

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA

October 1, 2023

The Honorable Greggor Ilagan, Vice Speaker  
Hawai'i State House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 419  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Invitation to Share Information with the Food, Water, and Other Supplies Interim House Working Group

Aloha Vice Speaker and Members of the Interim House Working Group on Food, Water, and Other Supplies:

Thank you for your letter regarding the availability and distribution of supplies for displaced individuals and families. I extend my deepest gratitude to community leaders and volunteers who have deployed equipment, aid, and supplies to Maui in the earliest days.

Maui County continues to coordinate with partners like the Hawai'i Foodservice Alliance (HFA) to collaboratively streamline efforts between government, industry, and nonprofits. The Department of Accounting and General Services and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs secured critical warehouse spaces for continued statewide distribution efforts.

We express a huge mahalo to community leaders who stepped up immediately to support food, water, and other supplies efforts. For instance, Chad Buck and HFA—with the County of Maui—set-up and maintained the initial food, water, and other supply distribution sites. Distribution efforts are multi-faceted through collaboration with the County of Maui, Lieutenant Governor Sylvia Luke, Matson, Pasha, Maui United Way, the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA), Chef Hui, World Central Kitchen, the University of Hawai'i at Maui College, the Hawai'i State Legislature, the American Red Cross, and countless community volunteers.

Throughout the disaster response, community leaders and volunteers have continued to step up and collaborate to ensure resources are available to those in need.

A wide range of resources, including information about water, food, and other supplies can be found at: <https://mauistrong.hawaii.gov> and <https://www.mauinuistrong.info/>.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Green M.D." in a cursive style.

Josh Green, M.D.

Governor, State of Hawai'i



**LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**

*Ke Ke'ena O Ka Hope Kia'āina*

**SYLVIA LUKE**

Hawai'i State Capitol, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813  
(808) 586-0255 | [ltgov.hawaii.gov](http://ltgov.hawaii.gov)

The Honorable Greggor Ilagan  
Co-Chair, Food, Water and Other Supplies Interim House Working Group  
State Capitol, Room 419  
Honolulu, HI 96813

October 1, 2023

Dear Co-Chair Ilagan

Per your invitation to share information with the Food, Water and Other Supplies Interim House Working Group, I would like to invite you and the members of your committee to attend site visits to learn more about the Maui Donation Distribution Network. Below are the dates and times of the site visits.

Maui Relief Storage Facility (Oahu) – **Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 10:00am**

Maui Distribution Centers (Maui) – **Monday, October 16, 2023, at 1:00pm**

I look forward to the Food, Water and Other Supplies Interim House Working Group learning more about the Maui Donation Distribution Network.

Mahalo,

Sylvia Luke  
Lieutenant Governor, State of Hawai'i

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



KEITH A. REGAN  
COMPTROLLER  
KA LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

MEOH-LENG SILLIMAN  
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

**STATE OF HAWAII'Ī | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII'Ī**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWE LAULĀ**  
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

October 9, 2023

Vice Speaker Greggor Ilagan  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 419  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Vice Speaker Ilagan,

Thank you for your letter requesting that the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) provide the Food, Water, and Other Supplies Interim House Working Group with information related to our support of the relief and recovery efforts pertaining to the Maui wildfires.

DAGS has been involved in numerous efforts to support the Maui community since August 8<sup>th</sup>. These efforts include supporting the response through our participation in various Emergency Support Function (ESF) groups in various roles (ESF-3: Public Works and Engineering; ESF-6: Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services; ESF-7: Resources and Logistics Support; and ESF-16: Finance) and meeting the needs for warehouse space. Based on the committee's focus, the information below focuses primarily on our efforts related to warehouse space.

