



October 20, 2023

Michael Walker
State Protection Forester
Division of Forestry & Wildlife
1151 Punchbowl St
Room 325
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Community Wildfire Defense Grant review committee members,

This letter is to express Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization's strong support for the Mālama Haleakalā Foundation's request for CWDG funding. The recent Maui wildfires make clear the need for our at-risk communities to better manage fuel loads, fuel breaks, create defensible spaces, and be properly equipped to rapidly respond to wildfire events. Private and public landowners all play an important role in creating and maintaining our Firewise communities. This is especially true with a changing global climate, where the likelihood of more frequent and catastrophic wildfires is increasing.

As a member and vested partner of Hawai'i's wildfire prevention community, Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization supports the Mālama Haleakalā Foundation's Leeward Haleakalā Resilient Landscapes Project. The project meets the National Cohesive Strategy's three goals of creating 1) Resilient Landscapes, 2) Fire Adapted Communities, and 3) Safe and Effective Wildfire Response through the reduction of hazardous vegetation fuel loads and the continued maintenance of fire breaks at wildland urban interfaces.

Please feel free to contact us at your convenience with any questions you may have.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nani Barretto". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Nani Barretto,
Co-executive Director
Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization