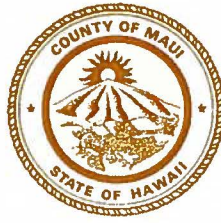


**RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.**  
Mayor

**LORI TSUHAKO**  
Director

**SAUMALU MATA' AFA**  
Deputy Director



RECEIVED

2023 NOV 13 AM 10:39

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY COUNCIL

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING  
& HUMAN CONCERNS**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
2200 MAIN STREET, SUITE 546  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
PHONE: (808) 270-7805

November 9, 2023

Ms. Maria Zielinski  
Budget Director, County of Maui  
200 South High Street  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Handwritten signature of Ms. Maria Zielinski in black ink.

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

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL

Handwritten signature of Richard T. Bissen, Jr. in black ink.  
Mayor Date 11-13-23

For Transmittal to:

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

Dear Chair Sugimura:

**SUBJECT: BILL 97 (2023), AMENDING FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET: APPENDIX A, PART I, DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND HUMAN CONCERNS (BFED-41)**

Thank you for your correspondence of November 8, 2023 requesting additional information on the above subject. The information requested in your letter is listed below in bold and is followed by the Department's responses.

- 1. Please explain whether West Maui and Upcountry residents, who are displaced homeowners due to the August 8<sup>th</sup> wildfires and now have to rent, are eligible for the emergency rental assistance program.**

The Emergency Rental Assistance 2 program does not use assets to determine financial eligibility. Eligibility is based on income. Eligible participants will have incomes that are

at or below 80% of Area Median Income (AMI). Our vendor, Catholic Charities Hawaii, is aware of the circumstances impacting potential applicants.

**2. If a household received financial support from other sources, such as the Red Cross, would this disqualify the household from the emergency rental assistance program?**

Receipt of financial support from other sources (e.g. American Red Cross) will not automatically disqualify an applicant from receiving assistance from the Emergency Rental Assistance program. However, as all of us would expect, a careful vetting of applicants will be conducted to ensure that duplicative payments (for the same needs such as rent or utilities) will not be made. Coordination with other funding sources and the cooperation of the applicants and their landlords will be needed to ensure that the funding available is used to its highest purpose.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this information. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at Ext. 7805.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lori Tsuhako". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lori" being more prominent than the last name "Tsuhako".

LORI TSUHAKO, LSW, ACSW  
Director of Housing and Human Concerns