I. REPURPOSING OF EXISTING WAREHOUSE SPACE

As part of our response efforts, we were asked to repurpose two warehouses that, in blue-sky operations, are used to support the mission of DAGS. The warehouses were located on Maui and O'ahu and each provided access to approximately 6,000sf of space.

a. O'ahu

On the island of O'ahu, we repurposed approximately 5,000sf of warehouse space to accept and store the significant amount of dry goods and supplies that were received at the State Capitol after a donation drive was held by the Legislature. Our Central Services Division and Automotive Management Division teams provided support to move the goods and supplies from the State Capitol to the DAGS warehouse located at our base yard in Mapunapuna. The goods and supplies were eventually moved to a non-DAGS facility for further processing and distribution to the victims of the wildfires on Maui.

b. Maui

On the island of Maui, we repurposed approximately 6,000sf of warehouse space to accept and store donations that had been received on Maui. The need for storage was immediate and DAGS was tasked with finding a temporary location to support the storage and distribution of the goods and supplies until such time as a more permanent warehouse is identified. These items continue to be stored at the DAGS facility.

## II. SECURING OF ADDITIONAL WAREHOUSE SPACE

In addition to the repurposing of existing DAGS warehouse space, we were tasked with identifying larger and longer-term warehouse space on Maui to support the relief and recovery efforts. The inventory of available/empty warehouse space on Maui was extremely-limited to non-existent. As such, we expanded our search to include spaces that may be transitioned to warehouse operations with some modification, and identified two locations that were available and would meet the essential storage and distribution needs of the relief and recovery efforts.

a. Location #1: 270 Dairy Road, Kahului (Unit 100C/D: Former Lowe's)

This approximately 47,000sf space was identified as an acceptable location for storage and distribution operations. DAGS was able to secure a license agreement with the property owner, Maui Marketplace Investment Group, Inc., until December 30, 2023, at no lease rent. DAGS, however, is responsible for the cost of utilities at this location. Since executing the agreement, warehousing activities have been ongoing.

b. Location #2: 170 E. Kamehameha Highway, Kahului (Former Safeway)

This approximately 50,000sf space was identified as an acceptable location for storage and distribution operations. DAGS was able to secure a license agreement with the property owner, Honolulu, LLC dba HON Realty, LLC, until December 14, 2023, at no lease rent. DAGS is responsible for the cost of utilities at this location. Since executing the agreement, warehousing activities have been ongoing.

DAGS continues to remain supportive and active in the overall response to the wildfire disaster. As we move forward through the recovery phases and begin to consider long-term recommendations/suggestions related to storage and distribution, we would offer the following to the committee:

- a. There is a clear and undeniable need for hardened emergency support storage and warehousing facilities throughout the State of Hawai'i.
- b. Given Hawai'i's geographic location, significant emphasis should be placed on the development of strategic storage and warehousing facilities throughout the State that will serve to support the community in times of crisis.
- c. Each major island should have at least one hardened emergency support storage and warehousing facility sufficient in size to meet the immediate needs of a major disaster response.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share this information with the committee. Should you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Warm regards,



Keith A. Regan  
Comptroller

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII  
KE KIA'AINA O KA MOKU'AINA 'O HAWAII



KENNETH S. FINK, MD, MGA, MPH  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
**KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO**  
P. O. BOX 3378  
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

October 2, 2023

Honorable Greggor Ilagan, Co-Chair  
House Special Committee on Food, Water and Other Supplies Working Group  
Honorable Terez Amato, Co-Chair  
House Special Committee on Food, Water and Other Supplies Working Group  
Honorable Members of the Food, Water and Other Supplies Working Group  
Hawaii State Legislature  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Co-Chairs Amato and Ilagan and Members of the Food, Water  
and Other Supplies Working Group:

This is in response to your letter dated September 13, 2023 requesting information regarding the availability and distribution of supplies for displaced individuals and families. While the Department of Health (DOH) did not distribute supplies such as food and water, DOH has been involved in ensuring the safety of food and water.

DOH continues to work closely with Maui County's Department of Water Supply to provide technical assistance and guidance regarding water distribution system assessment, water testing, and interpreting test results.

DOH also continues to provide general guidance on safe food handling practices with regard to donated food/meals to displaced individuals.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide information about DOH's actions taken in response to the Lahaina wildfires related to food, water, and other supplies for displaced individuals and families on Maui.

