

Disaster, Resilience, International Affairs, and Planning Committee (2023-2025) on 2023-10-04 9:00 AM

Meeting Time: 10-04-23 09:00

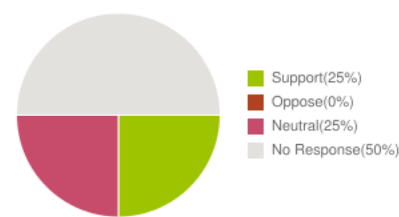
eComments Report

Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Disaster, Resilience, International Affairs, and Planning Committee (2023-2025) on 2023-10-04 9:00 AM	10-04-23 09:00	2	8	2	0	2

Sentiments for All Meetings

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment



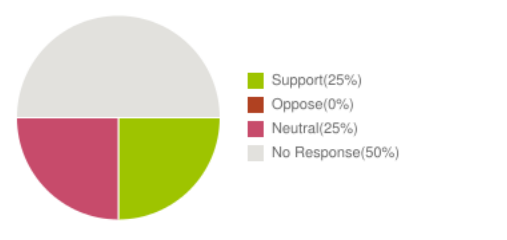
Disaster, Resilience, International Affairs, and Planning Committee (2023-2025) on 2023-10-04
9:00 AM
10-04-23 09:00

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
A G E N D A	2	0	0	1
DRIP-2(12) UPDATES ON RECOVERY EFFORTS IN RESPONSE TO THE AUGUST 2023 WILDFIRES ON MAUI ISLAND (DRIP-2(12))	6	2	0	1

Sentiments for All Agenda Items

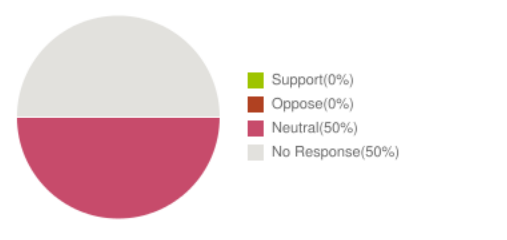
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Overall Sentiment



Agenda Item: eComments for A G E N D A

Overall Sentiment



DRIP Committee

Location:
Submitted At: 8:09am 10-04-23
Testimony from Cord Munoz (received 10/03/2023)

Guest User

Location:
Submitted At: 9:04am 10-03-23

First off i would like to send my love and prayers to all those who were affected and devistated by these tragic events that the Wildfire has caused, and i have high hopes for our beloved island of maui to recover and become much more empathetic and understanding for one another.I pray that in our time of grieving and struggle, the good lord may help us all find some kind of peace and hope for a better tomorrow....

With that being said, My question to the resource personel is, when the United States Government sends aid for emergency transitional housing, does that mean it was meant for people who are in need of housing?

Moreover, why would you make that more complex and complicated then it has to be? Simply, aid for emergency housing was made for our people who are in a state of emergency that do not have housing is that not correct?

If so, why does your resource personnel make requirements for aid recipients that make it much harder to acquire, takes longer for them to acquire the help they need, and then not equally disburse the aid but rather ration the aid and at the same time portion it to who you feel is more qualified to receive more aid?

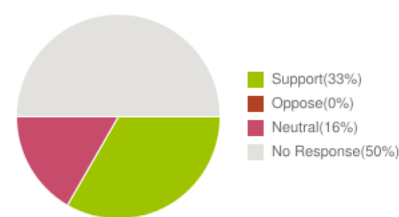
Let me simplify the question now, to be frank if you lost your house to the wildfires, you are now homeless, until you rebuild your home. So the government sends aid for transitional housing to help anyone who was affected by the wildfires, directly and indirectly. Which would mean it was meant for those who lost their homes and for those who didn't have a home to begin with, as long as they were directly and/or indirectly affected by the wildfire. So why is it that the homeless community that is growing in numbers continues to have their civil and human rights violated and discriminated on? I myself and a handful of others have been affected with homelessness issues that plague or community because of this type of behavior. I am saddened and disheartened by our government saving face in front of the world and acting like they truly want to help our homeless community but make things so complex and complicated to aquire simple aid. Is there a way we can measure who is more American, who is more homeless, who is more grief stricken, who is more in need, who is more deserving, who is more qualified to receive this so called aid that was given to releave the homelessness problem that is rapidly growing in our island of Maui because of multiple factors....

