



# Maui Wildfire Recovery

## Respect for Cultural Significance

October 19, 2023

*Maui gives so much to the world. As guests, we are honored to give our support back.*

*The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was tasked on August 11, 2023 by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to survey, remove, and dispose of hazardous material from properties affected by the wildfires in Lāhainā and Kula on Maui.*

EPA recognizes its work is happening in areas of deep cultural significance to the Native Hawaiians, residents of the State of Hawai'i and many others around the world.



*Photo of Maui community members and cultural monitors trained in hazardous material awareness and safety work.*

### Cultural monitors are on-site with EPA

- EPA has given health and safety training to Maui community members so they can serve as cultural monitors.
- The training will enable these monitors to be on-site as EPA removes hazardous material.
- Cultural monitors will assess the condition and location of culturally-sensitive areas and items, perform culturally-appropriate protocols, and provide guidance to EPA field operations.

(more information on back)

### Historical and cultural training for in-office and field teams

- EPA field and in-office teams have received training on local culture from Maui community educators.
- The training will help EPA staff understand Hawai'i's unique local culture, and the deep significance of the areas affected by the fires.
- Staff will use their training to ensure their work is done with reverence and respect towards all local cultures.

### Validating outreach messages with local leaders

- EPA's outreach approach has, and will continue to, be vetted with community leaders to ensure relevance with, and respect for, local Hawai'i culture and history.

For more info about EPA's work, contact us at:

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