

Quarterly Issues Programs List for Station KGU-FM 99.5
July 1 – September 30, 2023
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Section 1. Issues.

The station has identified the following as significant issues and concerns to our listeners and community during this quarter:

- 1. Maui Wildfires:** Provided coverage of the fires on Maui.
- 2. Increase in Crime:** Provided coverage of escalating crime in Hawaii.
- 3. Red Hill Fuel Spill:** How the spill has been affecting residents.
- 4. Skyline:** How the Honolulu Rail System is affecting O'ahu.
- 5. PSA:** Public Service Announcement.

Section II. Responsive Programs

This station broadcast programming dealing with the above-referenced issues as follows:

1. Maui Wildfires:

8/9/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) Much of the historic Lahaina Town on Maui is believed to have been destroyed by a massive wind-driven wildfire. Dozens of homes and businesses were burned on Tuesday. People were forced to jump into Lahaina Small Boat Harbor to avoid the fast-moving flames. The Coast Guard deployed a boat and helicopter to rescue several people from the harbor and Front Street Beach. A dozen people had been rescued from the waters as of late Tuesday night, but there are unconfirmed reports of the true number being closer to 100. Maui County is requesting the Hawaii National Guard to respond to the natural disaster, which may be the worst in Hawaii's history since Hurricane Iniki in 1992. There are no immediate reports of injuries.

Raging wildfires that ripped through Maui communities, destroying what's feared is hundreds of homes and businesses and triggering apocalyptic scenes as people fled into the water or drove by walls of fire to escape the flames, have left at least 20 people seriously injured, displaced thousands of residents and visitors, and brought the resources of the island's emergency response to a near breaking point as the flames continue to spread. It's like a war zone. The state plans to fly 4,000 tourists out of Maui on Wednesday to Oahu, multiple sources confirm to Hawaii News Now. They will be put up at the Hawaii Convention Center. Authorities said at least 2,000 people were waiting at Kahului's airport. Gov. Josh Green, who is off island on personal travel but returning, said fatalities are feared but not confirmed.

Six people have been confirmed killed in the raging wildfires that have decimated entire Maui communities, but authorities feared that number could rise as flames are slowly beaten down and emergency responders are able to move in. The fires are still active and out of control, which means a full picture of the devastation hasn't yet come into view. But officials say at least 20 people sustained serious injuries, thousands of people are displaced. Acting Gov. Sylvia Luke said it could take months to assess the full scope of the damage from the fires — and that recovery will take years.

8/10/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) Thirty-six people are confirmed dead after a wind-whipped wildfire tore through the historic town of Lahaina. The wildfire, one of several burning in Hawaii right now, is one of the deadliest disasters in the history of the state. A Maui County spokesperson says all of the deaths are in Lahaina. At least 271 structures in the town are damaged or destroyed. Dozens more people are injured, including several who are in critical condition with burns. Thousands of people are displaced, including visitors. People are

sleeping at shelters, in their cars and using the bathroom at a Walmart, which is open to evacuees. Firefighters are working to get the fire under control, while also searching for survivors.

President Biden is sending the military to help. The U.S. Coast Guard and Navy Third Fleets are supporting rescue efforts on the island. The Hawaiian National Guard has mobilized Chinook Helicopters to help with fire suppression and rescue and the Army has also supplied Black Hawk helicopters. The president sent his condolences to the families who have lost loved ones.

Honolulu is accepting hospital patients along with residents and visitors displaced by the deadly wildfires on Maui. As of late Wednesday, eight patients have been flown from Maui to Oahu, including three who are in critical condition. The Hawaii Convention Center in Honolulu is serving as an evacuation center. Shuttle buses are taking people from the airport to the convention center every 20 minutes.

Hawaiian Airlines is working to help evacuate people from the devastation on Maui. It is adding flights and offering 19-dollar fares for residents and visitors. It's also offering greater flexibility for those who need to change travel plans.

8/11/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) The number of people dead after a firestorm ravaged Lahaina is up to 55. Governor Josh Green says more than one-thousand buildings have been destroyed. He expects both totals to increase in the coming days. Green and Maui County Mayor Richard Bissen have both used the word "gone" when speaking about Lahaina. Green says this will likely go down as the worst natural disaster in Hawaii history. New estimates put the total burn zone in Lahaina town at about three miles.

The state of Hawaii is planning to turn to hotels to temporarily house the thousands of people displaced by this week's wind-driven wildfires. Hundreds of homes were destroyed in and near Lahaina. Governor Green is asking Maui residents not affected by the fires to consider opening up their homes to those in need.

Hawaii's Office of Consumer Protection is enacting a price freeze to prevent price-gouging in the wake of the deadly wildfires. Merchants are required to sell items at "pre-emergency prices" through August 31st. The price freeze covers goods and supplies considered essential in an emergency.

In a significant development, officials announced that families are being let back into Lahaina, although access to historic Lahaina town will remain restricted. Under the rules announced by the county:

Maui County is reporting 12 additional fatalities on Friday, bringing the death toll from the disaster to 67. All of the victims were in Lahaina. officials have warned that the death toll could continue to rise as recovery efforts continue and crews are able to make their way into the worst-hit areas. search-and-rescue teams are using cadaver dogs as

they comb through the ruins. Governor Josh Green says the fire has left thousands homeless and destroyed up to a thousand buildings.

8/14/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) The wildfire in Lahaina has killed at least 96 people, making it the deadliest wildfire in the U.S. in more than 100 years. State officials say about 27-hundred structures are destroyed, most of them homes. FEMA estimates the damage total at five-point-six-billion-dollars. All of these numbers are expected to rise. An estimated 45-hundred people are displaced. More than 14-hundred of them are staying in evacuation shelters.

Cadaver dogs and their handlers, many from the mainland, are searching Lahaina for the remains of more wildfire victims. They are sifting through the rubble in rows of destroyed homes and businesses. Bodies have also been found on roads and in vehicles, suggesting some people were killed while trying to flee the flames. As of yesterday, cadaver dogs had only searched three-percent of the hardest hit areas. Access to Lahaina Town is still off limits to the general public. Meanwhile, The wildfire that destroyed Lahaina is still burning. Yesterday, Maui County authorities reported the flames were 85-percent contained.

Powerlines operated and maintained by Hawaiian Electric may be the source of the deadly wildfire on Maui. Lawyers are sending experts to Lahaina to look for evidence of damaged power infrastructure that may have ignited the fire last Tuesday. Hawaiian Electric says it will investigate the cause when it's safe to do so. The utility is facing backlash for not cutting power during critical fire weather, including 80-mile-per-hour wind gusts. But, a spokesperson says Hawaiian Electric doesn't have a formal power shutoff program for fire risk.

Lahaina's water system failed during the critical early moments of the firefight last Tuesday. Firefighters stationed on a hillside about a mile above the center of town experienced water pressure issues. One Maui firefighter tells the New York Times the fire hydrants gave out a weak mist, then had no water. The lack of water allowed the flames to jump containment lines near a residential neighborhood and race toward the historic center of town. In recent days, crews have been going through the rubble and shutting off water valves, which has helped re-pressurize the system.

