



HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII

STATE HEADQUARTERS

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August 10, 2023

Dear Dharma Friends,

We have been watching in disbelief the tremendous destruction caused by the recent wildfires on Maui. The loss of life, livelihood, and property has been devastating. Lahaina Hongwanji and its Sangha were directly affected by the fires. The temple, columbarium, classroom building, and minister's residence were completely destroyed in the horrific fires that devastated historic Lahaina town. Many temple members were forced to evacuate, and many homes were burnt to the ground. Our hearts go out to all who have been impacted by this disaster. As residents and our fellow Sangha members begin the process of rebuilding and healing, Hawaii Kyodan is committed to supporting relief efforts on Maui.

In the spirit of compassionate action, we have established the **MAUI WILDFIRE DISASTER RELIEF FUND**. You can donate in the following ways:

1. Online at www.hongwanjihawaii.com by clicking on the "Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief" button under the "Donate" tab.
2. Through GoFundMe at the following link: <https://gofund.me/ff77a520>
3. Check and cash donations can be sent directly to Hawaii Kyodan Headquarters. Please make check payable to HHMH and in the memo line designate "Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief" to ensure proper credit.

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All donations collected will go to support Lahaina Hongwanji and relief efforts on Maui. The Office of the Bishop and Committee on Social Concerns will prioritize addressing the immediate and short-term needs of temple families displaced by the fires and supporting the greater community as it rebuilds. The Committee will select reputable relief agencies and organizations to support in order to ensure our donations will directly aid those impacted by this disaster. Updates will be shared on our website at www.hongwanjihawaii.com.

Mahalo for your generosity and support during this time of tragedy.

In Gassho,

Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani
Bishop

Dr. Warren Tamamoto
President

Rev. Blayne Higa, Chair
Committee on Social Concerns