

White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders

THE WHITE HOUSE

President Biden participates in a phone call aboard Air Force One on August 15, 2023.



President Biden participates in a phone call aboard Air Force One on August 15, 2023. Photo courtesy of the White House. BRIEFING ROOM

President Biden Provides an Update on the Federal Response to Hawaii Wildfires

As federal emergency response and recovery efforts continue in Hawaii, we are grateful for your continued engagement, partnership, and outpouring of support.

President Joe Biden spoke today with Hawaii Governor Josh Green and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator Deanne Criswell, and provided an update on the whole-of-government effort underway to address the devastating wildfires on Maui. The Biden-Harris Administration is working around the clock to help Hawaii recover, and we plan to continue sharing additional information in the coming days and weeks.

President Biden delivers remarks on the federal emergency response to the Hawaii wildfires. Watch here.

Statement from WHIAANHPI Co-Chair Katherine Tai regarding the wildfires on Maui. Read more.

HHS Secretary and WHIAANHPI Co-Chair Xavier Becerra declares public health emergency for Hawaii in response to wildfires. Read more.

How to help — Resources to amplify:

A message to Hawaii residents from WHIAANHPI Executive Director Krystal Ka'ai. Watch here.

Upcoming event: FEMA will host a national partner call on August 16, 2023, at 2pm ET that will include operational updates from NGOs. Register here.

FEMA has provided a toolkit of resources to help get recovery information into the hands of Maui wildfire survivors. Please use it to amplify credible messages and share this resource with your communities. Read more.

For additional FEMA information on the Maui wildfires, read more here.

The Federal Communications Commission is providing daily reports on the operational status of communications in West Maui. Visit fcc.gov/HawaiiWildfires.

Homeowners, renters, nonprofits, and small business owners can apply for Small Business Association disaster loans here. For help with your application, call 1-800-659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

See advice from the Federal Trade Commission to help you spot, avoid, and report disaster-related scams. Read more.

Make sure your donations go to help people in need, not charity scammers. Here's what to look out for. Read more.

ACROSS THE ADMINISTRATION



FEMA Urban Search and Rescue staff in Hawaii. Photo courtesy of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

FACT SHEET

The Biden-Harris Administration's Response to the Maui Wildfires

The Biden-Harris Administration has mobilized a robust whole-of-government response effort to support immediate and long-term rescue and recovery efforts in Maui, Hawaii. Since the onset of the horrific fires in Maui, dozens of Federal departments and agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security through FEMA and the Coast Guard, the Department of Defense through the Navy and Army, the Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Forest Ser-

vice, and the Small Business Administration (SBA) have been working with state and local partners on the ground to assess ongoing needs and providing resources and personnel to support response efforts.

Last Thursday, within hours of the devastating fires, President Biden signed a Major Disaster Declaration for Hawaii, and as President Biden told Governor Josh Green, the Federal Government stands ready to provide additional assistance to ensure the state recovers. This weekend, FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell, U.S. Fire Administrator Dr. Lori Moore-Merrell and U.S. Small Business Administration Administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman surveyed catastrophic damage on the island and hosted a local press conference to reiterate the Administration's commitment to supporting impacted communities, however long it may take.

The Administration continues to encourage individuals impacted by the disaster to register for Federal assistance at www.disasterassistance.gov or by calling 1-800-621-3362.

More on the coordinated federal response:

There are almost 500 Federal personnel deployed to Maui to assist residents in their greatest time of need.

In the immediate aftermath of the fires, the U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Navy supported maritime search and rescue operations, and U.S. Army helicopters supported fire suppression efforts on the Big Island.

As fire containment efforts continue, FEMA and its Federal partners continue response efforts. FEMA has deployed more than 140 Urban Search and Rescue personnel who have integrated with the Maui Fire Department to help conduct rescue operations.

In Maui, FEMA has provided 50,000 meals, 75,000 liters of water, 5,000 cots and 10,000 blankets and shelter supplies to the county government for distribution.

FEMA has also authorized Critical Needs Assistance (CNA) which provides a onetime payment of \$700 per household to applicants who were displaced from their homes and have critical needs. CNA provides for lifesaving and life-sustaining items such as water, food, prescriptions, personal hygiene items, and fuel for transportation.

The Small Business Administration has dozens of staff on the island and has begun making low-interest Federal disaster loans available to

Hawaii businesses, homeowners, renters, and nonprofits.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service approved Hawaii's request for impacted Child Nutrition Programs and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits.

The American Red Cross and Maui County continue to staff and support six shelters where food, water, hygiene kits and other essential resources are provided to survivors who are unable to return home. FEMA Disaster Survivor Assistance Team members are deploying to shelters and helping people register for Federal assistance. Those affected by the fires may visit a Red Cross shelter to get a hot meal, charge their phone and access other essential support.

Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra approved a Public Health Emergency effective retroactively from August 8 through November 6, 2023.

In addition, 17 specialists from the Department of Health and Human Services' Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team are on Maui, with additional teams en route to assist the state.

Local and national Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOADs) are providing emergency assistance to survivors. Those seeking to donate to the recovery efforts, can do so by visiting www.hawaii-statevoad.org.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is helping clear roads, stabilizing electric service and working with the Environmental Protection Agency on the removal of hazardous waste essential to recovery work in the affected areas.

The U.S. Forest Service Incident Management Teams and Wildfire Liaisons integrated with the State to help identify resources, equipment, and additional personnel needed to fully extinguish the fires and prevent flare-ups.

The U.S. Fire Administration is also working with local fire departments to identify what support is needed for firefighting personnel and their families who were also affected by this disaster, as they continue to heroically battle these blazes.

The Department of Defense, through U.S. INDOPACOM, is actively supporting the Federal response by helping move supplies across the State and is providing assistance with fire suppression activities.

U.S. INDOPACOM is also taking actions to move their response command and control personnel forward to the island of Maui.

OFFICE OF POLITICAL STRATEGY & OUTREACH August 15, 2023

ICYMI: On the eve of the IRA Anniversary, President Biden delivers remarks in Wisconsin, and Vice President Harris delivers remarks in Washington State

Today, the day before the one year anniversary of the Inflation Reduction Act—the largest climate investment in history—President Biden will travel to Milwaukee, WI, to discuss how Bidenomics and his Investing in America agenda are ushering in a manufacturing boom, which has attracted more than \$110 billion in private sector investment in clean energy manufacturing in the last year and is creating good-paying union jobs.

Watch the President's remarks?



While in Milwaukee, the President toured Ingeteam, a clean energy manufacturing company that produces onshore wind turbine generators. Thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act, the company expects orders of wind turbine generators to double next year. Ingeteam also recently announced that as a result of the President's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the company will begin manufacturing electric vehicle charging stations at its facility in Milwaukee, creating 100 new jobs.

In conjunction with the President's visit to Wisconsin, Siemens also announced that thanks to

the clean energy incentives in the Inflation Reduction Act, it will manufacture solar inverters in the United States—in Kenosha County, WI.

In Wisconsin alone, companies have committed over \$3 billion in manufacturing and clean energy investments since President Biden was sworn into office. This includes a \$1.5 billion investment from Alliant Energy to build utility scale battery storage facilities at solar farms across the state using union workers, creating 2,000 local construction jobs and saving Wisconsin residents more than \$1.6 billion in energy costs.

Today, Vice President Harris traveled to Seattle, WA to highlight the monumental progress the administration has made to build a clean energy economy that creates good-paying union jobs and ensure access to clean air and water for all communities.

"Together we are building a clean-energy economy, and through all of our work, President Biden and I are building an economy that works for working people, and that, my friends, is called 'Bidenomics'. And Bidenomics is working."

Watch the Vice Presidents remarks?

The Vice President received a tour and update from McKinstry, a Seattle green construction company, on the company's energy-efficient up-

grades enabled by the Inflation Reduction Act. The Vice President was joined by Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff and Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm.

In celebration of the one year anniversary of the Inflation Reduction Act, the President, the Vice President, and senior Administration officials will fan out across the country to highlight the impact the historic law is having on communities across the country.

* Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen will travel to Las Vegas, NV on Monday to tour a clean energy worker training center and deliver remarks on how the Inflation Reduction Act is transforming the economy, revitalizing American manufacturing, strengthening American supply chains and making the economy fairer for workers and families.

* Acting Labor Secretary Julie Su will travel to Portsmouth, VA on Friday to join Rep. Bobby Scott for a clean economy workforce tour and roundtable at Tidewater Community College. She

will also visit Hampton Roads to learn more about workforce development efforts for the region's growing clean energy and resilience sectors.

* Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg will travel to Alaska from Monday through Wednesday to highlight how the Administration is investing in infrastructure, climate resilience, and a clean energy economy.

* Small Business Administrator Isabel Guzman will travel to Florida, Kansas, Colorado, and California throughout the week to showcase the Inflation Reduction Act's impact on small businesses, families, and the economy.

* Senior Advisor Mitch Landrieu will travel to New York, NY on Monday to deliver remarks at the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) conference and highlight how Bidenomics and the President's Investing in America agenda are creating good-paying union jobs in construction, manufacturing, and infrastructure. He will also travel to Huntsville, Alabama on Wednesday to attend a manufacturing expansion announcement for electronics for high speed internet deployment.



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