Sincerely,

Kenneth S. Fink, MD, MGA, MPH  
Director of Health

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
Governor

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



**SHARON HURD**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**DEXTER KISHIDA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

September 29, 2023

**TO:** Representative Greggor Ilagan, Co-Chair  
Representative Terez Amato, Co-Chair  
Food, Water and Other Supplies Interim House Working Group

**FROM:** Sharon K. Hurd  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**SUBJECT:** Regarding Food, Water, and Other Supplies

On September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (“the Department”) was invited by the Food, Water, and Other Supplies Interim House Working Group to share insights and other relevant information that may assist in crafting impactful legislative recommendations to enhance the current ongoing recovery process in the wake of the Maui wildfire disaster and to enhance our state’s resilience against possible future calamities.

With regards to food, water, and other supplies the Department adheres to the State of Hawai'i Emergency Operations Plan: Sate Emergency Support Function Annex #11, Agriculture and Natural Resources (“SESF #11”), as created by the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency (“HI-EMA”). The Department would like to note that SESF #11 does **not** determine requirements for food supplies to support affected populations, nor obtain and deliver food supplies to include USDA commodities. These activities fall under State Emergency Support Function #6, Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing and Human Services.

The Department’s Animal Industry Division (AI) works on the ground for animal related assessments and intelligence to determine actions needed for planning and response. Due to the limited number of Department staff not on the island of O’ahu, with regards to the Maui wildlife disaster, AI primarily focuses on the responsibilities outlined in SESF #11 with secondary support for SESF #6 regarding animal issues. Generally, the immediate focus is on providing animal feed, water, addressing any health issues, and securing holding areas/relocation if necessary. Response requires



working in conjunction with other government agencies and non-government agencies, (Ex. For Maui: Maui Humane Society, Hawaii Farmers Bureau Federation, etc.) Subsequent focus on infrastructure, market loss, and sustaining feed water operations, and connecting producers with resources, such as the Farm Service Agency (“USDA-FSA”).

As an example, during the 2018 Puna lava flow incident, AI staff on Hawai'i Island worked with the Hawai'i Island Humane Society with regards to planning livestock evacuation, locating space to house livestock pasture, and coordination with Hawai'i County Fire Department monitoring flow through affected areas with animals.

Currently, the Department is requesting funding for a disaster survey administered by the United States Department of Agriculture-National Agricultural Statistics Service (USDA-NASS) which would help establish a baseline of statistical data covering loss of crops/livestock, loss of commodity/product sales, damaged equipment, farm structures, other infrastructure, seeds, etc. This information is critical for affected farmers, ranchers, and producers to file claims and to quickly recover from disasters.

Additionally, appropriations from the legislature to support the Department's emergency loan program within our Agricultural Loan Division would greatly assist in providing relief to farmers residing in impacted areas of calamity.



**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



**CATHY BETTS**  
DIRECTOR  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

**JOSEPH CAMPOS II**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**  
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA  
Office of the Director  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

**TRISTA SPEER**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

DIR 23.66

October 3, 2023

The Honorable Representative Greggor Ilagan  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 419  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Food, Water, & Other Supplies Interim House Working Group

Dear Representative Ilagan,

Mahalo for your September 13, 2023, letter requesting the Department's (DHS) insights regarding the distribution of food, water, and other supplies during emergency management incidents. We appreciate the opportunity to share some of our insights and encourage the Working Group to seek a breadth of opinion.

As you may know, DHS facilitates the State Emergency Support Function (ESF) #6 for mass care and feeding. ESF 6 includes government entities and community providers that meet regularly during disasters to share information on shelter and meal distribution, pet/animal care services, language access, donation management, and available government and community resources. Once activated, ESF 6 serves as a regular space where community providers meet with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HIEMA), each County emergency management agency, and other federal, state, and county agencies. During these meetings, information is shared, feedback is provided, and issues are identified.

Notably, regarding sheltering and food distribution, the State and County Emergency Management agencies most often rely upon National Volunteer Organizations such as the American Red Cross (ARC), the Salvation Army (TSA), and Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) to address disaster survivors' sheltering, feeding, and other needs. For further information on the sheltering and feeding agreements, we encourage input from HIEMA or the particular County Emergency Management Agency to gain additional insight into those agreements.