8/15/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) Hundreds of people remain unaccounted for as the wildfire death toll in Lahaina continues to rise. There are now 99 confirmed deaths in what is the deadliest American wildfire in more than a century. Maui County Police Chief John Pelletier says three-quarters of the hardest hit areas have not been searched yet. Three victims have been formally identified so far. The county is preparing to publicly release names. Twenty cadaver dogs are on the ground aiding in the search for additional remains.

Hawaii officials are working to transition wildfire survivors out of evacuation shelters and into temporary housing. Governor Josh Green says two-thousand housing units have been secured so far. That includes hotel rooms and vacation rentals. The state is pledging to provide housing for at least 36 weeks, or about eight months. FEMA says three-thousand people have registered for disaster assistance so far, which includes cash aid.

Hawaii officials are warning Maui's wildfire survivors to beware of predatory offers. Homeowners are being told to watch out for buyers trying to take advantage of the fear of foreclosure or the price of rebuilding, and trying to convince them to sell at below-market values. Any unsolicited communications about properties should be met with caution. If residents are contacted by someone they don't trust, they're urged to alert the state Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

Most public schools on Maui are welcoming students back tomorrow as part of the Department of Education's phased reopening. Every school except five will be back in session. Kekaulike High, Princess Nahienaena Elementary, Lahaina Intermediate and Lahainaluna High will stay closed until it's safe to send students back. However, the DOE said King Kamehameha The Third Elementary School was damaged beyond repair. Families are able to enroll their children at other schools in the meantime.

The county is starting to release the identities of those who lost their lives to the wildfires in Maui. Police Chief John Pelletire said so far three people that were killed in the flames have been formally identifies. Their families will be informed today. Meanwhile, people are continuing to file reports of missing loved ones into the Family Assistance center in Kahului. As of Monday the death toll from the fires has risen to 99.

8/16/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) The number of wildfire deaths confirmed in Lahaina is up to 106. The first two victims' names were released on Tuesday. They are Robert Dyckman, 74, of Lahaina and Buddy Jantoc, 79, also of Lahaina.

Remains are still being found following what is the deadliest wildfire in the U.S. in more than a century. Governor Josh Green confirms multiple children are among the dead. Specialized personnel armed with more than 20 cadaver dogs are searching the wreckage and in some cases finding the remains of entire families. About two-thirds of the hardest hit areas have not been searched yet.

President Biden and the first lady will travel to Maui on Monday to meet with wildfire victims. White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre made the announcement Wednesday. SHE SAID QUOTE, In Maui, the President and first lady will be welcomed by state and local leaders to see firsthand the impacts of the wildfires and the devastating loss of life and land that has occurred on the island, as well as discuss the next steps in the recovery effort”.

Hawaii Governor Josh Green calls the search for the remains of additional wildfire victims in Lahaina a race against time. Green says undiscovered remains, if not found in time, will be further degraded by rain and other weather conditions, making them more difficult to identify. Green says seven of the dead were apparently a family and were discovered in a single household. There is no indication that any tourists lost their lives. Green says his office has not been contacted by anyone looking for missing visitors to Lahaina.

The Maui County DMV will be reissuing driver's licenses for free. Any Maui resident whose license or state identification card was lost or destroyed in the wildfires is eligible for the service. The Lahaina satellite office will be open from nine a.m. to two p.m. today. Licenses and ID cards will be reprinted as they were before, with no changes allowed. The DMV office will not be offering any other transactions or services until office data and system infrastructure are restored.

At least 110 people are confirmed dead in what has become the deadliest wildfire in modern U.S. history. The devastating, wind-driven blaze tore through the town of Lahaina. Hawaii Governor Josh Green confirmed the new total in a news conference, adding that roughly two-thousand people are still without power. Officials said that 35 autopsies have been completed so far and seven people have been identified — five by fingerprints and two by DNA.

8/17/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) The death toll after the wildfire that ravaged Lahaina is up to 111. Three more victims were identified on Wednesday, taking the total to five. They were all Lahaina residents between the ages of 71 and 90. About 30 teams with cadaver dogs are still searching for additional remains in burned out homes, businesses, and cars. Nearly one-thousand people remain unaccounted for.

Maui County officials are defending their decision not to sound emergency sirens during the wildfire that decimated Lahaina. County Emergency Management Agency Director Herman Andaya says there were fears people would have run inland toward the flames. He says the sirens are primarily used for tsunamis and encourage people to move away from the shore. But, many residents disagree. One woman tells KHNL-TV the sirens would have at least alerted people that something was wrong, woken up those who were sleeping, or prompted them to look outside. The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency calls them all-hazard sirens, meaning they could have been used for wildfires.

Specialized recovery teams armed with cadaver dogs have searched about 40% of fire-ravaged Lahaina town for remains, Maui County said Thursday. The Lahaina wildfire death toll increased by five on Wednesday — to 111 — more than a week after flames ripped through the historic town. Meanwhile, Maui continued to slowly release the names of those who died. Three more victims, all elderly, were identified as more positive IDs were made.

Officials in Maui are explaining why sirens didn't go off during the wildfires that blazed through the island last week. Hawaii has what it stays are the largest system of outdoor sirens in the world that were installed after more than 150 died in a 1946 tsunami. Residents say those sirens should have gone off during the deadly fires because it would have helped some escape more quickly. But officials insisted in a news conference that alerts sent to cell phones, TVs and radios were more efficient. The administrator of the Maui Emergency Management Agency said in the conference that sirens would have only confused residents because they haven't typically been used for brushfires.

8/21/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) The death toll in Lahaina remains at 111, but hundreds of people are still unaccounted for. Ten victims have been publicly identified. Search and rescue crews have now searched 58-percent of the hardest hit area looking for remains. The devastating fire that ravaged Lahaina ten days ago is now 90-percent contained. Four wildfires are still burning on Maui, but none are considered a major threat to life and property as containment numbers increase.

Herman Andaya is resigning as director of the Maui County Emergency Management Agency. Andaya submitted his resignation Thursday, effective immediately, citing health reasons. The decision came a day after a news conference in which Andaya defended the choice not to sound warning sirens as the deadly wildfire ravaged Lahaina. He said the sirens would have drawn more people toward the flames. Maui County Mayor Richard Bissen says a replacement will be chosen soon.

Some 1,000 federal workers are now on the ground on Maui to assist with wildfire response, including a team of ATF agents who face the daunting task of determining a cause and origin of the deadliest U.S. wildfire in more than a century. The death toll remains at 111 but gov josh green says over 1000 people are still unaccounted for. recovery teams — armed with cadaver dogs — are continuing to search the ruins of Lahaina for remains.

Hawaii and Maui County leaders are blasting misinformation and conspiracy theories about the devastating wildfires. Several social media posts speculate the cause of the fires, and urge people not to trust federal emergency agencies. On Wednesday, Governor Josh Green shot back, saying don't rely on "influencers." He also called some people predators who want to spread negativity. There are posts saying lasers sparked the fires, claiming FEMA is confiscating shipping containers loaded with supplies for Maui, and claiming that people who apply for federal assistance could have their property confiscated. Government leaders say none of this is true.

