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GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'AINA O KA MOKU'AINA 'O HAWAII



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**STATE OF HAWAII
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January 6, 2024

The Honorable Shane M. Sinenci, Chair, and All Committee Members
Maui County Council
Water Authority, Social Services, and Parks Committee
County of Maui
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii'i 96793

Via E-mail: wassp.committee@mauicounty.us

**RE: Community Social Services Available to Those Affected by the August 2023
Fires on Maui Island (WASSP-1(6))**

Dear Chair Sinenci and Committee Members:

Thank you for your preliminary and follow-up questions to our December 11, 2023, discussion. We are honored to provide the following responses to your inquiries on the following pages. We welcome your ongoing communication as our primary goal is listening to the impacted communities of Maui County and enhancing behavioral health support and services to build strength in ohana and continued resilience.

You may contact our Project Director for the SAMHSA Emergency Response Grant (SERG), Trever Davis, at (808) 658-9788 or trever.davis@doh.hawaii.gov. As well, should committee members like to request a follow-up discussion with our team, please feel free to coordinate this through Dr. Davis.

Respectfully submitted,



Marian Tsuji, Deputy Director of Behavioral Health
Hawaii'i State Department of Health

Preliminary Questions (Correspondence dated December 6, 2023):

- 1. Please describe how and when the \$17,300,000 in funding from the SAMHSA federal grant will be used.*

The \$17,250,783 is intended to support the SERG project for two years, 9/30/2023 to 9/29/2025. The first year, about 55% of the total funds are allotted for use on: personnel and benefits, equipment, travel, supplies, contractual services through Papa Ola Lokahi and its subcontractors and other/indirect costs (e.g. marketing, translation services, outreach events, event sponsorship, leasing and furniture). This funding covers the creation and integration of staffed Resiliency Centers on Maui to support survivors and families.

- 1a. Which State programs will be funded by this grant? Who are the intended recipients?*

The grant funds only personnel to administer the grant and coordinate services among multiple contracted and subcontracted providers. Funds are not allotted to other areas of state government or other programs within the Department of Health.

The intended recipients are residents of Maui County impacted by the August 2023 fires. Behavioral health services, resiliency training, translation services and ongoing support available through the Resiliency Center(s) are available to any members who live, work or provide or receive education in impacted communities of Kula, Lahaina and surrounding areas.

- 2. Will existing State funding for behavioral health programs, if any, experience a reduction in appropriations due to the influx in funding from the SAMHSA grant?*

No existing State funding for behavioral health programs is reduced or otherwise changed as a result of the SAMHSA grant. The Behavioral Health divisions of the Department of Health are responsible for collaboration with the grant to ensure continuity of care, but funding and budgeting are exclusive to grant programs.

- 3. What other funding is the State Department of Health providing behavioral health service programs for those affected by the August 2023 fires on Maui?*

The State Department of Health implemented a Crisis Counseling Program (CCP) based on a separate SAMHSA federal grant from the SAMHSA Emergency Response Grant (SERG).

- 4. How are behavioral health statistics reported and documented by the State Department of Health? Do you have information on reported suicides or calls to Crisis Line of Hawai'i? Does the State Department of Health receive reports from third-party entities with the number of mental distress calls made to Crisis Line of Hawai'i or 911?*

Statistics from DOH are compiled, deidentified, and reported to data systems of SAMHSA and CDC. Data collected include sociodemographics, care outcomes, client assessments, substance use and mental illness characteristics, and treatment admissions and discharges for clients who

receive services from state- or federally-funded facilities and programs. SAMHSA data are made publicly available online as tables, reports, and machine-readable files. See SAMHSA Client Level Mental Health Data, Client Level Substance Use Data, State Mental Health Agency Data, and Treatment Episode Data Set at www.samhsa.gov/data. Data reported to CDC and other Hawaii substance use, mental health, and crisis data and reports from various data sources, such as DOH Behavioral Health Administration, Laulima Data Alliance and Hawai'i CARES 988 (formerly known as the Crisis Line of Hawai'i), are presented on the Hawai'i Behavioral Health Dashboard at bh808.hawaii.gov. Other DOH statistics and reports are published to our websites:

- Adult Mental Health Division - health.hawaii.gov/amhd/reports
- Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division - health.hawaii.gov/substance-abuse/state-plan
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division – health.hawaii.gov/camhd/our-research
- Developmental Disabilities Division - health.hawaii.gov/ddd/about/ddd-strategic-plans
- DOH Reports to the Legislature - health.hawaii.gov/opppd/departments-of-health-reports-to-2023-legislature

Between January 1, 2023 and November 30, 2023, Hawai'i CARES 988 received a total of 77,633 contacts (i.e., phone calls, texts or chats), of which 3,470 (4.5%) were primarily for suicidal crisis/thoughts, 124 (0.16%) for suicide attempts in progress. Between August 8 and November 30, 2023, Hawai'i CARES 988 received 543 contacts related to the Maui wildfire, of which 36 (6.6%) were primarily for suicidal crisis/thoughts, none for suicide attempts in progress.