I have been advocating for the homeless here on maui for some time now. It all started when my father, who was never there for me in my life, was sickly and all alone on the streets because his family gave up on him. I left my mothers home to help my father and which in turn, pushed my own family away from me. What was i supposed to do? Let him suffer for what he did? No, i rendered aid when he critically needed it. that when i stepped up. I made it so that he would be a part of my life and I became his care taker. I was the last person he ever would have thought came to his aid on his last dying days. From his words 'the one I abandoned is the one that came and saved me. He has passed away for awhile now, but I still advocate for the homeless, like myself.

I want to know if your personnel is here to help the homeless with emergency transitional housing, and how is it fair to send certain homeless to hotels and airbnb and send some homeless to shelters that resemble enternmant camps... If you feed the needy hamburgers, give them all hamburgers, please don't give some people cake and ice cream and then the rest of them get crackers and syrup. We need more empathy and understanding, not quarrel and division... which it seems you want our people to do?

Agenda Item: eComments for DRIP-2(12) UPDATES ON RECOVERY EFFORTS IN RESPONSE TO THE AUGUST 2023 WILDFIRES ON MAUI ISLAND (DRIP-2(12))

Overall Sentiment



Submitted At: 10:55am 10-04-23

In response to other questions and comments regarding Soiltac.

The current Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for Soiltac (liquid) is available through the following link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/t/7KijhvnTPITJlfyq>

In addition, Dr. Craig Downs was referencing the wrong product in his research. We are not recommending the Powdered product.

Respectfully,
Chad Falkenberg

CEO & Founder
Soilworks, LLC
chad@soilworks.com

Makana Reeves

Location:

Submitted At: 10:39am 10-04-23

"Then the Rain Came"

Days turned to weeks. A town sized ash pile comprised of highly toxic materials like asbestos, lead, arsenic, dioxins, and of course, melted plastics, all freely blowing into the broader natural habitat, unsecured, sat across roughly 20 million square feet of what was once Lahaina.

The debate about whether or not to secure that deadly ash stuttered on, in and out of BlueJeans meetings, in private email trains and text messages, on weekly task force zooms, on the occasional social media post flanking rants about directed energy weapons and smart cities. Thousands of residents continued to live adjacent to burn zones, existing in a virtual airborne superfund toxic site. Thousands more who had lost everything to the fires continued to rummage through contaminated ash, overcome with emotions that often crowded out abstract concerns around exposure to airborne carcinogenic dust. The dust that was never bound, the ash that was never secured in place, the filtration storm socks that were too few and too sparse, the retention basins that were never constructed, the wattles that bravely awaited that impending deluge.

Then the rain came. Like a sudden burst of tears after months of unprocessed pain. It was torrential, thanks to a nearby low pressure system. Like a thief in an unguarded house, it took everything it could, swiftly and unencumbered by conscience.

The day after, it didn't seem all that bad- to be honest, many quietly felt good about it. Everything seemed a bit less destroyed, a bit less like a warzone. The air felt fresher. God bless the ocean, she just kind of drank it all up. "Good thing we didn't spray that deadly plastic chemical!", someone commented on an Instagram post with newly captured drone footage. A few land owners talked amongst themselves about how the Army Corp of Engineers will have an easier time now that all that ash is gone.

But the lawai_a knew. He saw. He tried to comfort himself with the thought that it would pass. It would not, at least, not for a long, long time. So did the generational _ohana who intimately knew Kanaloa. And when the scientists went to collect data, they found their instruments destroyed. But they didn't need them. It was obvious to even the lay person. Something horrible had happened, something that couldn't be undone, something that ultimately would bring about more loss.. perhaps, over time, much more than even the fire had.

Days turned to weeks. Moloka_i and L_na'i reefs too began to die off. Kanaloa, Kaho_olawe, she bore it with grace like all the other affronts. The EPA declared nearshore Lahaina a superfund toxic site. Algae blooms exploded, died off, and countless fish washed up dead at Hanakaoo. A whale carcass became food for man_ in the auau channel. Then two more. As global media reported, tourism to Maui slumped to record lows, thousands were laid off, and a new debate emerged: who was to blame? But it didn't matter. We were all to blame.