People on the Hawaiian island of Maui are bracing for what could be a devastating death toll, as more than a thousand people are still missing. Search and rescue teams are digging through the ashes and rubble of what was the town of Lahaina. At least 111 people are confirmed dead and Hawaii Governor Josh Green has told CBS News, "Our

hearts will break beyond repair," if the 13-hundred people who are missing turn out to be dead. Officials say the full extent of devastation from the deadliest wildfire in modern U.S. history might not be known for a long time.

FEMA's first disaster recovery center is now open on Maui. The center will serve as a one-stop-shop for survivors of the wildfires to streamline their federal assistance. The organization continues to work with state, county and federal partners to aid active response efforts and to help survivors in Maui jumpstart their recovery. FEMA has already approved more than 16-hundred households for cash assistance.

8/22/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) President Biden is vowing to stand with Hawaii in the months and years that lie ahead after the wildfire that devastated Lahaina. Biden and First Lady Jill Biden toured the destruction on Monday. They were joined by federal officials and state leaders. Biden received an aerial tour, then met with first responders on the fire ravaged Front Street. He then traveled to the Lahaina Civic Center, where he delivered remarks and met with survivors and families who lost loved ones. Biden spent two hours personally greeting people.

It has been two weeks since the wildfire that nearly destroyed Lahaina. Officials confirm 115 deaths, but say about 850 people are still considered missing. As of Monday night, all destroyed single-story homes have been searched for remains. The effort is now shifting to multi-story structures. Maui County Mayor Richard Bissen says 27 victims have been identified, and eleven families have been notified of lost loved ones.

8/23/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) The number of people confirmed dead in Lahaina remains at 115, but the number of people considered missing is back to about eleven-hundred. That's according to the FBI's official list, which fell to about 850 people earlier this week. Maui County will soon release the names of missing people in hopes of finding them alive. On Tuesday, Mayor Richard Bissen explained the reasons for some of the confusion. Some of the unaccounted for residents are listed with first names only. Others have no identifying details, like gender or age. There is currently no projection on what the final death toll will be.

A makeshift memorial for Lahaina wildfire victims is growing. Community members have made wooden crosses that are hanging from a fence along Lahaina Bypass Road. On Tuesday, the crosses were painted, adorned with flowers, and hung on the fence. Right now, there are 115 crosses on the fence, one for each confirmed wildfire victim who lost their life.

Maui's unemployment figures continue to rise more than two weeks after the deadly wildfire in Lahaina. More than 81-hundred residents of the Valley Isle have filed for unemployment since August 8th. Before the fire, Maui was averaging only a few more

than 100 initial unemployment claims per week. Most of the job losses are related to the sudden drop in tourism, only comparable to the start of the pandemic. Tapani Vuori, general manager of the Maui Ocean Center, says hotels are starting to lay off employees or reduce hours, and several tour boats have shut down operations.

8/24/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) The official number of missing persons after the wildfire in Lahaina is at one-thousand-54. The death toll remains at 115. DNA from family members is being used to identify confirmed victims, six more of which were identified on Wednesday. Search and rescue teams with cadaver dogs began expanding their search to the remnants of multi-story buildings earlier this week. All single-story homes have been searched. Ninety-two-percent of the hardest hit area has now been searched, up from 85-percent a few days ago.

The effort to find the remains of wildfire victims is expanding to Lahaina Harbor. Dozens of people jumped into the ocean to flee the fast-moving flames on August 8th. Authorities believe multiple people died in the water, likely because of exhaustion and breathing in heavy smoke. Maui Fire Department and Ocean Safety crews conducted grid and dive searches in the harbor on Wednesday. Their total search area expands four miles. The U.S. Coast Guard confirms one body has been pulled from the water.

Maui County filed suit Thursday against Hawaiian Electric, alleging the utility caused the Lahaina wildfire and failed to take appropriate actions to maintain the grid. It's the latest suit against Hawaiian Electric. previously the utility had only faced litigation from residents for its actions before, during and after the blaze. the county said. "Maui County stands alongside the people and communities of Lahaina and Kula to recover public resource damages and rebuild after these devastating utility-caused fires,"

More than two-thousand children from Lahaina are still not enrolled in public schools. The figure represents about two thirds of the kids who once attended Lahaina's four public schools before the fire. The state is urging wildfire survivors to enroll their children in other Hawaii public schools or in the distance learning program. Only 538 Lahaina students have re-enrolled in other public schools, and another 438 have signed up for distance learning.

Some Central and South Maui schools are being set as temporary schools for Lahaina students who were impacted by the wildfire. The Department of Education says families who are still looking for in-person schooling options can temporarily relocate to other schools. As of Tuesday, over 600 displaced students have re-enrolled in other public schools with some nearing capacity.

8/25/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) There are 388 people on Maui County's official list of unaccounted-for Lahaina residents. Earlier this week, the number was at more than one-thousand. The list does not include identifying information, like ages and genders. The best outcome is that the missing

people are okay and just haven't checked in with emergency personnel. The fear is that they did not survive the August 8th wildfire. The official death toll remains at 115.

Maui County has publicly identified eight more Lahaina wildfire victims. One was a seven-year-old boy, the youngest among the victims identified so far. Thirty-six victims' names have now been released. Another eleven people have been identified, but their families have not yet been notified.

The U.S. Coast Guard's Pacific Strike Team says it has counted 49 sunken boats in Lahaina Harbor. Crews are now in the process of removing the fuel from the boats to keep it from leaking into the ocean.

Two Maui firefighters are speaking out about their efforts to save historic Lahaina Town. Captain Peter Gand and tanker driver Cody Cordeiro have 33 years of experience between them. They tell KHON-TV August 8th was the windiest day they've ever seen on the island. Gand says the fire was so intense it sounded like a jet engine. They also say they could barely stand up or see because of the force of the winds and the blowing embers. The firefighters say, after they ran out of water, they stopped trying to fight the fire and started trying to evacuate as many people as possible.

Initial tests are confirming some suspicions about contaminated water in the wildfire-ravaged parts of Maui. But, so far, the tests show just a trace amount of contaminants in Lahaina and Kula's water delivery systems. The amounts of chemicals detected are below federally set limits. Other volatile organic compounds that have been tested for are currently undetectable. Despite that, an ongoing unsafe water advisory will remain in place.

8/28/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) The death toll after the wildfire in Lahaina stands at 115. Three more victims' names were publicly released on Sunday. They include a 28-year-old father of two. hundreds of people remain missing or unaccounted for.

The Hawaiian Electric Company claims its powerlines did not start the Lahaina wildfire on August 8th. HECO admits its powerlines did start a fire that day, but in the morning. Officials say the fire that virtually destroyed the historic town was a different one that started in the afternoon, hours after the company de-energized its equipment. Maui County, which is suing HECO, says the afternoon fire was a flareup of the earlier fire.

Emergency management officials may be changing their approach to warning Maui residents about wildfires after what happened in Lahaina. Emergency sirens were sounded as a brush fire burned in Kaanapali on Saturday afternoon. The fire prompted evacuations. Affected residents also received text alerts telling them to evacuate. The fire burned seven acres of land and did not cause any damage to homes or injuries.

