

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

January 10, 2024

The Honorable Miguel Cardona
Secretary
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-3100

Dear Secretary Cardona,

Thank you for your commitment to working with the Hawaii Department of Education (HIDOE) in support of the students, educators, and families that have been affected by the recent wildfires on Maui.

HIDOE continues to respond to the significant impacts of the devastating wildfires, which resulted in 100 confirmed fatalities, disrupted the start of a new school year for 3,001 students, damaged King Kamehameha III Elementary School beyond repair, and resulted in the temporary closures of Princess Nāhi‘ena‘ena Elementary School, Lāhainā Intermediate School and Lāhaināluna High School. While the latter three schools have since reopened, students and educators from those schools are still feeling the impacts of the wildfires. Even as we write this letter, students from King Kamehameha III Elementary do not have their own school, and continue to be co-located at Princess Nāhi‘ena‘ena Elementary until a temporary school can be built to replace their campus. Making matters worse, many students and educators face uncertain housing situations and have suffered personal losses due to the fires.

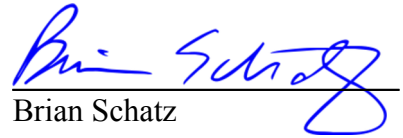
Funding from the School Emergency Response to Violence program (Project SERV) is critical for providing short-term education related services to reestablish a stable learning environment in West Maui. We ask that you support HIDOE’s request for Project SERV funding, to enable the recovery of students, educators, and communities in West Maui.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Jim Tokuda
Member of Congress



Ed Case
Member of Congress