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October 19, 2025

Honorable Tamara Paltin, Chair
Disaster Recovery, International Affairs, and Planning Committee
County Council, County of Maui
200 S. High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Chair Paltin:

Subject: Response to Inquiry Regarding Resolution 25-174, 2025 Update to the County of Maui Hazard Mitigation Plan (DRIP-18)

Thank you for your letter of October 3, 2025. The Maui Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) provides the following responses to the Committee's inquiries on Resolution 25-174.

1. **Summary of Significant Updates:** The 2025 HMP update includes comprehensive revisions to reflect lessons learned from recent events, particularly the August 2023 Maui Wildfires. Key updates include:
 - **Refined Hazards of Concern:** Several hazards from the 2020 HMP have been intentionally omitted. Health risk and hazardous material release will be fully addressed in the new County Public Health and Medical Plan and Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, respectively. Extreme heat and cold were removed as the temperature in the county does not reach levels that significantly impact health or infrastructure, a fact supported by only one mitigation action in the 2020 plan addressing this hazard and local climatological data.
 - **Climate Change Integration:** The 2025 HMP analyzes each remaining hazard within the context of climate change, specifically assessing the impacts of sea level rise and warming ocean temperatures on the vulnerability and future frequency of hazards.
 - **Enhanced Capability Assessment:** Reflecting lessons from the 2023 Lahaina Wildfire response, Chapter 18 now captures the capabilities of both county government and community organizations, acknowledging their critical role in supporting survivors and emergency management.
 - **Incorporation of 2023 Wildfire Lessons:** Best practices and lessons learned from the 2023 wildfire have been integrated throughout the plan to improve future mitigation, response, and recovery efforts.

The rationale for these changes is to ensure the Plan remains a focused, current, and FEMA-

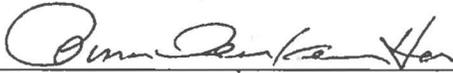
compliant document that effectively guides the County's efforts to reduce risk from natural hazards, while avoiding duplication with other planning efforts.

2. Impact of Committee Revisions on FEMA Approval: The current "Approvable Pending Adoption" status from FEMA is based on the submitted draft of the 2025 HMP.
 - Minor/Non-substantive Revisions: Corrections to the technical and non-substantive errors identified in your letter (e.g., typographical errors, incorrect figure references, name spellings) can be incorporated without impacting FEMA's approval. MEMA commits to making these corrections.
 - Major/Substantive Revisions: If the Committee recommends significant changes to the Plan's core content (e.g., altering the risk assessment methodology, substantially modifying mitigation actions or priorities), this would likely require MEMA to resubmit the revised Plan to FEMA for a new review. This could delay final FEMA approval and potentially impact the County's eligibility for certain federal grant programs if the process extends beyond the November 19, 2025, expiration of the current plan.

Regarding the specific technical and non-substantive errors identified by the Committee in Part One of the Plan, MEMA acknowledges these issues. We are currently conducting a final comprehensive proofread of the entire 2025 HMP to correct all such errors, including those listed in your letter.

To meet the critical adoption deadline of November 19, 2025, the version of the Plan transmitted to the Disaster Recovery, International Affairs, and Planning (DRIP) Committee and subsequently to the full Council for adoption will be the current version, with the understanding that these non-substantive errors are present. MEMA commits to producing a final, corrected version of the HMP, incorporating all identified edits, promptly following the Council's adoption. This clean copy will then be posted on the MEMA website and submitted to the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) as the official record.

Me Ka Ha'aha'a,



Amos Lonokailua-Hewett
Administrator
Maui Emergency Management Agency

DRIP Committee

From: Amos K. Lonokailua-Hewett <Amos.Lonokailua-Hewett@co.maui.hi.us>
Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 4:14 PM
To: DRIP Committee; Jarret P. Pascual; Keone J. Hurdle
Cc: Christopher W. Wegner
Subject: MEMA Response: RESOLUTION 25-174, 2025 UPDATE TO THE COUNTY OF MAUI HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN (DRIP-18)
Attachments: 251022 DRIP Committee Agenda.pdf; 018aema01.pdf; 018ema02_MEMA Response Letter.pdf; 018aema01_MEMA Response Letter.pdf; 018ema02 signed.pdf; 2017PDMC-004 Mitigation Plan FEMA Approval.pdf

Aloha e Chair Paltin and Members of the Disaster Recovery, International Affairs, and Planning Committee,

In advance of the upcoming committee meeting, please find attached the Maui Emergency Management Agency's (MEMA) formal responses to the Committee's inquiries regarding Resolution 25-174 and the 2025 Update to the County of Maui Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP).

This package includes the following for your review:

1. The Committee's original letters of inquiry (October 3 and October 7, 2025).
2. MEMA's response letters (dated October 20, 2025), which address all questions concerning plan updates, FEMA approval status, adoption deadlines, and the path forward for technical corrections.
3. The supporting FEMA documentation ("2017PDMC-004 Mitigation Plan FEMA Approval" letter) confirming the November 19, 2025, adoption deadline.

Our responses confirm that the 2025 HMP is eligible for adoption in its current form to meet the critical FEMA deadline, with a commitment from MEMA to produce a final, technically corrected version immediately following Council adoption.

MEMA is grateful for the Committee's diligence and looks forward to discussing this matter further at the upcoming meeting to ensure the timely adoption of the 2025 HMP.

Me Ka Ha'aha'a,



Amos Lonokailua-Hewett

Administrator

Maui Emergency Management Agency

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"Excellence is the result of caring more than others think is wise, risking more than others think is safe, dreaming more than others think is practical, and expecting more than others think is possible."