The Maui Emergency Management Agency has a new leader. Darryl Oliveira takes over as interim administrator. He was named to the position last Friday, in place of Herman

Andaya, who resigned from the job after the deadly wildfire in Lahaina. Andaya cited health reasons, but was facing major backlash for not sounding warning sirens as flames ravaged the town. Oliveira comes to Maui with a lot of experience. He was a Big Island firefighter for 31 years and spent nine of those years as chief. He also has three years of experience as head of Hawaii County Civil Defense.

Maui Police Chief John Pelletier is responding to criticism about barricades that were set up in Lahaina. Some reports say the barricades caused traffic congestion, trapping more people in the town as it burned on August 8th. Pelletier says there were barricades, but only in areas where there was already extreme danger. That includes downed power lines, which the chief says would have killed people if they drove over them, or fire that had already engulfed an area. Pelletier says Front Street was blocked off once it was on fire. But, no one was impeded from leaving the area, only from going into certain dangerous places.

8/29/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) All of the students of a Catholic school in Lahaina are alive and accounted for three weeks after the deadly fire. Sacred Hearts School burned down in the August 8th fire. Sacred Hearts Mission Church in Kapalua is now temporarily serving as the school campus. About half of the students returned on Monday. The others moved away from west Maui after they were displaced by the fire.

The search for human remains in Lahaina is now 99-percent complete. The waters and coastline still need to be fully searched. Divers from the Maui Fire Department, Navy and Coast Guard are searching the waters off Lahaina, including dozens of sunken boats. The death toll remains at 115 exactly three weeks after the fire, but hundreds are still considered missing. At last update, the total was at 388 missing people. FEMA search and rescue crews began demobilizing on Monday and are now handing all of the evidence they've gathered to the Maui Police Department and FBI.

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency is cancelling its siren and emergency alert system test for September. The test, scheduled for Friday morning, will not happen out of respect for Maui wildfire victims. The test would have happened within 15 minutes of a planned worldwide prayer and remembrance for those killed or missing in Lahaina. Emergency sirens did go off last Saturday, during a brush fire that prompted evacuations in Kaanapali. The next monthly siren and emergency alert system test will be on October 2nd.

More is being revealed about the Lahaina wildfires. Apparently it took hours for Maui County to tell key state leaders that people had died in the Lahaina wildfire disaster. And, it's still unclear who was in charge while the head of the Maui Emergency Management Agency was off the island. KHNL-TV confirms paramedics started picking up the first victims with fire-related injuries shortly after three p.m. on August 8th. Maui County did not notify state leaders about deaths until at least 12 hours later.

8/30/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) Lahaina is now 100-percent searched for human remains with the death toll still at 115. The next step is removing hazardous materials and debris from the fire-ravaged town, which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has already started doing. Once that is complete, survivors can return to their homes, or what is left of their homes. The EPA is also monitoring the air for fine particles of dust. It may mist an adhesive called 'soiltac' on ash to prevent it from blowing in the wind.

The Biden administration will provide 95-million dollars to improve Hawaii's electrical grid after Maui was devastated by wildfires. Officials say utility power lines sparked the fires, however, Hawaiian Electric said the incompetence of the fire department led to the disaster. The fires earlier this month killed more than 100 people on the island and forced thousands to evacuate.

Maui County Mayor Richard Bissen says he's still "not sure" who was running the Maui Emergency Management Agency on the day Lahaina burned. That's what Bissen said at a news conference on Tuesday, which marked three weeks since the fire that claimed at least 115 lives. Former Maui Emergency Management Administrator Herman Andaya was off the island at a FEMA conference in Waikiki at the time. Bissen says Andaya was in contact with his team, but he's not sure exactly how, whether it was by phone or something else. Bissen also declined to tell reporters where he was when multiple fires started on Maui.

Hawaiian Electric is continuing its investigation into the wildfires on Maui. The company claims the fire that broke out in Lahaina on August eighth doesn't appear to have been caused by downed power lines. HECO also addressed multiple lawsuits that have been filed against the company, calling them "irresponsible" and distracting "from the important work that needs to be done for the people of Lahaina and Maui."

8/31/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) Sixty percent of the displaced students in west Maui have yet to transfer to other public schools. As of Wednesday, the list was at one-thousand-757 out of about three-thousand students. The Department of Education says some may have transferred to private schools, moved out of state, or remain unaccounted for among the 388 people considered missing after the Lahaina wildfire. More than 730 displaced students have enrolled in other public schools in Hawaii, while nearly 480 others have enrolled in the state's distance learning program.

In another twist in the aftermath of the Lahaina wildfire disaster, we now know why Mayor Richard Bissen recused himself from Maui County's lawsuit against the Hawaiian Electric Company. His daughter, Sayble Bissen, is a HECO employee on Maui. And, Bissen's spokesperson, Mahina Martin, is also a former HECO employee, who worked for the utility on Maui for a decade.

HECO maintains that its powerlines did not start the deadly fire. Concerns are growing about the FEMA Disaster Relief Fund for Maui running dry. The fund is expected to take a large hit next month, when the fiscal year ends. On Wednesday, Hawaii Congresswoman Jill Tokuda said FEMA going unfunded "is absolutely not an option." Tokuda made the comment after touring the Lahaina devastation area with Democratic House Whip Katherine Clark.

Oprah Winfrey and Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson are announcing a new fund to help people affected by the Maui wildfires. The two celebrities have launched the People's Fund of Maui, which they say will give cash directly to those in impacted areas. They've kicked off the campaign by donating ten million dollars.

9/1/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) Maui County Mayor Richard Bissen admits he wasn't aware that anyone had died in the Lahaina wildfire until the following morning. Bissen made the revelation in a televised message to Maui residents on Thursday. Bissen says his administration's response to the disaster was quick, but acknowledges that it took several hours to realize the true scope of what happened. Some residents are calling on Bissen to resign in the wake of how he and his team handled the deadly wildfire.

Maui will now sound warning sirens in the event of wildfire threats and evacuations. Interim Maui Emergency Management Director Darryl Oliveira says the change is effective immediately. Oliveira also says the statewide protocols for activating sirens are being modified. The official process will be signed into action by Governor Josh Green.

An independent third-party investigation into the August 8th wildfires on Maui is expected to take a year to complete. Hawaii Attorney General Anne Lopez says professional fire investigators will look into the policies and performances of the state and Maui County. On Thursday, Lopez announced the nonprofit Fire Safety Research Institute will handle the investigation. The team of investigators includes former firefighters, inspectors, fire scientists and incident commanders.

Rental cars are piling up in a grassy field at the Kahului Airport. It's a sign of the major tourism decline Maui has seen since the deadly wildfire in Lahaina. Airport officials say the field housing the cars is usually empty, and rental cars haven't gone this unused since the height of the pandemic. The Hawaii Tourism Authority says Maui averaged less than 35-hundred visitors per day in August. That's half of the average from August of last year. Businesses are also struggling, with many now forced to start layoffs.

9/5/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) An independent third-party investigation into the cause of the deadly Lahaina wildfire and the response by authorities has been going on for two weeks. The state Attorney General's Office has hired the nationally-recognized Fire Safety Research Institute out of Maryland. A team has been on the ground, interviewing survivors, first responders and local officials, as well as surveying damage. The goal of the investigation is to

identify the cause of the fire, government missteps, and whether there was any criminal wrongdoing the state should look further into.