Makana

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 8:01am 10-04-23

"I strongly encourage community members to send their questions for resource personnel before Wednesday's meeting via eComment or by e-mailing DRIP.Committee@mauicounty.us or Tamara.Paltin@mauicounty.us," - L_hain_ News.

To the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the American Red Cross and more:

Is there a plan in place to support local community efforts for the bioremediation of the fire-affected areas? If so, what is the plan to support these local community efforts? Mahalo.

--

Maui Bioremediation Coalition
info@mauibioirem.org

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 2:20pm 10-03-23

With the relocation of Kamehameha 3 Elementary School to Pulelehua development site, has there been any discussion on using Pulelehua for modular homes? Are there any other locations planned for modular homes such as Boxabl

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 8:30am 10-03-23

First off i would like to send my love and prayers to all those who were affected and devastated by these tragic events that the Wildfire has caused, and i have high hopes for our beloved island of maui to recover and become much more empathetic and understanding for one another. I pray that in our time of grieving and struggle, the good lord may help us all find some kind of peace and hope for a better tomorrow....

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do? Let him suffer for what he did? No, i rendered aid when he critically needed it. that when i stepped up. I made it so that he would be a part of my life and I became his care taker. I was the last person he ever would have thought came to his aid on his last dying days. From his words 'the one I abandoned is the one that came and saved me. He has passed away for awhile now, but I still advocate for the homeless, like myself.

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Mario Aquino Sol, Jr., masol@hawaii.edu

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 8:26am 10-03-23

Aloha,

Thank you for your continued efforts to support and amplify the voices of our west Maui community. What has happened to our friends, family and community is devastating and continues to weigh on us daily. My husband and I lost our home in Ho'onanea during the fires and are fortunate to have found housing upcountry through family.

I continue to be denied help from the Red Cross on housing subsidies as well as FEMA. My issue with the Red Cross is that it was not explained to people that we would need to spend a minimum of (3) nights in a Red Cross shelter, prior to the September deadline, in order to be eligible for their transitional housing program. I never heard this until the deadline was upon us to register. We worked to try and secure housing as quickly as possible after the fire because we have a dog and knew that it would be near impossible to find housing that would allow us to have him. Every time I speak to someone from FEMA or the Red Cross, I receive different information and/or directive on next steps.

There are so many members of the community that are still looking to secure housing and I absolutely believe that they should be the priority. I just want to ensure that people in our position, who found housing on their own, and are responsible for covering rent, mortgage and HOA dues for the next 3-5 years are not lost in the shuffle and that we also get government support. I have no interest in taking out an SBA loan and going into debt when government officials are speaking about getting money into the hands of those affected.

I hope that during this week's meeting, these organizations can provide more transparency on the long term support efforts that will actually help us. So far, we have been told that there will be help along the way, but no one can actually share with us any details. It makes planning for the next few years extremely difficult and adds to an already stressful situation.

Thank you all for your continued help and consideration during these times.

Mahalo,

Sara Bill & Kaliko Leialoha-Dutro

808-639-1638

Aloha,

Mahalo for considering what we believe, is an immediate solution to empower the community of Lahaina to stay together, versus facing further displacement outside of Lahaina. Below we have outlined what we believe to be a prototypical location for the timeliest, executable, cost-effective, and compassionate temporary housing solution that will help provide a sense of community to those who have lost everything to the devastating fires of August 8th, 2023.

Today, according to statistics from Governor Josh Green's office, there are 7397 displaced Lahaina residents staying in 34 hotels on Maui (this number peaked at 7996 people). There were 3526 structures that burned, and most were classified as residences. 972 individual properties have been cleared by the EPA so far. 3071 displaced families and households have applied for some form of government aid.

Now and prior to the August 8th fire, Maui County is in the midst of a housing crisis. There are not enough affordable long term housing options for residents as it currently stands, especially now, since around 2,200 domiciles were destroyed in the blaze. The sentiment among Lahaina residents is that they absolutely do not want to be displaced outside of Lahaina and until housing needs are met, they feel tourism should not be able to resume.

During this difficult and testing time, our community needs to come together with answers and the intent of this letter is to present a reasonable solution so that we can reach a compromise. If executed and organized successfully, this solution equally benefits displaced Lahaina residents, housed West Maui residents, any visitors to Maui, volunteers, future imported laborers, the hospitality-travel industry, and Hawaii's economy both immediately and in the long term.

Our proposed solution comprises of:

1. Governor of Hawaii Josh Green using powers of Eminent Domain, to temporarily procure land for five years from "Host Hotels & Resorts", who currently own both Ka'anapali golf courses. Both courses were purchased by them from the Hawai'i Employers Retirement System in 2021 for \$28 million. He has the emergency power in this case to commandeer property with the payment of the "reasonable value" of the property taken.

This specific planned settlement requires the use of the 28,000 square foot clubhouse which currently houses Roy's Ka'anapali, the adjacent driving range, the large, gated gravel parking lot across Ka'anapali Parkway, and at the most three to four golf holes (1, 16, 17, and 18) on the Royal Course. After all of the tiny homes are relocated to their new owner's land or renting residents find long term options elsewhere, the land can then be returned to Host Hotels & Resorts. We estimate this period of use lasting a maximum of five years and a minimum of three years, but not less than or beyond that amount. This action should cost far less than the \$28 million paid for both golf courses, limiting impact on taxpayers as an effective solution for many of our displaced residents.

Unlike Western land and ocean use practices, the 'Aha Moku system is based on observational knowledge that provides a management system of proper stewardship of both land and ocean

resources. Land use was determined by the availability of wai ola (life-giving water). Hawaiian terms for land divisions such as mokupuni, moku, and ahupua'a are given to these land and ocean areas. Each of these districts is known by its natural feature, place names and environmental conditions. Specific areas have diverse natural resources and are therefore managed in different ways. The 'Aha Moku system is the foundation which provides kanaka maoli (Native Hawaiian) a lifetime reverence for self-sustainability. For kanaka maoli, this system continues today and into the future.

It is a priority, that the families of Lahaina are not removed far from their moku, to face isolation and re-traumatization as they work to rebuild their lives. Beyond the structures occupying the land, the connection of the people to the land must remain as intact as possible and this community of survivors needs to be together in this time.

Any possible locations for a large settlement South of Lahaina are not only are isolated from West Maui and the rest of the community but the rest of the island as well. Occupying Oluwalu at this point in time is a fire hazard, as that place is very dry and burns often. Forcing fire victims to drive from that location repeatedly through the burn zone to access West Maui for schools, groceries, and other resources is ill-advised.

2. We have enough tiny homes to shelter each and every displaced resident that have already been sourced and paid for through various donations. The only obstacle to this option coming to fruition has been securing land, erecting the structures, dealing with zoning issues, and installing utilities. The immediate creation of this temporary community on the West side of Maui will become instrumental in the rebuild process. As homeowners' properties are cleared, their free tiny home can be transported there directly when it's ready. The tiny homes can be organized with enough space and by the estimated date that their land will be completely cleared and returned to them by FEMA. Renters can stay there until affordable units become available on the market through previously approved developments and future housing projects created in the next three to five years.

Immediate emergency unemployment that was made precedent during COVID should be made available to anyone who can't pay their bills and mortgages or rent due to the fire. Sizeable grants for small local businesses to return and build back in West Maui should be made readily available. Loans should not be the main or only answer to funding issues for fire victims, many of them being older residents.

3. The former clubhouse and location of Roy's restaurant, 2290 Ka'anapali Parkway, would serve as a command hub, communications, and distribution center for the residents and community organizers. A large commissary kitchen and dining hall already exists on premises. Police or private security, maintenance workers for tiny homes and utilities, volunteers distributing supplies, mental health clinics, and medical services can be present there and readily available. A large temporary settlement of people would be more cost effective and manageable than dispersing them all over Maui or continuously shifting them between hotel rooms. Temporary utilities can be brought in like portable bathrooms, showers, lights, and electricity. School buses can pick up children, vehicles can be securely parked at the lot across the street, locals can conveniently go to work, and it creates a much-needed space between the visitors trying to enjoy their trip and locals who want to work and rebuild their community. The

Army Corps of Engineers can be contracted to plan and erect the basic infrastructure for this site in a relatively short span of time, which can also be improved and maintained by our government during this period.

4. Local businesses should be encouraged to enter and do business in the area. It will be possible to create a local marketplace nearby to serve both locals and visitors, integrating these people together supporting more of the local economy. Small businesses that rely heavily on visitors: food trucks, small independent shops and artists, and those who provide services could benefit greatly until they find a new location, as commercial spaces are also in high demand.

5. This is a great plan during a period of transition and adjustment by our community. It gives displaced people a flexible and free housing option that they can continue to use until their home is rebuilt or they find a rental. This also keeps housing options open for the many contractors, construction workers, and builders that will need to be here in the near future for the rebuilding of Lahaina. This allows locals who have all lived through the same trauma to regain a sense of community and support each other through the rebuild and maintain the mental health of our people. This also allows community leaders to effectively gather, organize, inform, and guide our people through this long arduous process that will take years.

6. This plan is not limited by location except that these temporary settlements must remain North of Lahaina. Eminent domain may not even be necessary for some of these actionable locations. If making a long-term deal with a developer means, getting the immediate but temporary use of the land and perhaps additional land for a hospital; fast tracking their development after letting us use it as described above benefits all involved.

A theoretical example, Pulelehua plans to develop just over 1000 rental units, 60 affordable homes, and promises 10 acres for 200 tiny homes. In exchange for the proposed \$50 million in County of Maui funding they want for utilities and infrastructure, what if we asked the developer for the land the school is being built on and another piece of land for a West Maui hospital, to be donated to the County of Maui? Also, we can agree to let them develop the land around the airport as light industrial and commercial similar to Kahului Airport area, so it becomes worth it for them. In return, we get to use the original footprint of the development for temporary transitional tiny homes, and when the temporary housing phase is complete, we can fast track their development still under their original timeline of 10 years. We can also let them start building as soon as we can move the tiny homes, as land is being cleared in Lahaina. Maybe both timelines can be met, more housing and many jobs are created at the same time.

6. There is a template of success for the community guiding itself through a rebuild after a disaster. Observed in towns that suffered losses and damage during the California wildfires, the community itself does most of the heavy lifting coordinating with builders and insurance companies. Creating a chain of vetted information from the government to organizers to the community and quickly dealing with minor problems that surface, along with getting information from the ground the government should be in our hands.

Specific facilitation from the government involving expedition of building permits and removal of permit fees, specific zoning changes to residential especially for tiny homes and trailers, temporary moratorium on short term vacation rentals, and the expansion and/or creation of planning and inspection departments will be needed in supplement to this immediate call for temporary, stable, and sustainable housing for displaced residents in addition to the future plans to rebuild the community of Lahaina.

Mahalo for your time and consideration of this proposal.

Cord Muñoz

Mobile - 808 727 0672

Email - chefcord@me.com

**Testimony of Makana Reeves to Maui County Council
regarding Post-Wildfire Environmental Issues Oct. 3, 2023**

Aloha Committee Chair Johnson, Vice-Chair Sinenci and Council Members,

My name is Makana. I am a community, cultural and environmental advocate and professional entertainer dedicated to the perpetuation of Hawaiian traditions. I am urging the full securing of the toxic ash in Lahaina as an immediate priority and action, increasing the scope of filtration socks to filter and abate stormwater runoff, and establishment of temporary retention basins. In order to prevent a secondary broad scale ecological disaster, the County and community cannot risk delay achieving 100% coverage to secure the toxic ash in place nor any lengthy and ineffective individual opt in/opt out process.

Lahaina has not yet experienced a heavy rain post-fire. Although Lahaina is on the leeward coast and generally only experiences a few days of significant rainfall between October and January, they do happen, and there are also low pressure systems that can form and bring heavy rains. At present such a rain event could redistribute significant amounts of highly toxic ash and even debris into other locations including:

- private and public properties makai of and adjacent to the burnzones
- storm drains
- waterways
- the groundwater supply
- and the ocean.

