

# Resolution

No. 23-202

URGING THE MAYOR TO HIRE A QUALIFIED  
CPA FIRM OR SIMILAR PROFESSIONAL ENTITY  
TO ENSURE MAUI COUNTY MAXIMIZES ITS  
ACCESS TO FEDERAL DISASTER RELIEF  
FUNDS

WHEREAS, on August 8, 2023, several wildfires broke out across Maui County, causing untold tragedy, including the loss of at least 115 lives, the destruction of over 2,200 properties, and damage to about 500 more structures; and

WHEREAS, the aftermath of the fires also includes economic devastation, with losses since August 9, 2023, from business closures and decreased visitor spending estimated at about \$11 million a day and unemployment claims numbering over 13,000 in August alone; and

WHEREAS, federal disaster relief funds, including those from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, are available to the County, but to access the funding the County will need to navigate the federal government's often arcane grant procedures; and

WHEREAS, with County officials focused on recovery efforts, they may not have the capacity to develop the expertise required to access all available funding; and

WHEREAS, firms that employ certified public accountants, or CPAs, and other professionals specialize in helping clients obtain federal grants; and

WHEREAS, employing such a firm may be an asset to the County in applying for grant funding from the federal government; now, therefore,

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

1. That it urges the Mayor to hire a qualified CPA firm or similar professional entity to ensure Maui County maximizes its access to federal disaster relief funds; and

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2. That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Richard T. Bissen, Jr., Mayor, County of Maui.

paf:jgk:23-248a

INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alice L. Lee". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

ALICE L. LEE