In general, DHS encourages more recruitment, training, and disaster response exercises in all sectors, including state civil service and K-12 schools, so communities and residents have more significant roles and a clear understanding of preparation for and responding to disasters that impact their communities.

Additional resources also need to be available to support survivors' recovery, such as child care, mental health care for children and adults, civil legal services, case managers, and system navigators. Many survivors need assistance to apply for the various programs.

Regarding sheltering options, each County should have a working inventory of potential sheltering sites. Ideally, the pre-disaster memorandum of agreements should be updated. Given COVID-19 conditions, congregate shelters (i.e., schools and gyms) need to include more space, and with more space, more trained shelter volunteers are needed to assist with setting up and managing a shelter.

For long-term sheltering needs, planning considerations and funding should include programs that support the County or State to engage or incentivize hotels, vacation rentals, or other short-term rentals, such as Airbnb, to make properties available for disaster survivors.

Importantly, as a State with a diverse population of multigenerational and multiethnic households and a high rate of individuals experiencing homelessness, the State and Counties must have sufficient plans and support for populations not meeting FEMA program eligibility requirements. Hawaii should prioritize equitably providing feeding, sheltering, and other services to all individuals and families impacted by a disaster. Hawaii should avoid creating different "options" for individuals not meeting FEMA eligibility requirements. The State may want to consider funding an individual assistance program similar to FEMA's for those Hawaii residents who are not eligible for FEMA assistance.

Regarding mass feeding programs, efforts and attention should be made regarding pre-disaster feeding agreements and contingency plans. Clear guidelines on the leading entity for mass feeding efforts and how and where communities can safely set up food distribution hubs in the short- and long-term—preplanning, including an annual prepositioning of nonperishable food supplies (and distribution to maintain freshness).

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides several federally funded nutrition programs implemented by the Department of Human Services, the Department of Health, the Department of Education, and the Department of Labor & Industrial Relations. It may benefit the committee to invite a USDA representative to give an overview of its nutrition programs and options available during disasters.

Food and water supplies for agricultural herds and horses used on ranches or for tourism also require planning and organization. The Department of Agriculture and the State Veterinarian should be consulted on improvements for herd animals. Regarding pets and animal care, Hawaii's veterinarian community is well-organized and has been blessed by national philanthropic organizations who have made donations of pet food, veterinarian

October 3, 2023

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supplies, sponsored spaying/neutering events, and airlifted pets from island shelters for mainland adoptions.

Real investment in Hawaii's capacity to manage donations is being made during this disaster. The necessary infrastructure to track and move donations is being laid down and needs to be maintained throughout this incident. The State relies upon a cadre of FEMA, other state emergency management teams here through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), and AmeriCorps volunteers from other states to assist with donation management. We suggest increasing HIEMA staff and encouraging the training of local volunteers during this incident to gain the necessary experience and expertise. Additional support, training, and reporting infrastructure needs to happen for the State and County to accurately capture all donations, including services, to maximize the State's contribution to meet FEMA match requirements.

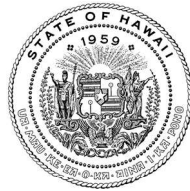
In terms of communication, a single trusted disaster response website needs to be maintained as a single source of information to reduce the time needed to verify information, for community providers to provide information, to provide real-time translation of information into multiple languages, and to communicate to the deaf and blind communities. Additionally, communication plans and messaging, including interpretation and translation, must consider the temporary loss of the internet, cell, and telephone infrastructures. Communication by radio is still a vital part of providing information to the public.

Lastly, the State should consider funding or creating incentives for public and private landowners and homeowners to mitigate known hazards and invest in upgrades to improve community safety and resilience in the face of multiple hazards.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss.