Oprah Winfrey and Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson are catching a lot of heat after posting a video asking for donations to help the victims of the Maui wildfires. The video, posted to each of the duo's Instagram accounts, asks viewers to donate to a relief fund that they just launched with 10 million dollars of their own. But for the tens of thousands of viewers who commented and shared the video, that wasn't enough. A majority of the comments said Winfrey and Johnson can afford to donate more and they should be asking their millionaire friends, not common people, to donate. Winfrey is reported to be worth two-point-five billion dollars and owns about a dozen Hawaiian properties. Johnson is worth about 270 million dollars.

The Maui Police Department is encouraging people to file missing persons reports if they're still trying to contact a loved one after the August 8th wildfires. As of Monday, 110 missing persons reports have been filed. Forty-one cases are being actively investigated and are considered open. Governor Josh Green says 325 people are considered missing. That's down from the total of 385 people announced last Friday.

9/6/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) Survivors of the Lahaina wildfire could soon be allowed to return to their properties. Maui County Mayor Richard Bissen says the final details of a plan are being worked out. Bissen says people will be allowed to return to their homes and businesses and take anything that's salvageable. After that, the debris cleanup process will begin.

The family of a woman who died in the Lahaina wildfire is suing the state of Hawaii and Maui County. The lawsuit, filed , also names Hawaiian Electric and one of the state's largest landowners, Kamehameha Schools. The woman died while fleeing her home shortly after it was destroyed. The family says each of the entities failed to look after their fire-prone properties and take early precautions against known fire risks. The state, Maui County, and Kamehameha Schools are accused of negligence for not managing the dry vegetation that surrounded Lahaina. The lawsuit goes on to blame Hawaiian Electric for not de-energizing its powerlines before it was too late.

The fields surrounding the Kahului Airport are cluttered with an estimated 18-thousand rental cars. Most of the cars were in use before the Lahaina wildfire disaster. But, tourism has taken a steep decline in the past few weeks. Maui airport district officials say some of the cars will soon be shipped off the island. Rental car companies say they need to start reducing inventory on Maui. About three-thousand cars are currently being rented to people visiting Maui.

9/7/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) A federal official is promising to make sure displaced Lahaina residents aren't muscled off their land by real estate developers. Adrienne Todman, deputy secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, is visiting Maui this week. She's

pledging to make sure Lahaina residents "hold onto their land." Todman is planning to meet with Governor Josh Green and survivors who have lost their homes. She has already met with Mayor Richard Bissen. Todman also says the HUD and FEMA are working to prevent people from being put into a position where they are forced to sell their land.

The projected hit to Hawaii's economy after the Maui wildfires is one-point-nine-billion dollars through next year. That's according to the latest report from the state Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism. Hawaii is expected to lose 600-million dollars in previously expected growth this year alone. That number might nearly double next year. The previous statewide economic growth expectation for this year was one-point-eight-percent. The DBEDT has revised the figure to one-point-one-percent.

Displaced Lahainaluna High School students will begin classes at a temporary new campus in one week. They will begin attending Kulanihako'i High School in Kihei next Thursday. Lahainaluna High School survived the August 8th fire, but won't be ready to reopen for at least another month. Officials are testing air, water and soil quality and inspecting the campus.

9/8/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) The state Department of Education will not release the number of students killed or considered missing after the Lahaina wildfire. The DOE says the number is so small, that doing so would violate the privacy of the students and their families. The DOE is still trying to get in contact with more than 500 families in its system after the fire, which happened one month ago today.

Governor Josh Green is scheduled to provide an update on the Lahaina wildfire today at noon. The fire, the deadliest in the U.S. in more than a century, happened one month ago today. Green, who traveled to Maui on Thursday, says he will update the numbers of the missing and dead, and those currently sheltered in short and long-term housing. At current count, at least 115 people have died and 385 remain missing.

West Maui may reopen to tourists in one month. Governor Josh Green has made a tentative decision to reopen the region to tourists on October 8th, in an effort to keep Maui's struggling economy afloat. Green attended the state Council on Revenues on Thursday, where he also announced a plan to direct 100-million-dollars in federal funding to families directly affected by the Lahaina wildfire. People who are at least 18-years-old will receive 12-hundred-dollars each.

Sixty-six people are still missing in Lahaina after a wildfire devastated the Western parts of Maui. Governor Josh Green made the announcement on Friday afternoon, one month after the fire initially broke out. Teams of rescuers, cadaver dogs, and anthropologists trained to detect fragments of human remains have searched nearly all of Lahaina. The official death toll has stood at 115 for more than two weeks.

9/11/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) Two more people who lost their lives in the Lahaina wildfire have been identified, taking the total to 57 of the 115 confirmed dead. The victims identified Sunday were a 75-year-old man and 56-year-old woman, both Lahaina residents. Five other victims have been identified, but their names will not be released until their families are notified.

Public health officials are warning Lahaina survivors to use extreme caution once they are allowed to return to what's left of their properties. Doctor Diana Felton, state toxicologist for the Department of Health, is reminding people who want to go look for sentimental items in the rubble of the presence of toxic waste. Contaminants in the debris and ash may include asbestos, lead, and arsenic. Many of those hazardous materials may be present, since many of the buildings that were destroyed were built before 1970.

More than 494-million-dollars in relief funding has been donated or pledged to Maui since the August 8th wildfires. That includes government assistance, private donations and nonprofit efforts. The Civil Beat reports federal and state government agencies have committed 194-million-dollars, while the other 300-million-dollars has come from groups outside of government. The total includes a recently announced additional 95-million-dollars in funding from FEMA. It will be used on temporary housing, services and meals for residents who lost their homes.

9/12/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) Three more people who lost their lives in the Lahaina wildfire have been publicly identified. They were a 58-year-old woman, 63-year-old man and 75-year-old man, all Lahaina residents. Sixty-one of the 115 people confirmed dead have been publicly identified. Names are not released until families are notified.

China is allegedly behind a social media disinformation campaign about the cause of the deadly Lahaina [[lah-HYE-nah]] wildfire. That's according to a report from the New York Times on Monday. One of the false claims that's been circulating is that the government was secretly testing a "weather weapon" on Lahaina. The same conspiracy theory circulated after Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and other major weather-related natural disasters. Hawaii Congresswoman Jill Tokuda has condemned China, saying it is "weaponizing loss of life and tragedy for strategic or political gain."

9/13/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) The final death toll from the August 8th wildfire in Lahaina will likely be smaller than once feared. On Tuesday, the Maui Police Department announced the number of people considered unaccounted for is down to 41. Last Friday, the FBI's official list decreased from more than 300 to 66 names. The death toll remains at 115.

Water quality is starting to improve in one of the areas affected by the wildfires on Maui. The Department of Water Supply updated its Unsafe Water Advisory on Tuesday. Zone One, a large section of Upper Kula, is now removed from the affected area. The water is now considered safe to drink and all restrictions have been lifted. However, the other four zones in Upper Kula still have unsafe water. The precautionary Unsafe Water Advisory has been in place since August 11th.

