
SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY TO EXPEDITE THE
PLACEMENT OF MAUI WILDFIRE SURVIVORS INTO THE FEDERAL
DIRECT LEASE PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, in August 2023, the Maui wildfires destroyed or
2 damaged approximately two thousand two hundred structures,
3 leaving thousands of residents displaced and without shelter;
4 and
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6 WHEREAS, in the immediate aftermath of the tragedy, the
7 Federal Emergency Management Agency, State, and American Red
8 Cross worked with the hotel industry to house survivors in the
9 non-congregate shelter program; and
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11 WHEREAS, as of March 2024, hundreds of survivors and
12 families are still without long-term housing; and
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14 WHEREAS, one option for long-term housing is the Federal
15 Emergency Management Agency's Direct Lease Program, wherein the
16 agency leases existing, ready-to-occupy residential properties
17 for use as temporary housing for families displaced by the
18 wildfires; and
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20 WHEREAS, according to information presented at a Hawaii
21 State Senate Ways and Means Committee briefing, there are
22 currently one thousand three hundred units in the Direct Lease
23 Program many of which have yet to be filled; and
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25 WHEREAS, many survivors have attested that the process of
26 obtaining housing through the Direct Lease Program is long and
27 difficult, particularly the credit and background check; and
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29 WHEREAS, it is a moral and financial priority for the State
30 to move as many survivors as possible into long-term housing
31 programs; now, therefore,
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024,
3 that the Federal Emergency Management Agency is urged to
4 expedite the placement of Maui wildfire survivors into the
5 Direct Lease Program; and

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
8 Resolution be transmitted to the Administrator of the Federal
9 Emergency Management Agency, Governor, Adjutant General of the
10 Department of Defense, Director of Human Services, Mayor of the
11 County of Maui, Chair of the Maui County Council, Managing
12 Director of the County of Maui, State Disaster Management
13 Advisor, and members of the Joint Housing Task Force.

