



City Council Staff Report

From: City Manager
Report Type: CONSENT CALENDAR
Lead Department: City Manager

Meeting Date: September 5, 2023
Report #:2308-1955

TITLE

Approval of a Donation of \$25,000 From the City Council Contingency Account to Support Maui Wildfire Relief and Recovery

RECOMMENDATION

Approve a donation of \$25,000 from the City Council Contingency to support Maui Wildfire relief and recovery. The donation will be distributed to the Hawai'i Community Foundation Maui Strong Fund (\$10,000), the Maui United Way (\$10,000), and the Maui Humane Society (\$5,000).

BACKGROUND

On August 8, 2023, the Island of Maui in the State of Hawai'i was devastated by wildfires driven by strong winds and dry conditions. The resulting tragedy has been recognized as the deadliest natural disaster in the state's history and among the worst in US history dating back to 1871¹.

ANALYSIS

Mayor Kou, Vice Mayor Stone, and Councilmember Lauing have proposed the recommended donations. The recommended funding level is consistent with prior donations for relief following 2017 Sonoma, Napa and Mendocino County fires and 2018 Butte County Camp Fire.

The recipient organizations are all participating in the cross-sector Maui Nui Strong initiative²:

- Hawai'i Community Foundation, Maui Strong Fund - <https://www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/maui-strong>
- Maui United Way, Maui Fire Relief Fund - <https://mauiunitedway.org/disasterrelief>

¹ <https://www.npr.org/2023/08/15/1193710165/maui-wildfires-deadliest-us-history#:~:text=Last%20week's%20wildfires%20%E2%80%94%20which%20destroyed,.%2C%20which%20killed%2085%20people.>

² <https://www.mauinuistrong.info/resource-categories/donate-money>

- Maui Humane Society - <https://www.mauihumanesociety.org/>

FISCAL/RESOURCE IMPACT

The Fiscal Year 2024 budget provides \$125,000 appropriated in the City Council Contingency account; this action will reduce the Contingency to \$100,000.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The recommended action is not a project for the purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act.

APPROVED BY:

Ed Shikada, City Manager