

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

September 15, 2023

The Honorable Isabel Guzman
Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 3rd St SW
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Administrator Guzman:

Thank you again for your demonstrated commitment to supporting businesses, nonprofits, homeowners, and renters affected by the Hawaii Wildfires. We appreciate the Small Business Administration's (SBA) continued efforts to support those who have been affected by the wildfires, especially those in West Maui.

Following President Biden's approval of a disaster declaration for the wildfires, SBA has been working to rapidly approve disaster loans for those who were affected, with more than \$66.2 million in loans approved to date. Such loans will provide much-needed assistance for businesses and others as we start to rebuild in West Maui.

Despite this assistance, we are concerned Maui businesses will still have a difficult time weathering the coming months due to the current economic conditions in the affected areas, which, by some estimates, are losing \$2.7 million in business revenue every day. Many of these businesses were just starting to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, some are still repaying SBA disaster loans from the last few years.

Given the extenuating circumstances, we strongly urge you to use authority under the Small Business Act to provide Maui businesses with additional relief, including by pausing payments and interest accruals for SBA disaster loans that pre-date the wildfires for at least a year and reevaluating the need when payments are scheduled to resume. Such relief is warranted given the devastating impact the wildfires have had on Maui businesses and would help to ensure these businesses can continue to survive.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Mazie K. Hirono

Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

Brian Schatz

Brian Schatz
United States Senator

Jin N. Tokuda

Jin Tokuda
Member of Congress

Ed Case

Ed Case
Member of Congress