



HAWAI'I COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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**MAUI STRONG FUND AWARDS \$13 MILLION TO SUPPORT
CRITICAL HOUSING, HEALTH CARE, MENTAL HEALTH AND NAVIGATION SERVICES**

The five grantees are currently providing essential services to individuals and families affected by Maui wildfires; the funding strengthens their ability to implement services and increase access.

LAHAINA, MAUI, HI – Today, the Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF) is announcing the award of \$13 million to five nonprofit partners providing long-term recovery assistance to individuals and families who have been affected by the Maui wildfires: Family Life Center, Hawai'i Community Lending, Kaibigan ng Lahaina, Maui Health Foundation, and Pacific Gateway Center.

These programs strengthen the health of Maui's communities by offering continued access to health care, mental health, interim and long-term housing, and expanded access to vulnerable communities. These organizations are uniquely positioned to meet needs of Maui-affected communities and are trusted resources who are already working in Maui's recovery.

"We mahalo the nonprofit organizations whose unwavering dedication and compassion, funded by the generous donors of the Hawai'i Community Foundation, will provide critical housing and navigation support to Maui's fire-affected communities," says Keanu Lau Hee, senior director for the Maui Recovery Effort at HCF. "These tireless efforts, supported by collective generosity, will bring hope and healing to those in need, offering not just shelter, but a path forward in the face of unimaginable loss."

HCF has a four-phase approach to disaster response to address both immediate and long-term recovery needs for the people and places affected by disaster events. In response to the Maui wildfires, Maui Strong Fund is currently in phase three, the recovery and stabilization phase, and funds are granted for longer-range recovery and stabilization efforts.

Grants were awarded to the following organizations:

Family Life Center has received a \$5 million grant to support its 'Ohana Hope Village, a temporary housing program in Kahului which will provide 72 homes for multi-generational and large families impacted by the Maui fires who otherwise cannot find suitable housing solutions. This will be in addition to the 16 units in which Maui wildfire survivors currently reside.

Hawai'i Community Lending (HCL) has received \$3 million to support the Lahaina Comprehensive Lot Survey, a program HCL is coordinating to bolster rebuilding efforts by contracting local land surveyors to conduct comprehensive lot surveys. This will cover the cost for the initial surveys and expedite the surveying completion timeline, while also saving 500 homeowners enrolled in the Lahaina Homeowner Recovery Program an estimated \$4.5 million.

Kaibigan ng Lahaina received \$1.6 million to establish a Filipino resource center for programs focused on disaster case assistance, mental health and well-being resources, workforce development, professional development, and cultural engagement opportunities, with a goal of ensuring long-term recovery for Maui's impacted Filipino community, one of the largest ethnic groups in the fire-affected area.

Maui Health Foundation has received \$2.2 million to construct 15 one-bedroom 'ohana units in Kahului, offering affordable transitional housing for healthcare professionals impacted by the fires, which has been raised as a critical need. Funds will directly support the 'ohana units that will be prioritized for fire-affected healthcare professionals and to ensure healthcare workers can remain on-island and continue their important work in the hospital.

Pacific Gateway Center received \$1.2 million to support its Maui Embrace Initiative, which develops long-term, Maui-based, bilingual case managers through outreach to the island's fire-affected foreign-born population. This supports wraparound services and ensures their comfort in participating in long-term recovery efforts.

"Family Life Center's mission is to stabilize the lives of people in their time of need by connecting individuals to a wide variety of supportive services that allow them to reconnect, heal, and succeed in life," says Dr. Ashley Kelly, chief operating officer at Family Life Center.

Chester Lagazo, whose family is currently residing at the 'Ohana Hope Village, says, "We have less stress and have found healing for our family."

As of October 7, 2024, HCF has awarded \$125 million from its Maui Strong Fund to more than 200 organizations.

The grants were made possible by donations to the Maui Strong Fund, which supports the people and places affected by the Maui fires.

Information in how to access resources from these programs will be listed on the [Stronger Hawai'i website](#) which serves as central hub of online information for Maui wildfire recovery efforts.

HCF has a unique role in disaster preparedness and response. The organization collaborates with partners, both inside and outside philanthropy, for a coordinated effort to secure maximum community impact. HCF has demonstrated its ability to raise funds quickly and deploy grants rapidly to community organizations that are at the heart of disaster response efforts.

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For photos of the Maui Strong Fund grantees, please see [this Dropbox link](#).

Photo Credit for Family Life Center, Lagazo Family: Family Life Center

Photo Credit for Kaibigan ng Lahaina: Kaibigan ng Lahaina

For the Maui Strong Fund One-Year Impact Report and accompanying message from CEO and President Micah Kāne, please visit

<https://www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/strengthening/maui-strong-fund>.

For nonprofit organizations seeking funding from the Maui Strong Fund, please visit this page on the HCF website for detailed instructions on how to apply for a Maui Strong Fund grant:

<https://www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/strengthening/maui-strong-fund/apply-for-a-grant>

For donations to the Maui Strong Fund at HCF, please visit

<https://www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/maui-strong>.

For questions or additional information on giving, please contact Donor Services at (808) 566-5560 or donorservices@hcf-hawaii.org.

For the Stronger Hawai'i website, please visit <https://strongerhawaii.org>.

About the Hawai'i Community Foundation & Maui Strong Fund

The vision of the Hawai'i Community Foundation is to create an equitable and vibrant Hawai'i in which all our Island communities thrive. With our more-than-107-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 Hawai'i's young children. HCF works in communities across Hawai'i, with offices and staff located statewide. For more information about HCF, please visit hawaiicommunityfoundation.org and follow our social media channels on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#).

The Maui Strong Fund of the Hawai'i 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 federal, state and county agencies, 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](#). The Maui Strong Fund is designed for the long haul, using a four-phase approach that includes recovery, stabilization, risk reduction, and resiliency building. Learn more about our four-phase approach [here](#).