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JOHN PELLETIER
CHIEF OF POLICE

WADE M. MAEDA
DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE

October 24, 2023

Honorable Richard T. Bissen, Jr.
Mayor, County of Maui
200 S. High Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

For Transmittal To:

Tamara Paltin, Chair
DRIP Committee
200 S. High Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

Aloha Chair Paltin,

**SUBJECT: UPDATES ON RECOVER EFFORTS IN RESPONSE TO THE
AUGUST 2023 WILDFIRES ON MAUI ISLAND (DRIP-2(12))**

This responds to your correspondence dated October 20, 2023.

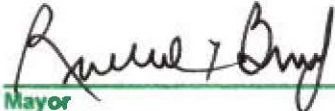
Question 1:

The USAR or Urban Search and Rescue team that responded to critical incidents such as 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina also responded to assist in the search. They used canines that are specifically trained in the recovery of incidents of this magnitude. In addition, we also used data from various reports and forensic anthropologists. The forensic anthropologists used were through the Department of Defense and are subject matter experts in situations like this, since they recover folks that are POWs and MIAs.

Question 2:

We are at 99% of the search we will be at 99% until we are confident that everyone has been recovered. We made a recovery approximately two weeks ago, and the identification for that individual was just made yesterday. That being said, we still have five open cases and are working diligently to ascertain whether those individuals were lost in the fire or not.

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL


 10-25-23
Mayor Date

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Question 3:

We have been able to release approximately 90 of the 99 that we have recovered to the funeral homes for their families. After identification, families are notified and the process is explained to them. We are optimistic and hopeful that everyone lost is recovered from this incident and will be returned to their families.

Sincerely,



JOHN PELLETIER
Chief of Police

DRIP Committee

From: Michelle Santos <Michelle.Santos@co.maui.hi.us>
Sent: Wednesday, October 25, 2023 11:58 AM
To: DRIP Committee
Cc: Cynthia Sasada; Josiah Nishita; Kekuhaupio Akana; Leo Caires; Louise Batoon; Pili Nahooikaika; Angela Andrade; Jenny Y. Nakama; John Pelletier; Mike Crowe; Wade Maeda
Subject: MT#10342 Updates on Recover Efforts in Response To The August 2023 Wildfires On Maui Island
Attachments: MT#10342-DRIP Committee.pdf

NOTE: PLEASE DO NOT FORWARD MY EMAIL TO ANYONE OUTSIDE OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI. YOU MAY CLICK ON THE ATTACHMENT ITSELF AND CREATE YOUR OWN EMAIL TO FORWARD THE DOCUMENT TO ANOTHER PERSON OUTSIDE OF THE COUNTY.

Michelle L. Santos

Office Operations Assistant

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