

August 25, 2023

Osa Tui Jr.
President
Hawaii State Teachers Association
1200 Ala Kapuna St.
Honolulu, HI 96819

Dear Mr. Tui:

The events of the past two weeks have been incredibly difficult for Hawaii, and I am saddened to hear of the tragic losses that members of HSTA have suffered. I offer my support to you as we begin to recover and rebuild, guided by the community's values. Your leadership has been paramount in assisting impacted members and will continue to play a critical role in helping families and communities recover.

As we begin the recovery process, I wanted to share these resources with your members.

Additional, up to date information is available on my website:

<https://www.hirono.senate.gov/services/wildfire-resources>

- FEMA's Disaster Recovery Center assists individuals with state and federal recovery benefits. Individuals and businessowners can apply with FEMA in-person at UH Maui (310 W. Kaahumanu Ave, Kahului, 96732), online at <https://www.disasterassistance.gov/>, or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA.
 - Remain vigilant of fraud and scammers. If you or someone you know witnesses a FEMA-related fraud, such as a phone call from someone claiming to work for FEMA asking for Social Security numbers or bank information, please report it to FEMA at 1-866-223-0814.
- SBA's Business Recovery Center assists businessowners, homeowners, and renters with SBA recovery programs. Individuals can apply for an SBA loan by registering with FEMA here. After registering with FEMA, businesses and homeowners who would like to apply for SBA loans can find more information here: <https://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/ela/s/>
- The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) is a U.S. government agency that makes sure banks, lenders, and other financial companies treat individuals fairly. They can help protect personal finances during and after a disaster or emergency. More information about their programs is available here: <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/consumer-tools/disasters-and-emergencies/>

- Maintaining physical, mental, and emotional health is crucial during times of loss. The Disaster Distress Helpline (1-800-985-5990) provides free, multilingual, confidential counseling, referrals, and other support, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Maui Community Mental Health Center also offers crisis mental health services. Individuals can call (808) 984-2150, email mauiwellness@doh.hawaii.gov, or visit the clinic in person at 121 Mahalani St, Wailuku 96793. Expanded clinic hours are 8 am-4:30 pm, daily.

Please encourage your members to take some time in making decisions—bad actors are already trying to take advantage of those impacted by this disaster. The Federal Housing Administration (FHA) has housing counselors that can inform homeowners of their options before making any decisions, regardless of where they received their mortgage loan. Homeowners can contact the FHA housing counseling services at 1-800-569-4287 and the FHA Resource Center at 1-800-304-9320.

If your members require additional assistance, my office can contact the relevant federal agency on their behalf with their written permission. Individuals seeking assistance should return a signed copy of the attached Release and Authorization Form, along with a brief summary of their situation, the type of assistance they are requesting, their application number and the date it was submitted. The form can be sent to:

U.S. Senator Mazie K. Hirono
300 Ala Moana Blvd, Rm 3-106, Honolulu HI 96850
Fax: 808-545-4683
Email: hawaiioffice@hirono.senate.gov

While a favorable resolution cannot be guaranteed, my staff will do everything we can to assist individuals in a timely and effective manner. Staff can be reached at hawaiioffice@hirono.senate.gov or by leaving a message at (808)-522-8970.

Recovery will take time and I will continue working with you and partners at the state, local, and federal levels of government to ensure that all of our communities impacted by these tragic events are supported and cared for in the days to come.

Mahalo and Aloha,



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator