

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers
Tom Cook
Gabe Johnson
Tamara Paltin
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez
Shane M. Sinenci
Nohelani U'u-Hodgins



Director of Council Services
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services
Richelle K. Kawasaki, Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

September 12, 2023

Mr. Bradford Ventura, Chief
Department of Fire and Public Safety
County of Maui
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Chief Ventura:

**SUBJECT: POTENTIAL COUNCIL INVESTIGATION RELATING
TO THE AUGUST 2023 WILDFIRES ON MAUI ISLAND
(DRIP-2(11))**

The Council's Disaster, Resilience, International Affairs, and Planning Committee will discuss a potential Council investigation relating to the August 2023 wildfires on Maui Island at its September 14, 2023, meeting at 9:00 a.m.

In preparation for the meeting, may I please request your Department's response to the following:

1. How many crews were on duty on Maui Island between 10:00 p.m. on August 7, 2023, and 10:00 p.m. on August 21, 2023? Where were the crews stationed?
2. Who, if anyone, coordinated the exchange of information between your Department and the Department of Police during the fire response in Lāhainā and Kula, respectively?
3. What training, if any, was provided by your Department between 10:00 p.m. on August 7, 2023, and 10:00 p.m. on August 21, 2023?
4. When, if at all, was the first wildfire in Lāhainā on August 8, 2023, deemed 100% contained? What resources did your Department send to respond to this initial fire?

Chief Bradford Ventura
September 12, 2023
Page 2

5. Did your Department request assistance from any other agencies or entities, such as the Department of Public Works, State agencies, or companies with private heavy machinery operators? If so, what assistance was requested and when?
6. How many communication channels did your Department use between 10:00 p.m. on August 7, 2023, and 10:00 p.m. on August 21, 2023? What time was each channel started? Who, if anyone, was monitoring those channels?
7. What incident commands were activated between 10:00 p.m. on August 7, 2023, and 10:00 p.m. on August 21, 2023? What resources were assigned to each incident command?

I would appreciate receiving your response **by noon on September 13, 2023**, for consideration during the Committee's meeting. Please also transmit a copy of your response to drip.committee@mauicounty.us. To ensure efficient processing, please include the relevant Committee item number in the subject line of your response.

Should you have any questions, please contact me or the Committee staff (Paige Greco at ext. 7660, or Maria Leon at ext. 7866).

Sincerely,



TAMARA PALTIN, Chair
Disaster, Resilience, International
Affairs, and Planning Committee

drip:ltr:002(11)afs01:pmg

cc: Mayor Richard T. Bissen, Jr.
Deputy Fire Chief