

## **Workforce Development Council Meeting**

**Date: August 17, 2023**

**Time: 9:30am – 11:30am**

Statement from Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

Director Butay, Deputy Director Kunstman, Workforce Development Division Administrator, and the Hawaii Occupational Safety and Health Division (HIOSH) staff are on Maui to visit the Disaster Response Center, meet with Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) staff to assess and reassure them that they have the full support from management. This is a difficult and challenging time for our State, especially for those who have been affected by the Maui wildfires. It's all-hands-on deck for everyone at the department to do everything we can, whatever the State needs. The Maui wildfires is our priority and everything else is secondary at this point. The department has been fully engaged since day one. As such, DLIR will be unstinting in our efforts to support Maui as they have been through hell.

For your situational awareness, here are the activities that we've been doing in response to the Maui wildfires:

- Unemployment Insurance Division expanded call center hours with a special option for Maui filers to have UI staff help them file claims/certifications if they currently do not have access to computer, phone, etc.:  
[https://twitter.com/HI\\_DLIR/status/1691556529277952330](https://twitter.com/HI_DLIR/status/1691556529277952330)
- Application for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA, 26 weeks) under review in D.C., expect approval/announcement this week for individuals not eligible for regular unemployment insurance.
- Workforce Development Division has allocated some Rapid Response monies for us to put some people to work immediately to help.
- Workforce Development Division is applying for Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) on the National Dislocated Worker Grants to assist with disaster & employment recovery.
- HIOSH/OSHA – facilitating PPE direct from manufacturers to Maui.
- HIOSH/OSHA – developing Mission Assignment wherein HIOSH lead with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) assistance and personnel will assist with boots on the ground in Maui offering technical assistance, PPE, etc.
- Developing Emergency Management Assistance Compact request for California OSHA to have wildfire-experienced to assist with the Mission Assignment.
- Office of Community Services is also working on developing assistance response with their usual federal and other partners.

The DLIR is aware and responding to numerous other aspects related to the Maui situation, especially alternative means of service delivery for Unemployment Insurance and Workforce Development in light of disaster conditions.