The number of Lahaina [[lah-HYE-nah]] wildfire victims identified to the public is up to 61. One more name was added to the list on Tuesday. The 85-year-old man was a Lahaina resident. Maui police say seven more people have been identified, but their names will not be released until their families are notified. More than two-thirds of the people identified so far were aged 65 or older. There are 115 confirmed deaths.

9/14/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) A

shareholder is suing the Hawaiian Electric Company and its board of directors. The person says the board's negligence contributed to the deadly wildfire in Lahaina. Several current and former board members are named in the lawsuit, including Scott Seu, the president and CEO of HECO's parent company, Hawaiian Electric Industries. The shareholder claims the board prioritized profits over safety and refused to make urgent repairs to electrical infrastructure before it was too late.

Some first responders who were on the front lines of the Lahaina wildfire are still dealing with breathing issues after more than a month. There are also reports of people coughing up soot. Tina Braddock, who provides hyperbaric oxygen therapy on Oahu, is now offering free services to first responders on Maui at three different locations. People will go into a pressurized environment and breathe oxygen for a long period of time as a form of therapy for their lungs.

Two more of the 115 people confirmed dead in the Lahaina wildfire have been publicly identified. Both Lahaina residents, a 14-year-old boy and a 79-year-old man, were identified on Wednesday. The boy's family had identified him among the dead several weeks ago. He was a day away from starting his junior year at Lahainaluna High School.

Two key businesses in Lahaina are back open for the first time since the deadly fire on August 8th. A Longs Drugs and a Safeway reopened on Wednesday. They are the anchor tenants of the Lahaina Cannery Mall.

9/15/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) Residents will be allowed to return to Lahaina to see the remnants of their properties beginning September 25th. Authorities will be escorting residents and business owners through fire-ravaged areas. The Maui Emergency Management Agency says people will be provided with respirators and special suits because of the risk of exposure to toxic ash and other hazardous materials like lead and asbestos. Residents will also be instructed

on how to properly sift through debris while limiting their exposure to toxic ash. The August 8th wildfire displaced more than seven-thousand people.

Governor Josh Green is assuring displaced west Maui residents that they won't be left without housing once tourists return. Most of west Maui, except for Lahaina, is scheduled to reopen on October 8th. Green says displaced people are being moved into longer-term housing, like Airbnb's. Green adds that the number of hotels sheltering people will be consolidated. The governor says the goal is to get people to 18 months of housing and make sure no one who lost their home is left without a roof over their head.

What's expected to be a multi-year process to rebuild and restore Lahaina Harbor starts today. A Coast Guard contractor is expected to begin staging equipment today. It will start with salvaging and debris clearing operations. The Department of Land and Natural Resources may also dredge the harbor. Rebuilding the infrastructure will take an estimated two years. Nearly 100 boats anchored in Lahaina Harbor were damaged or destroyed by the wildfire. Some commercial boat operators say they're in need of a boat ramp quickly before tourism in west Maui resumes on October 8th.

Officials with the American Lung Association are questioning the Hawaii Department of Health's messaging about the air quality in Lahaina. There are concerns that the DOH isn't doing enough to warn people of the dangers of breathing in toxic air. There are ongoing fears of carcinogens like asbestos remaining in the air and ground in Lahaina.

9/18/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) Lahaina's iconic 150-year-old banyan tree is starting to clearly grow back after surviving the devastating wildfire. It is now sprouting groups of green leaves, which arborists say is a sign of long-term recovery. There are also calls from the community to restore other trees and crops that were damaged or destroyed in the August 8th fire.

Two more of the 97 people confirmed dead after the Lahaina [[lah-HYE-nah]] wildfire have been identified. They were a 75-year-old woman and 65-year-old man, both Lahaina residents. Sixty-nine victims have been publicly identified. Eight more names are known to authorities, but they won't be released until the victims' families are notified. The death toll dropped from 115 to 97 on Friday. Authorities say forensic tests recognized duplicates in a catalog of remains.

Governor Josh Green is in New York representing Hawaii at the United Nations summit. During the weekend, Green addressed world leaders, discussing climate change and the Maui wildfires. Green noted how Hawaii experienced a total of six fire disasters between 1953 and 2003, and then six total fire disasters last month alone. He also promoted the role of local government in sustainable development.

Thousands of people believe the state's planned date of October 8th is too soon to reopen west Maui to tourists. A petition urging the state to cancel that plan has received 36-hundred signatures as of late Sunday, all signed within less than 24 hours. The plan

is to reopen the area from Kaanapali to Kapalua in less than three weeks. Lahaina will remain closed to visitors. Governor Josh Green's office says, come October 8th, no one who qualified for housing assistance will be booted out of hotels.

9/19/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) Hawaii House Speaker Scott Saiki wants the state to crack down on fundraising scams connected with the Maui wildfires. On Monday, Saiki sent a letter to Governor Josh Green, urging him to issue an emergency proclamation banning and criminalizing fraudulent fundraising. Saiki is also asking state Attorney General Anne Lopez to begin an auditing process to make sure money raised for wildfire victims actually gets to them. In a recent interview, Saiki said he has heard anecdotes about some organizations having questionable fundraising activities.

The state Department of Education is still trying to get in contact with 191 students since the wildfires in west Maui. The DOE has made contact with 94-percent of the three-thousand students who were pre-registered for school in Lahaina this year. Among them, 957 students have transferred to another school within the DOE, 958 have applied for distance learning, and 267 have transferred to a public charter school or private school

FEMA is holding job fairs in Lahaina on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. People who are hired will go to work meeting the needs of the Lahaina community. FEMA says several positions are in high demand and need to be filled immediately.

9/20/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) Two more survivors of the Maui wildfires are suing the Hawaiian Electric Company for negligence. One man lost his home and all the products for his business. He says Hawaiian Electric failed to prevent the wildfires on August 8th from starting. He also says a HECO crew in Lahaina slowed down multiple people who were trying to flee the town as it burned. Another lawsuit filed Tuesday blames HECO for a man's death. The man and his partner were found dead. Her family has also filed a wrongful death suit. The utility is now facing at least eight lawsuits in connection with the historic fires. Seventy-six of the 97 people confirmed dead in the Lahaina wildfire have been identified to the public. The name of a 79-year-old man, a Lahaina resident, was released on Tuesday. Four other people have been identified through DNA, but their families have not yet been notified.

More than six weeks after the deadly wildfire on Maui, there are still discrepancies between the official narrative and eyewitness accounts. Some people say their vehicles were directed away from escape routes because of downed powerlines. But, Hawaiian Electric has maintained that its lines were de-energized more than six hours before the fire started THAT quickly spread through Lahaina. The utility adds that it wasn't aware of any of its vehicles or crews blocking roads or evacuation routes. Maui Police Chief John

Pelletier says his officers tried to keep people away from downed powerlines because they believed the lines were still electrified.

9/21/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) Some Lahaina residents will be allowed to return to their properties early next week. It will be the first time residents are let back in since the devastating wildfire on August 8th. On Monday and Tuesday, disaster restrictions will be lifted for owners and residents with vehicle passes in Zone 1C. The restrictions will be lifted between eight a.m. and four p.m. on each day. Reentry vehicle passes will be distributed beginning tomorrow.

