

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

September 25, 2023

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

Dear Administrator Guzman:

We write today to strongly encourage you to extend the deadline for businesses, nonprofits, homeowners, and renters affected by the Hawaii Wildfires to apply for physical damage loans through the Small Business Administration's (SBA) disaster loan program.

As you have witnessed firsthand, the recent wildfires completely devastated an entire community in West Maui. Even as the community continues to recover, it will take years to rebuild after the wildfires. We commend the SBA for quickly approving more than \$98.9 million in disaster loans that will provide much-needed federal assistance to help with the rebuild.

However, we are concerned the October 10 deadline for physical damage loans will not give those affected by the wildfires enough time to apply for the assistance they need. We therefore encourage you to extend this deadline to ensure they have enough time to navigate the complicated loan process and submit comprehensive and accurate information. Such an extension would help to ensure no potential applicants are denied assistance due to the tight timeline.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. With the October 10 deadline looming and the potential of a total government shutdown increasing, we respectfully request a response by September 29 to ensure appropriate community outreach. We wholeheartedly appreciate your commitment to supporting this community and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Mazie K. Hirono

Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

Brian Schatz

Brian Schatz
United States Senator

JM Tokuda

JM Tokuda
Member of Congress

Ed Case

Ed Case
Member of Congress