

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

**JOSIAH K. NISHITA**  
Managing Director



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

October 7, 2024

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

**APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL**

*Richard T. Bissen* 10-11-24  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Date

For Transmittal to:

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

Dear Chair Sugimura:

**SUBJECT: BILL 115 (2024), RELATING TO THE DEADLINE FOR  
FILING CLAIMS FOR REAL PROPERTY TAX  
EXEMPTIONS (BFED-97)**

We are in receipt of your correspondence dated September 26, 2024 and provide the following responses:

Confirm the date when Federal Emergency Management Agency leases for individuals displaced by the wildfires will end.

*RESPONSE: FEMA's Direct Lease Program was extended for a one-year period to terminate on 2/10/2026.*

Can the leases be extended? If so, please explain the following:

*RESPONSE: Another request to extend FEMA's Direct Lease Program can be submitted by the State Hawaii Emergency Management Agency when*

*the termination date closer. FEMA will evaluate the continuing need for the Direct Lease Program at the time the extension is submitted.*

1. What mechanism would allow for the leases to be extended?

*RESPONSE: The State Hawaii Emergency Management Agency is required to submit a request to FEMA to request extension of the Direct Lease Program.*

2. Who has the discretion to extend the leases?

*RESPONSE: FEMA Assistant Administrator for the recovery is authorized to approve extension of the Direct Lease Program.*

3. Are the lessors' permissions required for the extensions?

*RESPONSE: The lessors' permission is not required to approve extension of the Direct Lease Program.*

4. What is the likelihood for the leases to be extended?

*RESPONSE: FEMA will evaluate the continuing need for the Direct Lease Program at the time the extension is submitted.*

Should you have any further questions, please feel free to contact Wendy Taomoto, Engineering Program Manager at ext. 8290 or by email [Wendy.Taomoto@co.maui.hi.us](mailto:Wendy.Taomoto@co.maui.hi.us).

Sincerely,



JOSIAH K. NISHITA  
Managing Director

## BFED Committee

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**From:** Michelle Santos <Michelle.Santos@co.maui.hi.us>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 11, 2024 10:40 AM  
**To:** BFED Committee  
**Cc:** Cynthia Sasada; Josiah Nishita; Kelii Nahooikaika; Wendy Taomoto  
**Subject:** MT#10807 Bill 115  
**Attachments:** MT#10807-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*

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