



HAWAI'I COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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HAWAI'I COMMUNITY FOUNDATION WITH JEFF BEZOS AND LAUREN SANCHEZ AWARDS \$2.128 MILLION TO PURCHASE 4 FIRE TRUCKS FOR MAUI FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Daniel R. Sayre Memorial Foundation is using the grant money to purchase the new equipment for Maui.

Honolulu, HAWAI'I — Today, the Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF) is announcing the award of \$2.128 million to the Daniel R. Sayre Memorial Foundation, to be used for the purchase of four new fire trucks for the Maui Fire Department. For this grant, \$1 million from the Maui Strong Fund has been awarded, with an additional donation of \$1.128 million made by Jeff Bezos and Lauren Sanchez.

Since 1997, the Daniel R. Sayre Memorial Foundation has supported the Hawai'i County Fire Department by raising funds to purchase fire equipment, emergency rescue equipment, ocean safety equipment and aeromedical equipment, as well as supplies and training for first responders and their maintenance support teams. To date, the nonprofit has raised more than \$40 million for these efforts, including the purchase of 14 fire trucks and two helicopters for the Hawai'i County Fire Department.

"The mission of the Daniel R. Sayre Memorial Foundation is to save lives. Hawai'i's first responders need to have the tools to keep them safe and to make it more feasible for them to be doing rescues instead of recoveries," says Daniel R. Sayre Memorial Foundation executive director Laura Mallery-Sayre. "The needs are enormous. Hawai'i has terrain unlike anywhere else, and we are already dealing with the effects of climate change. And so we're looking ahead at how we can be better prepared when the next disaster arrives."

After the August 2023 wildfires on Maui, the Daniel R. Sayre Memorial Foundation reached out to Maui County to learn how they could assist in building capacity for future fire-fighting efforts. The Maui County Fire Department identified four trucks that would be most useful to filling its needs: a 3,500-gallon tanker truck, a 4x4 1,250-gallon tanker truck, a Skeeter-brand brush truck, and a 1-ton pickup with a skid.

Maui County Fire Department Chief Bradford Ventura says, "Most standard fire trucks are not made to go off-roading, but these are nimble. The vehicles are able to leave the pavement and get closer to a wildfire that's just starting up and prevent it from spreading and getting as large as it would otherwise. That's a big bonus."

Ventura says, “We’ve been through so much this year, but there’s been so much amazing support, from the Hawai’i Community Foundation and other partners, aimed toward making the community safer and more resilient for future wildfire situations.”

This is the second grant that Bezos and Sanchez have made to the Daniel R. Sayre Memorial Foundation; in spring of 2024, they contributed \$1.7 million to fund the purchase of three trucks for the Maui County Fire Department.

HCF is taking a four-phase approach to its disaster relief efforts, to acknowledge both the immediate and long-term recovery needs for the people and places affected by disaster events, ensuring that the Maui Strong Fund will be available to support relief efforts over the full course of Maui’s recovery. This \$1 million grant from the Maui Strong Fund to the Daniel R. Sayre Memorial Foundation falls into Phase One of HCF’s relief efforts: Risk Reduction and Disaster Readiness.

“Helping Maui’s fire department to be as fully equipped as possible to meet the ever-evolving challenges it faces is a crucial part of ensuring Maui is well prepared for future natural disasters,” says HCF CEO and president, Micah Kāne. “We mahalo Jeff and Lauren for their generous contribution to strengthen the capabilities and resources of Maui’s first responders, for the long-term safety and wellbeing of our island communities.”

Mallery-Sayre says she is working with vendors to purchase the new fire trucks and estimates they will be delivered on Maui within two to three years. The fire truck vehicles are custom produced to a fire department’s exact specifications and with the rise in wildfires across the US, there is a high demand for the equipment nationwide.

For example images of the fire trucks being purchased, please visit [this Dropbox folder](#).

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About The Hawai’i Community Foundation

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. We focus our efforts through the CHANGE Framework, which identifies six essential sectors affecting the overall well-being of these islands and its people. HCF works in communities across Hawai’i, with offices and staff located statewide. In 2023, HCF stewarded more than 1,160 funds, established by individuals, businesses, and organizations who share our passion for a better Hawai’i. We distributed over \$107 million in grants to the community from funds at HCF, contracts, and private foundations statewide, including scholarships assisting more than 1,000 Hawai’i students. 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 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](#).

About the Daniel R. Sayre Memorial Foundation

The Daniel R. Sayre Memorial Foundation is a volunteer-run, nonprofit organization dedicated to providing essential equipment and training to the Hawai'i County Fire Department serving the Hawai'i community, and more than 1.5 million visitors per year from around the world.

In 1997, 25-year-old Danny Sayre hiked to the back of Pololu Valley on the Big Island, near Kapaloa Falls, to visit the place he called his "cathedral." Tragically, that visit was Danny's last.

His devastated parents, Frank Sayre and Laura Mallery-Sayre, could only watch helplessly as multiple attempts to rescue their son's body from a 500-foot fall to the valley floor below, failed. "That's when three men from the Fire Department volunteered to move forward with the mission, knowing that they were putting their own lives in danger," recalls Laura. The rescue occurred in such a narrow and densely forested location that tree limbs were shredded by the helicopter's rotors as two firefighters courageously rappelled into the canyon to retrieve Daniel's body, steps from Kapaloa.

"We decided that a memorial fund honoring the Hawai'i County Fire Department was the best way to show our gratitude," says Frank. Since then, more than \$40 million dollars in donations and pledged equipment have been raised. One-hundred percent of the foundation's donations go to funding rescue equipment and training vital to saving lives.

To learn more, visit www.danielsayrefoundation.org.