Hawaiian Electric Industries is hiring a utility bankruptcy expert as its CFO. HEI is planning to pay investment banker Scott DeGhetto more than one-point-five-million-dollars for 15 months of work. He will begin working on October 1st, for a company facing legal, financial and political pressures following the deadly wildfires on Maui. DeGhetto has experience in mergers, restructuring and bankruptcy.

Lahaina residents are being urged to wear proper personal protective equipment when visiting their properties. The first escorted visits will begin early next week. Experts say people are facing serious health risks due to toxic chemicals in the burn zone that they may breathe in or touch. The ash people will be sifting through to find valuables is carcinogenic. And, some toxins could be present as far as three inches down into the soil and dirt.

The Maui Police Commission has been briefed on the devastating wildfires for the first time. Maui Police Chief John Pelletier appeared before the commission on Wednesday. He says dispatchers on the island took more than 45-hundred calls on August 8th, as several fires burned. That's nearly triple the amount of calls they take on a normal day. Pelletier also says there is a good chance that all of the wildfire victims who lost their lives in Lahaina, which stand at 97, will be identified. He says that is extremely rare in mass disasters.

9/22/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) Crews with the EPA are about halfway done clearing toxic materials out of Lahaina. That's according to Governor Josh Green, who gave an update on wildfire recovery efforts on Thursday. Ninety-seven people are confirmed dead, with 80 now officially identified. Green also says the state will soon release details about the planned reconstruction of King Kamehameha the Third Elementary School, which was destroyed in the fire. Governor Josh Green is trying to calm fears about the planned reopening of west Maui to visitors on October 8th. On Thursday, Green said the eight-thousand fire evacuees staying in temporary housing, like hotels, won't be displaced. But, earlier this week, some people staying at hotels received letters from hotel management warning them they'd have to relocate by the end of the month. The American Red Cross also says some people may need to move to different hotels. Green however, says he doesn't

think anyone will be forced to move. FEMA is offering evacuees 18 more months of housing assistance.

The first passes for residents and property owners to re-enter the Lahaina disaster zone are now available. The first escorted visits to allow residents a chance to view the destruction first-hand begin Monday. Zone-One-C is the first area and includes 36 street addresses. People with verified ties with the zone are now eligible for vehicle passes. The Maui Emergency Management Agency says the visits will allow residents to collect information and take photographs for insurance purposes, and perhaps find closure.

9/26/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) A price freeze for essential goods and services on Maui is still in place, but less items are now on the list. The state Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs updated its price freeze policy on Monday. Food, water, ice, essential childcare products, over-the-counter medicine and hygiene products remain on the list of items in which retailers are not allowed to change prices for. The price freeze was first issued on August 9th, a day after the deadly fires, to prevent price gouging during an emergency period. It will remain in place until at least November 6th.

Lahaina residents are returning to see what's left of their properties for the first time since the deadly fire on August 8th. Escorted visits into the burn zone began Monday, in an area designated Zone 1C. About a dozen homes were destroyed in that area. One family tells KHON-TV they found a few mementos in the rubble, including jewelry, plates and rare coins. Visits to the zone continue today.

Authorities are confirming the identity of another person who died in the Lahaina wildfire. The 83-year-old man, identified Monday, was a Lahaina resident. The death toll remains at 97, with 83 names released to the public. Another six people have been positively identified, but their names will not be released until authorities first notify their families.

9/27/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) Nearly all of the people confirmed dead in the Lahaina wildfire have now been publicly identified. Six more names were released on Tuesday, taking the total to 89 out of the 97 confirmed deaths. The people most recently identified were all Lahaina residents between the ages of 30 and 64. Authorities say one more person has been positively identified, but their family has not yet been contacted.

The state of Hawaii and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are planning to build a temporary replacement for an elementary school destroyed by the wildfire in Lahaina. The plan calls for opening the new King Kamehameha the Third Elementary School site by January. The five-million-dollar temporary school will be built on eight acres of land in the planned community of Pulelehua. It's next to the planned location of a future

permanent school. The three other schools in Lahaina, which were not damaged by flames, are expected to reopen during the week of October 16th.

9/28/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) The reopening of tourism in West Maui will happen in phases. Maui County Mayor Richard Bissen announced the staggered reopening plan on Wednesday. It will begin on October 8th, with the northernmost resort area of Kapalua. The staggered approach was developed by county leaders and the Lahaina Advisory Team. Bissen says it will account for the housing needs of the nearly eight-thousand survivors displaced by the August 8th wildfire. Many of them are temporarily living in places usually occupied by tourists, including hotels and short-term rental units.

Another business zone in the Lahaina disaster area is back open. On Wednesday, Maui County lifted Disaster Area Restrictions for Zone 5A. That is the Old Lahaina Luau Anchored Parcel on historic Front Street. The luau was impacted by the August 8th fire, but the company says the damage it sustained was minor compared to other parts of Lahaina. Five business zones have now been reopened for public access.

Hawaii emergency officials are allowed to activate sirens to warn people in the event of a wildfire. The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency clarified that fact on Wednesday, following a review of outdoor warning siren protocols. Like a tsunami or earthquake, fire is considered an official hazard that can prompt siren activation. The agency says its statewide network of sirens is an all-hazard system that tells people to "seek more information" when sounded. Maui emergency management officials' decision not to sound sirens during the wildfire that destroyed Lahaina has been heavily criticized since the August 8th disaster.

West Maui residents are demanding the rebuilding of Lahaina focus on residents, not tourists. Hundreds of people packed Wednesday's Maui County Council meeting at a hotel in Kaanapali. They advocated for fewer hotels, more healthy streams to support traditional agriculture, more open spaces, and safer roads. There were also calls for eliminating all short-term rentals, and for more regulations to prevent people from out of state from buying up land.

9/29/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) Tourism-related numbers have significantly dropped in the aftermath of the Maui wildfires. A new round of data was released by the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism on Thursday. In August, visitor arrivals on Maui fell by 58-percent, and visitor spending fell by 49-percent. A few more than 112-thousand people visited Maui in August, the lowest total since February of 2021. And, visitors spent less than 247-million-dollars on Maui last month, the lowest total since March of 2021.

A temporary shelter is being put in place in Maui for those who were experiencing homelessness before the Lahaina fires last month. Governor Green said he wants to ensure every wildfire survivor has access to resources and healthcare. The shelter,

called "Puuhonua o Nene," will be able to house about 150 people. They'll have access to showers, medical care, bathrooms, and case managers.

2. Increase in Crime:

7/6/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) The Honolulu Police Commission is demanding answers after a suspect got a hold of an unattended police rifle in Pearl City. The suspect was shot to death by HPD officers while holding the rifle last month. Chief Joe Logan was grilled by commissioners on Wednesday. He says the investigation could take 60 to 90 days. He also confirms that the officer who left the rifle unattended is back on the job. The HPD is conducting criminal and administrative investigations. The Honolulu Prosecutor's Office is also planning to conduct an independent review.

A 17-year-old girl who was shot in the head in Maili is now out of intensive care. She will be moved to a rehab facility today. Family members say the girl, who was shot on June 17th, is still in a coma, but they are now able to communicate with her. Doctors initially gave her no more than three days to live. The person who shot her is still on the loose.

