

# Resolution

No. 24-114

## URGING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO RESCHEDULE THE FIRST DAY OF THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

WHEREAS, Thursday, August 8, 2024, will mark one year since the Lāhainā wildfires took the lives of 101 people, displaced thousands, and caused incalculable trauma to the families of Maui County; and

WHEREAS, many survivors continue to be affected by the emotional, psychological, physical, and financial impacts of this tragedy; and

WHEREAS, to recover, the community must be given sufficient opportunities to grieve and to heal; and

WHEREAS, the destruction of West Maui schools disrupted the lives of countless students, many of whom are enrolled in new schools in other districts; and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Education has announced that the 2024-2025 school year will begin Monday, August 5, 2024; and

WHEREAS, every effort should be made to allow students the opportunity to participate in commemorative events and healing activities related to the wildfires and to acknowledge the community's strength and resiliency; and

WHEREAS, deferring the first day of school to Monday, August 12, 2024, would provide a meaningful gesture of support and recognition for those affected by the wildfires and would allow a more gradual transition into the new school year; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That it urges the State Department of Education to reschedule the first school day of the 2024-2025 school year to Monday, August 12, 2024; and

**Resolution No. 24-114**

2. That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent, Hawai'i State Department of Education; Rebecca Winkie, Complex Area Superintendent, Hāna-Lahaianaluna-Lāna'i-Moloka'i District, Hawai'i State Department of Education; Desiree Sides, Complex Area Superintendent, Baldwin-Kekaulike-Kūlanihāko'i-Maui District, Hawai'i State Department of Education; Roy Takumi, Chairperson, State of Hawai'i Board of Education, State of Hawai'i; the Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Governor, State of Hawai'i; and the Honorable Richard T. Bissen, Jr., Mayor, County of Maui.

INTRODUCED BY:

Tamara A.M. Paltin  
TAMARA PALTIN