
HOUSE RESOLUTION

COMMENDING THE U.S. COAST GUARD STATION MAUI FOR ITS COURAGEOUS
RESPONSE TO THE LĀHAINĀ WILDFIRE.

1 WHEREAS, the U.S. COAST GUARD STATION MAUI played a vital
2 role in responding to the devastating wildfires on Maui in
3 August 2023, saving the lives of 17 individuals, assisting
4 approximately 40 individuals in peril, extracting more than 90
5 vessels obstructing Lāhainā Harbor, and removing over 10,000
6 gallons of petroleum products from the sensitive marine
7 environment; and
8

9 WHEREAS, upon receiving reports of close to 100 people
10 fleeing into the ocean in the vicinity of Front Street in
11 Lāhainā, the crew of Response Boat Medium 45719 were the first
12 Coast Guard responders to deploy to the scene, where they faced
13 perilous wind gusts of more than 50 knots, two-to-three-foot
14 seas, and oppressive smoke, heat, and imminent danger;
15 sustaining damage to their vessel while rescuing the first 12
16 survivors, the crew carefully returned to the Station at Mā'alaea
17 for repairs and then returned to Lāhainā; and
18

19 WHEREAS, the crew aboard Response Boat Medium 45719
20 consisted of Boatswain's Mate Second Class Theodore Kirkbride,
21 Boatswain's Mate Second Class Christian Lorenzo, Machinery
22 Technician Second Class Mason Anthony, Boatswain's Mate Second
23 Class Joshua Marzilli, Boatswain's Mate Second Class Kaleiopio
24 Guth, Boatswain's Mate Second Class John Thompson, Electrician's
25 Mate Third Class Gregory Goicoechea, and Boatswain's Mate Second
26 Class Lia Baez Calvo; and
27

28 WHEREAS, the crew's efforts included navigating into
29 Lāhainā Harbor in order to rescue others in distress, where they
30 were confronted by a harrowing scene, including every structure
31 surrounding the harbor and nearly 80 vessels in the harbor
32 engulfed in flames; and



1
2 WHEREAS, in the second deployment of Response Boat Medium
3 45719 to the scene, the crew, despite the absence of cell phone
4 service and discernible landmarks, relied on their wits and
5 instincts to initiate rescue operations; Petty Officer Joshua
6 Marzilli entered the perilous waters twice, initially alone and
7 then with an off-duty lifeguard, managing to swim and paddle
8 using an inflatable skiff and surfboards through smoke, strong
9 currents, surf breaks, and sharp coral to recover two children;
10 he then went onshore to assist the Maui Fire Department and
11 Department of Land and Natural Resources by facilitating the
12 evacuation of approximately 40 stranded individuals, including
13 three non-ambulatory people whom Petty Officer Joshua Marzilli
14 carried over downed wires and debris to safety; and
15

16 WHEREAS, in addition to the heroic efforts of the crew of
17 Response Boat Medium 45719, Electrician's Mate Second Class
18 Nicholas Smith volunteered to serve as a liaison aboard Trilogy
19 II, a sailing catamaran acting as a Good Samaritan vessel, and
20 assisted Response Boat Medium 45719 and other Good Samaritan
21 vessels; he also coordinated a rescue plan for people stranded
22 along the shoreline, including reuniting two children with their
23 parents; and
24

25 WHEREAS, Machinery Technician Second Class George Chihara
26 also demonstrated superior initiative and judgment during the
27 first 72 hours of response efforts, coordinating with U.S. Coast
28 Guard search and rescue units, the Maui Fire Department, Ocean
29 Safety, and numerous Good Samaritan vessels; over the following
30 weeks, he spent arduous hours battling fatigue to tenaciously
31 maintain comprehensive search coverage; and
32

33 WHEREAS, other Coast Guard members who assisted in the
34 wildfire response and contributed to the safety of the community
35 include Machinery Technician First Class Clayton Wendelgass,
36 Boatswain's Mate Second Class Ryan Prester, Boatswain's Mate
37 Second Class Michael Fasano, Machinery Technician Third Class
38 Jeremiah Stewart, Boatswain's Mate Second Class Hailey Larue,
39 Fireman Nicola Ferraro-Nahr, Machinery Technician First Class
40 Kenneth Cherry, Fireman Hayden Canalia, Boatswain's Mate First



H.R. NO. 213

1 Class Matthew Casper, and Machinery Technician Third Class
2 Jeremy Guerreo; now, therefore,
3

4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
5 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session
6 of 2025, that this body hereby commends the U.S. COAST GUARD
7 STATION MAUI for its courageous response to the Lāhainā
8 wildfire, expresses its profound, deep appreciation for the
9 extraordinary service members who risked their lives to save
10 others, and extends to them its warmest aloha and best wishes
11 for continued success in all future endeavors.
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14

OFFERED BY:

Elle Cochran

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