DOH receives reports on the primary presenting nature/problem of contacts made directly to Hawai'i CARES 988 and of contacts that are routed to Hawai'i CARES 988 from 911 or 988, which occurs when a person dials 911 and requests crisis support, or when they dial 988 from a Hawaii phone number (area code 808), respectively. Among the 543 Maui wildfire-related contacts received between August 8 and November 30, 2023, 176 (32.4%) calls had a primary presenting problem of mental health/issues, 10 (1.8%) for loneliness, 36 (6.6%) for suicidal crisis/thought, and 0 for suicide attempt in progress. For data on all Hawai'i CARES 988 contacts, please visit bh808.hawaii.gov/behavioral-crisis.

Follow-Up Questions (Correspondence dated December 15, 2023):

<p>1. <i>Can the SAMHSA Emergency Response Grant be used to assist for-profit organizations that provide behavioral health services? Can Papa Ola Lokahi subcontract with for-profit organizations?</i></p>

Yes, some for-profit providers have subcontracted with Papa Ola Lokahi. DOH aims to provide the most comprehensive response to this tragedy and the ongoing behavioral health challenges in our communities as possible. For-profit providers who could demonstrate in their proposals and agency budgets proper stewardship of funds with effective service provision and support to the community were welcomed to the project. Expenditures are monitored monthly and audited as needed by Papa Ola Lokahi for all providers, regardless of for-profit status. DOH SERG administration oversees fund utilization by Papa Ola Lokahi and its grant provider network and SAMHSA provides oversight for DOH. At all three oversight levels, expenditures may be

denied and expended funds would need to be returned if not deemed appropriate within the scope of the SERG.

2. Please provide a breakdown of the \$27,346,226 in dedicated federal grant or state funding for Maui wildfire behavioral health services.

The SAMHSA Emergency Response Grant (SERG) provides \$17,250,783 over two years to fund community support and supplement behavioral health services. Over \$11M is dedicated to contractual services through local and community provider agencies specializing in treatment, supports meeting local cultural needs, translation services, referrals, educational materials and, as the community determines, creating needed Resiliency Centers. Twenty-two different treatment, support and cultural providers are the primary partners.

The SAMHSA Crisis Counseling Program (CCP) grant provides \$5,136,554 over one year to provide emergency counseling, outreach, referrals, resources, educational materials and mobile support. Pacific Counseling Group, CARE Hawai'i and Ho'aka Mana are the primary partners.

The remaining \$4.95M comes from a combination of pre-existing federal block grants on which the State has participated for many years and pre-disaster State budgeted dollars dedicated to behavioral health services through the Adult Mental Health Division, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division, and the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division.

3. Please provide information on the State Department of Health's investigations into suicides resulting from overdoses, including statistics on the number of suicides caused by overdoses.

DOH collects data on suicides annually from death certificate data, specifically ICD codes for underlying or contributing causes, and suggestive text on the injury. From our latest review, we looked at the annual number of victims who either died or resided on Maui island by suicide or of undetermined intent over the roughly two-month period of August 10 to October 25. We compared the 2023 total to those from years 2018 through 2022.

While we are currently unable to provide the annual breakdown due to our small numbers policy (i.e., suppression of counts <10 to reduce the risk of potentially providing identifiable information), we can confirm that a total of 45 victims of suicides or deaths of undetermined intent were identified, with <10 occurring each year from 2018 through 2023. The number of victims in 2023 was lower than most of the previous years. Less than a quarter of the total 45 deaths were due to overdoses, and none occurred in 2023. No suicidal (or undetermined intent) overdoses were identified in the two months following the Maui wildfire.

WASSP Committee

From: Davis, Trever <trever.davis@doh.hawaii.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 5, 2024 4:46 PM
To: WASSP Committee
Cc: Tsuji, Marian E.
Subject: Community Social Services Available to Those Affected by the August 2023 Fires on Maui Island, WASSP-1(6)
Attachments: DOH-Response_2024.01.05.pdf

You don't often get email from trever.davis@doh.hawaii.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good afternoon, Chair Sincenci and Committee Members,

Attached, please find DOH/SERG responses to your committee's questions from correspondence dated December 6, 2023, and December 15, 2023.

If I can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,
Trever Davis

Trever Davis, DBH, LAC [\(he/him\)](#)
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