EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION

By the authority vested in me as Mayor of the County of Maui, by the Revised Charter of the County of Maui (1983), as amended, and the Constitution and laws of the State of Hawaii, I, RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR., Mayor of the County of Maui of the State of Hawaii, hereby determine, designate, and proclaim as follows:

WHEREAS, Chapter 127A Hawaii Revised Statutes, provides for the establishment of County Organizations for emergency management and disaster relief with the Mayor having direct responsibility and authority over emergency management within the County; and

WHEREAS, as of August 8, 2023 several large wildfires are burning in the County of Maui, including in the Kula and Lahaina areas;

WHEREAS, these fires have burned homes, burned hundreds of acres and forced closure of roads and schools, and evacuations in the Kula and Lahaina areas;

WHEREAS, very dry conditions and strong and potentially damaging easterly winds caused by the passage of Hurricane Dora to the south of the State are contributing to the wildfire danger;

WHEREAS, these fires threaten to cause damages, losses, and suffering of such character and magnitude to affect the health, welfare, and living conditions of a substantial number of persons, and to affect the economy of the County, and has the potential to be of such a nature as to warrant rehabilitative assistance from the County;

WHEREAS, due to the possibility of imminent disaster due to property damage and/or bodily injury to residents of Maui County, and the need for government agencies and representatives from the
private sector to mobilize and provide immediate services to outer island residents, a Civil Defense state of emergency is authorized pursuant to Chapters 127A, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes, as amended.

WHEREAS, the anticipated occurrence of a severe, sudden, and extraordinary event of damaging high winds and very dry conditions threatens to cause damage, loss, and suffering of such character and magnitude to affect the health, welfare, and living conditions of a substantial number of persons, and to affect the economy of Maui County, and is expected to be of such a nature as to warrant rehabilitative assistance from the County and the State; and

WHEREAS, there is need for government agencies and representatives from the private sector to mobilize and provide immediate services to County residents and to mitigate hazardous situations in advance of the weather effects from Hurricane Dora; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to sections 127A-14(b), Hawaii Revised Statutes ("Haw. Rev. Stat.") the Mayor is authorized to declare by proclamation whether an emergency or disaster has occurred, or there is an imminent danger or threat of an emergency or disaster and authorize actions under chapter 127A, Haw. Rev. Stat., and the expenditure of funds thereunder; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to §127A-13(b)(2), Haw. Rev. Stat., the Mayor may suspend any County law that impedes or tends to impede, or that may be detrimental to, the expeditious and efficient execution of, or conflict with, emergency functions; and

WHEREAS, Haw. Rev. Stat. §127A-13(b)(4) further provides that the Mayor may direct and control mandatory evacuation of the civilian population; and

WHEREAS, Haw. Rev. Stat. §127A-13(b)(5) further provides that the Mayor may exercise any additional emergency functions to the extent necessary to prevent hoarding, waste, destruction of materials, supplies, commodities, accommodations, facilities, and services to effectuate equitable distributions as the public welfare may require; and

WHEREAS, Haw. Rev. Stat. §127A-12(a)(5), the Mayor may direct or control, as may be necessary for emergency management, alerts, warnings, notifications, and activations; warnings and signals for alerts and any type of warning device, system, or method to be used
in connection therewith; partial or full mobilization of personnel in advance of or in response to an actual emergency or disaster; the conduct of civilians and the movement and cessation of movement of pedestrians and vehicular traffic during, before, and after alerts, emergencies, or disasters; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Haw. Rev. Stat. §127A-12(c)(17), the Mayor may take any and all steps necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of chapter 127A, Haw. Rev. Stat., notwithstanding that powers in Haw. Rev. Stat. §127A-13(b) may only be exercised during an emergency period; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR., Mayor of the County of Maui, pursuant to the authority vested in me as the Mayor of the County of Maui as set forth above, in order to promote and protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the residents and visitors of the County of Maui, do hereby proclaim, determine, declare, and find that:

1. There is imminent danger of a state of emergency in all or any portion of the County of Maui, as of the date and time of this Proclamation; and

2. Any public property of the County, real or personal, may be possessed, used, managed, controlled, or reallocated as I require for the purposes of emergency management functions under Haw. Rev. Stat. Chapter 127A, including parks, playgrounds, and other public or private buildings; and

3. The provisions, in whole or in part, of Haw. Rev. Stat. Chapter 103D and Haw. Rev. Stat. §§ 103-50, 103-53, 103-55, 105-1 to 105-10, and 464-4 that impede or tend to impede the expeditious discharge of the functions of emergency management, or that compliance therewith is impracticable due to existing conditions and, therefore, such provisions shall not apply to any such emergency management functions; and

4. Without regard to Haw. Rev. Stat. Chapters 76, 78, and 88, agencies, officials, officers, employees of the County and other persons may be ordered and directed as I deem necessary to carry out emergency management functions under Haw. Rev. Stat. Chapter 127A; and

5. The provisions of the Maui County Code, in whole or in part, shall be suspended including, but not limited to, Chapter 2.20 (intergovernmental agreements), §§3.12.060 and 3.12.070
(purchasing procedures), Chapter 3.56 (gifts and donations), to the extent that they impede the expeditious discharge of the functions of emergency management or the compliance therewith is impracticable due to existing conditions; and

6. All County officers and employees shall be required to take all steps requested by the State of Hawaii Director of Department of Health to qualify the County of Maui for reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and for other state and federal relief as may be available to reimburse the County of Maui for the expenses it incurs in addressing this emergency.

7. Sections 127A-12(a)(5), 127A-13(b)(3), and 127A-13(b)(4), Haw. Rev. Stat., and the Director of the Maui Emergency Management Agency is directed to take appropriate actions to direct or control, as may be necessary for emergency management:

   a. Alerts, warnings, notifications, and activations;
   b. Warnings and signals for alerts and any type or warning device, system, or method to be used in connection therewith;
   c. Partial or full mobilization of personnel in advance of or in response to an actual emergency or disaster;
   d. The conduct of civilians and the movement and cessation of movement of pedestrians and vehicular traffic during, before, and after alerts, emergencies, or disasters;
   e. Shut off water mains, gas mains, electric power connections, or suspension of other services; and
   f. Mandatory evacuation of the civilian population.

8. Section 127A-12(c), Haw. Rev. Stat., in order to provide emergency disaster relief, I hereby direct all County agencies and officers to cooperate with and extend their services, materials, and facilities as may be required to assist in all efforts to eliminate the danger.
This Proclamation of Emergency is effective August 8, 2023, and shall terminate on the first to occur of (1) sixty (60) days after the date of this Proclamation, or (2) issuance of a Declaration of Termination of Emergency issued by the undersigned, whichever occurs first. Pursuant to this Proclamation, I hereby exercise any and all powers listed in Haw. Rev. Stat. Chapter 127A.

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR., Mayor
County of Maui
August 8, 2023

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

VICTORIA J. TAKAYESU, Corporation Counsel
Department of the Corporation Counsel