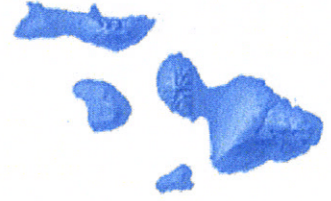
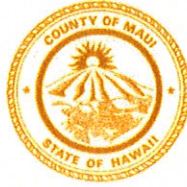


**RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.**  
Mayor

**KEKUHAUPIO R. AKANA**  
Managing Director

**BRADFORD K. VENTURA**  
Fire Chief

**GAVIN L.M. FUJIOKA**  
Deputy Fire Chief



**DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & PUBLIC SAFETY**  
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October 27, 2023

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Community Wildfire Defense Grant review committee members:

This letter is to express that the County of Maui Department of Fire and Public Safety is in strong support for the Malama Haleakala Foundation's request for CWDG funding. The recent Maui wildfires made clear the need for our at-risk communities to better manage fuel loads, fuel brakes, 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 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 Hawaii's wildfire prevention community, County of Maui Department of Fire and Public Safety supports the Malama Haleakala Foundation's Leeward Haleakala 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 fuel loads and the continued maintenance of fire breaks at wildland urban interfaces.

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

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "BK Ventura".

Bradford K. Ventura  
Fire Chief

County of Maui Department of Fire and Public Safety