

MAR 08 2024

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY TO UTILIZE FUNDS
FOR NON-CONGREGATE HOUSING FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND
DEVELOPMENT NEEDS FOR AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING.

1 WHEREAS, the devastating August 2023 Maui wildfires have
2 left thousands of residents displaced from their homes; and
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4 WHEREAS, the housing crisis on Maui had already been
5 creating housing instability and shortages for Maui families;
6 and
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8 WHEREAS, those who were displaced from their homes by the
9 August 2023 Maui wildfires include an estimated one thousand six
10 hundred renters; and
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12 WHEREAS, the majority of those displaced have expressed a
13 desire to live in an area geographically close to their
14 residences prior to the wildfires; and
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16 WHEREAS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA)
17 housing relief aid that is currently providing temporary rental
18 assistance to eligible displaced residents is scheduled to
19 expire in 2025; and
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21 WHEREAS, the repopulation of the areas affected by the
22 August 2023 Maui wildfires for development of permanent
23 affordable housing to replace those that were destroyed is
24 estimated to take many years; and
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26 WHEREAS, displaced renters and homeowners will need interim
27 housing solutions beyond subsidizing rentals in a tight Maui
28 rental supply market while housing is being developed or
29 rebuilt; and
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31 WHEREAS, meeting the needs for additional interim housing
32 solutions is critical to ensure flexibility in keeping together
33 the community of Lahaina, and other communities affected by the
34 August 2023 Maui wildfires, when FEMA's rental assistance
35 expires in 2025; and



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WHEREAS, constructed emergency housing relief beyond rental assistance or direct leasing is imperative to keep the rental market stable as federal and state assistance evolves over the coming months; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, that FEMA is urged to utilize funds for non-congregate housing for infrastructure and development needs for affordable rental housing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that FEMA is urged to provide the State with clear parameters on the allowable uses of federal financial assistance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that FEMA is urged to provide a decision tree for federal support actions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that FEMA is urged to remain open to discussing disposition of transfer of assets acquired through its public assistance expenditures to the State at the end of its initial housing response mission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that FEMA is urged to clarify the long-term commitment for continued Maui wildfire disaster related support including housing for displaced residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Regional Administrator of Region 9 of the Federal Emergency Management Agency; Governor; and Mayor of the County of Maui.

OFFERED BY: 

