

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.  
Mayor

KEKUHAUPIO R. AKANA  
Managing Director

JOSIAH K. NISHITA  
Deputy Managing Director




DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.maui-county.gov](http://www.maui-county.gov)

December 11, 2023

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

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL

 12-12-23  
Mayor Date

For Transmittal to:

Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair  
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee  
200 South High Street  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Committee Chair Sugimura:

**SUBJECT: REIMBURSABLE COSTS FOR AUGUST 2023 MAUI  
WILDFIRE RECOVERY (BFED-51, -52, -53, -54)**

Thank you for your letter dated December 1, 2023 requesting an explanation as to whether funds requested by Bills 121, 122, 123 and 124 may be reimbursable by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

In a letter to the BFED committee dated November 27, 2023 (provided in the attachments of your letter dated December 1, 2023), we explained that Bill 121 includes costs for a Request for Proposals (RFP) for "Recovery Management Services." As part of the scope of this RFP, the County will be contracting a qualified, experienced firm to assist with maximizing reimbursements and the FEMA Public Assistance program.

The County also continues to receive technical assistance from State and Federal partners in navigating FEMA reimbursements and processes. However, please note that eligibility for reimbursement cannot be determined for certain until applications are submitted for expended funds. Through knowledge from this

technical assistance, we provide the following general responses as it relates to the bills mentioned above:

Bill 121: As it relates to the proposed personnel costs, FEMA provides funding for disaster related emergency work that includes emergency protective measures and debris removal, and permanent work that includes restoration of damaged facilities and hazard mitigation. To be eligible, the work must be required as a result of the declared event; must be located within the designated area (Maui County); and must be the legal responsibility of an eligible applicant (County of Maui). FEMA will fund the pay rate plus fringe benefits for applicant employees completing eligible work.

As it relates to costs for Recovery Management Services, FEMA provides funding for Public Assistance Grant Management work performed by the applicant and/or a properly procured contractor. The funding is based on five percent of the applicant's total award from FEMA. Contracted professional services for emergency and/or permanent restoration work will be submitted with the applicable project as work-related costs.

Bill 122: Work completed to respond to the fires and repair fire/wind damaged facilities is eligible contingent on the details of the work. Eligibility will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Bill 123: As it relates to the equipment costs, FEMA defines equipment as any tangible property having a useful life of more than 1 year or exceeds the lessor of the capitalization level established by the applicant for financial statement purposes or \$5,000. Property that does not fall under this definition is considered a supply. When a purchased equipment item is no longer needed for a FEMA funded project, the applicant must calculate the current fair market value of the unit. FEMA will reduce the funding of the unit by this amount.

Bill 124: For equipment for the Department of Fire & Public Safety, the final actual equipment costs for the purchased items will be submitted to FEMA. If approved, FEMA will fund 90 percent federal cost share of the obligated amounts.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office at ext. 7205 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Josiah K. Nishita  
Deputy Managing Director

## BFED Committee

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**From:** Michelle Santos <Michelle.Santos@co.maui.hi.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 12, 2023 12:29 PM  
**To:** BFED Committee  
**Cc:** Cynthia Sasada; Josiah Nishita; Kekuhaupio Akana; Leo Caires; Louise Batoon; Pili Nahooikaika  
**Subject:** MT#10425 Reimbursable Costs for August 2023 Maui Wildfire Recovery  
**Attachments:** MT#10425-BFED 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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