American Red Cross

The American Red Cross prevents and alleviates human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors. The Red Cross, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavors—in its international and national capacity—to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation, and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

###

Media Contact: Lance Aquino
lance@strykerweiner.com
(808) 398-0657