Sincerely,

Cathy Betts  
Director



JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

LUIS P. SALAVERIA  
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**

*Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā*

P.O. BOX 150  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE  
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

September 29, 2023

The Honorable Greggor Ilagan, Co-Chair  
House of Representatives Food, Water, and  
Other Supplies Interim Working Group  
State Capitol, Room 419  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: Invitation to Share Information with the Food, Water, and Other Supplies Interim  
House Working Group

Aloha Representative Ilagan:

Thank you for your inquiry. The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) understands and appreciates the work the legislature is doing to support the immediate and long-term challenges that have risen from the emergencies. With regards to the availability and distribution of supplies during emergency situations, the department does not have a role in that activity.

However, the most recent events have illustrated that in the immediate aftermath of a disaster, the need for quick action and response is critical to ameliorate the devastating impacts a disaster can have on a community. At B&F we recognized the flexibility needed with regards to the expenditure of funds to make those quick responses, and that flexibility was granted with the initial quick infusion into the Major Disaster Fund (MDF). As the event moves from the response to the recovery phases, structure and discipline in our processes is essential to ensure that the State is maximizing the effectiveness of every dollar dedicated to the recovery efforts. The Governor assigned the responsibility for State Emergency Support Function 16 (SESF-16) Finance to B&F to monitor and account for the State's financial obligations related to the event. As such we will work with the legislature in whatever way necessary to support the efforts of the working group.

If you have any additional questions or are in need of further clarification, please feel free to contact me at (808) 586-1518.

Sincerely,

LUIS P. SALAVERIA  
Director of Finance

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY  
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

OCS 23.1395

STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS  
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHANA  
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321  
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[www.labor.hawaii.gov](http://www.labor.hawaii.gov)

September 29, 2023

The Honorable Greggor Ilagan  
Hawaii State Representative, District 4  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 419  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Ilagan:

Subject: Information for the Interim House Working Group

Thank you for your letter dated September 13, 2023, and the opportunity to provide information on your data gathering. The Office of Community Services (OCS) administers three federally funded food programs namely (1) The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP); (2) Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP); and (3) Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP). Client eligibility on these programs is based on income and age for CSFP and SFMNP. These programs are part of the federal government's effort in alleviating the cause of poverty.

The Maui Food Bank is the TEFAP service provider in Maui County. A few days after the devastating wildfire in Lahaina, OCS worked with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Services in preparing the Disaster Household Distribution (DHD) request to change the regular operation of TEFAP into a disaster response. However, the Maui Food Bank advised it had enough food commodities from donations and requested OCS to withdraw the (DHD) request and to maintain the regular flow of TEFAP food delivery to Maui County. OCS complied with the Maui Food Bank's request but stands ready to resubmit the DHD request should Maui Food Bank deems it necessary at a later time. OCS' actions are in compliance with all TEFAP program federal regulations and procedures. The other two aforementioned programs are not applicable to the situation.

The Honorable Greggor Ilagan  
September 29, 2023  
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OCS 23.1395

Again, thank you for the opportunity to share information to your Interim House Working Group. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jovanie D. Dela Cruz, Administrator of the Office of Community Services (OCS) at [jovanie.d.delacruz@hawaii.gov](mailto:jovanie.d.delacruz@hawaii.gov) or (808) 586-8678.

Sincerely,



JADE T. BUTAY  
Director of Labor and Industrial Relations

c: Jovanie D. Dela Cruz, Office of Community Services Administrator

---

**From:** [Tokioka, James](#)

**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2023 1:17 PM

**To:** [Nicky Watts](#); [Rep. Greggor Ilagan](#)

**Cc:** [Tokioka, James](#)

**Subject:** FW: Invitation To Share Information With the Food, Water, and Other Supplies Interim Working Group

You don't often get email from james.tokioka@hawaii.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

Aloha Representative Ilagan,

Thank you for the request, currently this would not be in DBEDT's purview. Director wanted to share that Red Cross would be a resource as their services provide the following:

- Red Cross checks on survivors in non-congregate shelters every 48 hours
- 3 nutritious meals are provided to survivors in hotels every day
- Red Cross provides health, mental health, and spiritual care services for individuals in non-congregate shelter

Mahalo,

***Dawn A. Murata*** on behalf of Director James Tokioka

DBEDT Director's Office

No. 1 Capitol District Building

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Website: <https://dbedt.hawaii.gov>