Due to the large footprint of the burn zone and the significant amount of properties affected, the potential for a catastrophic ocean pollution event is high and deserves our immediate attention and action.

Asbestos, arsenic and lead are just 3 of countless industrial chemicals and metals present in the ash. Were the ash inert (IT IS NOT) the sheer volume of ash itself could smother nearshore reef systems inciting severe ecological repercussions. Communities like Paradise, California and NYC (in the wake of 9/11) continue to experience residual health effects even years after the initial exposure events. We should work fast to protect the people and environment of West Maui from current exposure to carcinogenic elements.

There are solutions that have been presented and discussed.

ON SOILTAC:

The most feasible action available- and by no means the only action necessary- which is funded and approved by the EPA and can be applied by the Army Corp of Engineers, is a binding agent that will secure the top layer of toxic ash in place until the phase of scraping and removal. By binding the top layer of ash in the footprint of all burned structures prior to a significant rain event, the County could prevent what in worse case scenario would essentially be a town-sized portion of toxic ash pouring into the ocean.

An ash binding spray called Soiltac was proposed by the EPA early on in the response process, but has been delayed partly due to concerns about its potential effects on the environment and human health, as well as the logistical issue of allowing property owners access to their properties and whether it could and should be sprayed prior to or following such. We should evaluate those concerns with information below obtained from the EPA, SoilWorks, LLC the maker of Soiltac, and homeowners in Kula who have already opted to have their properties sprayed with Soiltac.

Soiltac is one of a group of products known as “soil stabilizers” generally used on roadways to secure dust and dirt or to control erosion. Versions of this product have been used in Hawai‘i for decades, at places like Nanea Golf Club in Kona and Mauna Kea.

A powdered formulation falls under the scope of a patent that was brought up in a previous letter by Council persons Paltin and Sinenci to the EPA. The Soiltac intended to be used to secure ash is a liquid version with a formulation distinctly different from the powdered version. Further, the patent in question is owned by a supplier to the maker of Soiltac and is not specific to the product itself.

Concerns around UV deterrents and microplastics were voiced. The liquid Soiltac version contains no UV-resistant additives. Soiltac is not a thermalplastic and is not related to polyvinyl chloride acetate or polyvinylpyrrolidone. It cannot breakdown into microplastics. In response to a recent inquiry, CEO of SoilWorks Chad Falkenberg wrote:

“Soiltac is designed to bind and stabilize surfaces, not to degrade and fragment into microplastics like many disposable plastics. We acknowledge the concerns about the impact of certain UV-resistant additives on coral reefs, especially given the issues with some sunscreens in Hawaii. We want to assure you, unequivocally, that Soiltac does not contain any UV-resistant additives.

“The application rate that is recommended for Lahaina is 100 gallons of Soiltac concentrate +11 parts water. This is a very light application designed to create a light surface crust, preventing particulates from becoming airborne and to reduce water erosion. This is very different from a Soiltac treatment on roads where we would be using heavy application rates of Soiltac up to 1,000 gallons per acre for topical treatments and 6” deep mixed-in applications ranging from 2,000 to 4,000 gallons per acre to stabilize and improve their load-bearing

capacity... You will find that heavy application rates significantly modify the permeability of the ground and greatly increase surface water, runoff, and require that the design of the road includes proper crown and drainage, while the recommended low application rates are still permeable by air and water and do not negatively impact surface water runoff.”

Some community members had concerns that Soiltac would be “tilled into the soil”. To be clear, this is not part of the proposed ash application process. The spray is intended to only be applied to the top layer of ash and burned surfaces to fix contaminants at the surface and prevent them from easily becoming air or waterborne.

Soiltac has already been applied to ash on some of the properties destroyed by fire in Kula. Homeowner Andre Fehlmann offers this insight as to his decision to spray:

“The ashes are way more toxic than what they ever could/would spray. Next phase of cleanup will remove it all. Up here (in Kula), it was looking out for the neighbors who would live in the toxic ashes otherwise.”

