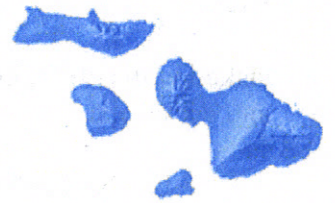
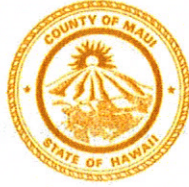


RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

KEKUAPIO R. AKANA
Managing Director

BRADFORD K. VENTURA
Fire Chief

GAVIN L.M. FUJIOKA
Deputy Fire Chief



DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & PUBLIC SAFETY
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 DAIRY ROAD
KAHULUI, MAUI, HAWAII 96732
www.mauicounty.gov

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November 24, 2023

The Honorable Josh Green
Governor, State of Hawaii
Executive Chambers
State Capitol
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Governor Green,

**SUBJECT: LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FOR LISA VARES TO THE
HAWAII ADVISORY COUNCIL ON EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT**

I am, Bradford K. Ventura, Fire Chief of the County of Maui Department of Fire & Public Safety aka Maui Fire Department. I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Lisa Vares as a candidate for a position on the Hawaii Advisory Council on Emergency Management. As Fire Chief of the Maui Fire Department, I have had the privilege of working closely with Lisa over the past five years and can attest to her exceptional skills, dedication, and leadership in the field of emergency management.

Lisa's commitment to public safety and emergency preparedness is truly commendable. She has been an active part of our Fire & Public Safety Commission and will finish her term as Chair with us in February 2024. In her professional life, she has extensive knowledge of wildfire fuel mitigation and management and in her volunteer role she has spent extensive hours in Maui Emergency Management Agency during activations to include the August 8th wildfires. Her extensive background in both of these parts of life has equipped her with a deep understanding of the complex challenges that our communities face during emergencies. I have witnessed Lisa's ability to analyze situations, formulate effective strategies, and implement solutions with a calm and collected demeanor. Additionally, her company has responded side by side with the Department of Forestry and Wildlife for responses in 2019 and 2023.

One of Lisa's notable strengths is her exceptional communication skills. Whether interacting with colleagues, community members, or stakeholders, she consistently demonstrates an ability to convey complex information in a clear and concise manner. This skill is vital in emergency management, where effective communication can be the difference between a well-coordinated response and confusion. Recently, at the Maui Emergency Operations Center she was

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tasked with communicating with Department Heads during an activation and did so professionally and concisely.

Lisa's collaborative approach to problem-solving is another asset that sets her apart. She actively seeks input from diverse perspectives, fostering a sense of inclusivity and cooperation. This collaborative spirit, combined with her strong analytical abilities, makes her an ideal candidate for a position on the Hawaii Advisory Council on Emergency Management. She is also well networked within the community to bring a variety of perspectives to the table. Her experience working with the Department of Land and Natural Resources at multiple state parks on Maui illustrates this ability.

In addition to her professional qualifications, Lisa is deeply committed to the well-being of our community. Her voluntary involvement in both the Fire & Public Safety Commission and Maui Emergency Management Agency reflects her dedication to making a positive impact on the lives of those she serves.

I am confident that Lisa Vares will bring valuable expertise, a strong work ethic, and a passion for community safety to the Hawaii Advisory Council on Emergency Management. I wholeheartedly recommend her for this important role, and I am certain that she will make significant contributions to the Council's mission.

If you require any further information or have any questions, please feel free to contact me via email at bradford.ventura@mauicounty.gov or by phone at (808) 264-8599.

Thank you for considering Lisa Vares for this esteemed position. I am confident that her appointment will be a tremendous asset to the Council and the community at large.

Sincerely,



BRADFORD K. VENTURA
Fire Chief