

Resolution

No. 23-226

URGING THE MAYOR TO ESTABLISH A HOUSING COORDINATOR FOR MAUI COUNTY

WHEREAS, the August 2023 wildfires resulted in the severe damage or destruction of over 5,600 homes and displacement of more than 7,500 people; and

WHEREAS, Maui County has long struggled to meet the demand for affordable housing and has experienced a 339 percent price increase for homes since 2000 with 53.7 percent of rental households being considered rent burdened, paying more than 30 percent of their income toward rent; and

WHEREAS, the devastating loss of so many homes has exacerbated the already critical need for housing within Maui County; and

WHEREAS, a Housing Coordinator would act as a liaison between the County of Maui and public, private, and nonprofit organizations to advance housing options for residents, especially those displaced or otherwise affected by the wildfires; and

WHEREAS, the Housing Coordinator would work in close collaboration with the Council, the Mayor, and relevant County and State agencies to address residents' immediate and long-term housing needs; and

WHEREAS, this position would be held by an expert who could develop recommendations to streamline the permitting process while adhering to necessary legal, cultural, and environmental protections; and

WHEREAS, creating a Housing Coordinator position would assist with Maui County's ongoing recovery and rebuilding efforts; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That it urges the Mayor to establish a Housing Coordinator for Maui County; and

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2. That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to Lori Tsuhako, Director of Housing and Human Concern, County of Maui; and the Honorable Richard T. Bissen Jr., Mayor, County of Maui.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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