Pamela Poland, another Kula homeowner who lost her home to the fire said:

“I was dead set against it (Soiltac) for a variety of reasons, but I finally caved for a different variety of reasons, and I was pleasantly surprised at how simple it is, and how the EPA guys were more than willing to avoid any plant life, grasses, etc, and make sure it ONLY went on the center of the burn site. They listened to my directions and honored them to the letter..”

AIR QUALITY: Beyond mitigating influences of rain, securing ash in place facilitates a healthier air environment by keeping the ash from

becoming airborne. Already many residents have been repeatedly exposed to airborne toxic ash. Optimally, to protect the health of the residents who have lost their homes and are visiting their property, it is in their best interest to minimize exposure to airborne by utilizing Soiltac to create a surface crust to cap the dangerous toxins. This surface crust can be easily manipulated and broken apart for anyone needing to disturb the area in search of belongings. Even in extreme cases where property owners disturb the majority of their property by breaking most of the surface crust created by Soiltac, they are still benefiting during the process by whatever crust is left undamaged. In addition, areas that are broken are typically broken into small pieces or fragments rather than their original fine particulate size, further supporting the ability of Soiltac to reduce toxic airborne particulates.

Understanding this, the County should move swiftly to educate and protect the public from further unnecessary exposure to airborne toxic particulates while simultaneously taking a crucial step toward preventing ash runoff before the next significant rain.

Concerns around plants and animals:

Plants: any overspray on plants or vegetation only leaves a film thin enough to be permeable by water and air, thus does not affect photosynthesis. This is due to the extremely light application rate as previously mentioned.

Animals: It may be in the best interest of cats and other animals persisting in the burnzone to walk on top of a Soiltac surface crust, rather than in the debris, and then cleaning themselves and digesting all of the toxins.

The soil stabilizer will only be sprayed onto the footprint of burned structures, and will be completely removed with other debris when FEMA does its phase 2 cleanup sometime in a period of months from now.

ALTERNATIVES TO SOILTAC:

WATER: Wetting down ash was suggested as an alternative to Soiltac as an effective method to keep the ash in place. Not only does this fail to address concerns around a rain event, it can exacerbate leaching, requires repeat applications, is expensive and places further demand on already strained water resources.

TARPS: In California, Soiltac was not yet available following the wildfires. The community (and eventually government) was compelled to mobilize a large labor force to attempt to cover every single burn site with tarps secured by sandbags. In Lahaina, there is an estimated 15 million sq ft that would need to be covered by approximately 25,000 tarps and 150,000 sandbags, as well as PPE and training of a workforce which would be exposed to toxic chemicals during the work.

ON FILTRATION AND MANAGING STORM WATER RUNOFF:

Data from California fires indicates 80% reduction in chemicals post-filtration when socks are filled with materials including live compost, locally-sourced charcoal, biochar and even mycellium inoculations.

Filtration “storm” socks continue to be made by various companies and are key to filtration and management of stormwater runoff, however concerns of unintentional import of invasives halted off-island sock manufacturing and severely diminished the rate of production.

Storm sock makers, contractors, and government agencies can coordinate an accelerated plan for manufacturing and installing the socks both at stormdrain openings as well as around burned properties and at other storm water runoff points. Ideally storm socks would be installed at the edge of every property. Access to county maps as well as

lidar maps and local expertise should be combined to predict water movement in and through Lahaina.

Further mitigation actions (some of which are in process, many of which are stalled or not yet enacted) include:

Installing wattles and socks at downslope edges of burned sites.

Water Flow Management: while DPW has initiated actions to empty and prepare mauka detention ponds upstream of Lahaina, the County should urgently explore constructing berms and temporary (lined) retention ponds before any shoreline runoff points.

The bottomline is that the County should immediately acknowledge the severe health and environmental threat of airborne dust and ash and the potential for such to enter groundwater and the ocean. Low pressure systems will become increasingly active and could at any time bring heavy rain events to West Maui. We have a limited window to enact measures to mitigate both types of hazard. It is a blessing to have had this much time to prepare to act. Let's eliminate delay that risks decades of deeper and broader contamination, long term toxic clean-up site status, air and water borne transmitted health hazards and ecological destruction.

Mahalo, Makana