



FEMA

September 6, 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR: William C. Hagmaier
Assistant Administrator (Acting)
Recovery Directorate

THROUGH: Robert J. Fenton
Regional Administrator,
FEMA Region 9

FROM: Timothy B. Manner
Federal Coordinating Officer
FEMA-4724-DR-HI

TIMOTHY B
MANNER

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SUBJECT: Direct Housing Assistance Request for FEMA-4724-DR-HI

The purpose of this memorandum is to recommend approving the State of Hawaii's request, dated August 30, 2023, for Direct Housing Assistance for FEMA-4724-DR-HI. The Housing Assistance provision of the Individuals and Households Program (IHP), authorized by Section 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, or "Stafford Act," as implemented in 44 C.F.R. Part 206.117 authorizes FEMA to provide Direct Assistance for temporary housing when eligible applicants are unable to obtain temporary housing with financial assistance due to a lack of available housing resources. FEMA determines the appropriate types of assistance based on considerations of cost-effectiveness, convenience to disaster survivors, and the suitability and availability of the types of assistance to meet the post-disaster housing needs. Direct Housing Assistance may be provided for periods of up to 18 months from August 10, 2023, the date of the President's declaration of a Major Disaster, to February 10, 2025.

The Hawaii wildfires have destroyed homes, land, and communities throughout the island of Maui and have resulted in health and economic impacts throughout Maui County. The west Maui community of Lahaina, population 12,000 and once Hawaii's capital sustained the most fire damage.

FEMA registration data show survivors have a clear need for housing. As of September 6, 2023, 4,208 renters and 1,545 owners have reported to FEMA that their damaged dwelling was destroyed. Of the 5,753 applicants that reported a destroyed damaged dwelling, 2,734 were inspected. 2,471 of the 2,734 were confirmed destroyed and 1,953 were referred for housing assistance. Of the 1,953 referred, 1,889 households meet the Direct Housing eligibility criteria.

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Upon review of the information gathered from an initial assessment, the number of eligible applicants projected to have a temporary housing need exceeds the number of available housing resources within Maui County. Many survivors are longtime Maui residents; their recovery is complicated by the higher cost of housing in other parts of the county. Public Housing is also at capacity.

Direct Housing Eligible <i>9/5 Data from HA23.1 (PM)</i>			Additional Rental Resources <i>Data from Hawaii Fire Relief Website 9/5</i>				
Owners	Renters	Total	1 BR	2 BR	3 BR	4 BR	Total
108	1781	1889 (+126)	115	27	3	2	147

As a result, Rental Assistance is insufficient to meet the housing need due to a lack of available housing resources. Increasing the Rental Assistance rate up to 125% of the Fair Market Rent (FMR) rate established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is also inadequate to fulfill the need for temporary housing.

Maui County and the State of Hawaii continue to evaluate all potentially viable options to address the housing challenges in coordination with the Sheltering and Housing Task Force. The unique housing challenges for this disaster, including the loss of buildable land, the cost and logistics of deploying resources to an island, and building and code requirements, will require innovative direct housing solution(s).

Based on the justification provided by the State of Hawaii I recommend direct housing assistance in the forms of Multifamily Lease and Repair and Direct Lease, and Alternative Transportable Temporary Housing Units (ATTHUs) for the following IA designated counties: Maui. The Individual Assistance Program and Policy Guide (IAPPG) identifies multifamily rental housing as a rental property that contains three or more dwelling units. **I am recommending a waiver to this policy to allow FEMA to identify and repair eligible multifamily housing units consisting of two or more dwelling units to increase the number of potential resources.**

If approved appropriate forms of direct housing assistance will be implemented in accordance with the IAPPG. In addition, I will provide prior notification of the types of direct housing assistance that will be implemented, including any ATTHUs selected in consultation with the Assistant Administrators for the Logistics Management and Recovery Directorates.

If I determine the need meets the requirements for Permanent Housing Construction¹, I will provide a separate recommendation as warranted.

¹ 42 U.S.C. § 5174(c)(4) and 44 C.F.R. § 206.117(b)(4)

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If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact FCO Timothy Manner at (202) 531-9544.

CONCUR

William C. Hagmaier
Assistant Administrator (Acting)
Recovery Directorate

NON-CONCUR

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cc: Timothy Manner, Federal Coordinating Officer FEMA-4724-DR-HI
Heather R. Smith, Recovery Division Director (Acting)
Jesus Ceja, Individual Assistance Branch Chief, Region 9
Elizabeth Asche, Director, Individuals Assistance Division (Acting)