

MAR 08 2024

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY TO FURTHER ASSIST MAUI WILDFIRE VICTIMS BY AMENDING ITS REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE DIRECT LEASE PROGRAM TO REQUIRE THAT PROPERTIES QUALIFYING FOR THE PROGRAM AND USED BY LAHAINA RESIDENTS AS TEMPORARY HOUSING BE WITHIN TWENTY MILES OF LAHAINA, RATHER THAN WITHIN FORTY MILES.

1 WHEREAS, under the federal Direct Lease program, the
2 Federal Emergency Management Agency has been leasing ready-to-
3 occupy residential properties for use as temporary housing for
4 families displaced by the Maui wildfires; and

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6 WHEREAS, one requirement of the program is that each
7 eligible residential property be located within forty miles of
8 Lahaina, Maui; and

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10 WHEREAS, it appears that the forty-mile distance was
11 determined according to a method described in the FEMA Direct
12 Housing Guide, July 2021, which states:

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14 "Additionally, the reasonable commuting distance will be
15 established by the JFO-IA-Direct Housing during applicant
16 matching, which is the 'Mean Travel Time to Work,' as
17 determined by the most recent U.S. Census Bureau
18 QuickFacts. This figure will be doubled to produce the
19 number of miles to be used as a search radius for available
20 housing resources from the affected area. When the terrain
21 of the affected area presents unusual impacts on travel
22 distance (e.g., mountainous terrain), consult with HQ-IA-
23 Direct Housing and RAD to establish a more accurate measure
24 of reasonable commuting distance."

25 ; and

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27 WHEREAS, according to the United States Census Bureau
28 QuickFacts for Lahaina census-designated place, "mean travel



1 time to work (minutes), workers age 16 years+, 2018-2022" was
2 18.8 minutes; and

3
4 WHEREAS, current morning and late afternoon travel time
5 from Maui Lani and other locations that are far outside Lahaina,
6 but within the forty-mile distance, can exceed one hour and have
7 been growing longer due to traffic from increased tourism and
8 trucks hauling fire debris, with daily traffic standstills
9 becoming inevitable; and

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11 WHEREAS, instead of merely experiencing doubled commute
12 times, Lahaina wildfire victims participating in the Direct
13 Lease program are facing commute times of triple or quadruple
14 their commute times before the disaster; and

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16 WHEREAS, businesses of Lahaina and the surrounding areas
17 have lost workers due to long commutes from their temporary
18 residences to work; and

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20 WHEREAS, keeping Lahaina residents in Lahaina is critical
21 for community preservation; and

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23 WHEREAS, due to the unique mountains and limited roadways
24 of Maui, which "presents an unusual impact on travel distance,"
25 the Federal Emergency Management Agency should decrease the
26 distance for eligible residential properties of the Direct Lease
27 program to allow wildfire victims to continue living in Lahaina
28 or close to Lahaina; now, therefore,

29
30 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
31 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the
32 House of Representatives concurring, that the Federal Emergency
33 Management Agency is requested to amend its requirements under
34 the Direct Lease program for Maui wildfire victims to require
35 that properties qualifying for the program be within twenty
36 miles of Lahaina, rather than within forty miles; and

37



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Federal Emergency
3 Management Agency Administrator and Maui Emergency Management
4 Agency Administrator.

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6
7

OFFERED BY: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized 'D' or 'O' followed by a flourish, is written over a horizontal line.