A viral video shows thieves robbing the Iwilei Home Depot while employees stood and watched. The video, taken Tuesday, shows two masked men cut a lock off a security cage and fill carts with thousands of dollars worth of Milwaukee brand power tools. They then walk out the front door, uninterrupted. The Honolulu Police Department says it's surprised the Home Depot didn't immediately file a police report. Both suspects are still on the loose and one is believed to be a repeat offender.

7/11/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) Three people have pleaded not guilty to federal charges in connection with a deadly drug overdose in Waikiki. They are accused of providing the fentanyl that left two people dead at a hotel in early June. On Monday, the alleged suppliers pleaded not guilty, along with a man accused of being the middleman in the drug operation. Another man has been indicted on suspicion of receiving fentanyl from the third suspect. The fourth suspect is due in court today.

Honolulu is trying a new strategy to cut down on crime in Waikiki. The city has hired private security guards to patrol Hawaii's top tourist destination at night. The new effort started last month and is designed to fill gaps on-duty Honolulu police officers can't cover. But, all of the security guards are off-duty HPD officers earning extra pay. They all wear black shirts that say ML SECURITY on the front and SECURITY on the back. They are not allowed to carry their police gear, including handcuffs and guns. They must call on-duty officers if a more serious response is needed.

7/20/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) The two former Honolulu police officers sentenced for their roles in the Kealoha scandal are almost out of custody. Derek Hahn and Bobby Nguyen are now staying at a halfway house in Sacramento. They were found guilty on federal conspiracy charges in 2019. Hahn was sentenced to three and a half years in prison and served his time in Sheridan, Oregon. Nguyen got four and a half years and served his sentence in South Dakota. Hahn will be free later this month, while Nguyen is scheduled to be released from custody in April.

7/21/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) The suspect in a fatal shooting at a bar this week is being charged with second-degree murder. The incident occurred overnight on Wednesday. Witnesses say the Myron Takushi and victim got into an argument outside the bar, which escalated to Takushi shooting him several times. His bail has been set at one-million-dollars and he remains in police custody.

A former University of Hawaii football star has been sentenced to more than seven years in prison on federal drug charges. On Thursday, Blaze Soares was ordered to serve 87 months in prison, five years of supervised release, and pay a fine of ten-thousand-dollars. Soares, who is from Ewa Beach, was convicted of distributing methamphetamine between 2013 and 2016. In 2009, during his senior season, Soares earned all-conference honors for the Western Athletic Conference.

7/24/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) The armed suspect who had an hours-long standoff with police in Kapahulu has been charged. Police say Sheldon Young allegedly threatened to shoot a 69-year-old woman in a Kapahulu apartment then barricaded himself on the fifth floor of the building. Officials say the incident caused an evacuation of the building and several road closures. Young surrendered to police after eight hours.

7/25/23– Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) Another associate of alleged Oahu crime boss Michael Miske is pleading guilty to federal charges. The 44-year-old man pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit kidnapping on Monday. The man admitted to setting up the kidnapping and assault of an accountant who owed his friend's father 900-thousand-dollars. Sentencing is scheduled for August 15th. But, the man is not done with federal investigators. As part of the plea deal, he is also agreeing to fully cooperate with investigators. He must make himself available to speak with law enforcement officials at any time.

7/31/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) Honolulu police are still searching for two men and a woman wanted in connection with a violent attack in Chinatown. The attack happened Friday, inside a restroom at Aala Park. A 36-year-old man was punched, pepper-sprayed, hit in the head with a skateboard, then robbed, all in broad daylight. The man is expected to recover.

8/1/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) A family visiting from Georgia claims they were the victims of a racially-motivated attack on the Big Island. A man says, on Sunday, a group of men assaulted his 19-year-old son outside of a hotel in Kailua-Kona. They took his shirt, shoes, phone and wallet. He then went outside to confront them, but he too was severely beaten by eight to ten men. The man says the group was taunting he and his son for being white during the attack. Photos show the father with a gash on the top of his head and cuts on his knees.

Jurors have found Hailey Dandurand guilty of murder, kidnapping and burglary in the grisly 2017 murder of Telma Boinville on Oahu's North Shore. Dandurand is the second person to be convicted in the murder. Jurors started deliberations in the case Friday afternoon. Their first full day of deliberations was Monday, and they informed the court of their unanimous decision about 10:40 a.m. Boinville was brutally murdered at a Pupukea vacation home in 2017. Prosecutors said Dandurand was an accomplice to her then-boyfriend Stephen Brown, who's already been convicted in the murder. The defense argued Dandurand was abused by Brown and was pressured by him to participate.

9/5/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) There is a report of another murder at Oahu Community Correctional Center. KHNL-TV says a 23-year-old inmate was severely beaten in his cell in January of 2022. The man, who was awaiting trial, fell into a coma and never woke up. Authorities say he was sharing a cell with just one other inmate. The man was behind bars after his probation was revoked. He was initially accused of trying to break into a home in 2018.

9/8/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) The recent fire at the Stadium Bowl-O-Drome in Hawaii was set intentionally. That's according to the Honolulu Fire Department who on Friday announced the fire was set in a storage room at the back of the building. The Bowl-O-Drome has been vacant since 2004 and is slated to be redeveloped into affordable rental housing. Monday's fire caused roughly seven-thousand-dollars in damages.

9/14/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) The Honolulu Police Department has announced a so-called major drop in violent crime, but has provided no data to back it up. In the past month, Oahu has had several well publicized violent crimes, including four murders, robberies and assaults, and a home invasion. HPD Chief Joe Logan recently told the Honolulu Police Commission that

violent crime is down between 14 and 40-percent in seven different categories. But, he didn't specify which categories.

9/18/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) A wanted murder suspect is in custody after a nearly two-week-long manhunt on Kauai. Officers spotted suspect Chris Santos driving in the area of Kekaha Beach Park late last night. The KPD Chief of Police says they tried to get Santos to peacefully surrender, but "his actions during contact with law enforcement officers" prompted an officer-involved shooting. Santos is now being treated at Wilcox Hospital. There's no word on his condition. No officers were hurt in the shooting.

9/19/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) Hawaii House Speaker Scott Saiki wants the state to crack down on fundraising scams connected with the Maui wildfires. On Monday, Saiki sent a letter to Governor Josh Green, urging him to issue an emergency proclamation banning and criminalizing fraudulent fundraising. Saiki is also asking state Attorney General Anne Lopez to begin an auditing process to make sure money raised for wildfire victims actually gets to them. In a recent interview, Saiki said he has heard anecdotes about some organizations having questionable fundraising activities.

Wanted murder suspect Chris Santos remains in custody in a hospital on Kauai. The man was shot by police late Sunday night, during a confrontation near Kekaha Beach Park. Kauai Police Chief Todd Raybuck says Santos was spotted driving a vehicle, and refused to surrender peacefully. Santos is accused of shooting a man to death on September 7th and had been wanted since September 8th.

9/21/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) Honolulu will close Moiliili Neighborhood Park for about one month for maintenance. The Parks and Recreation Department is planning to fix irrigation issues, aerate the fields, and more at the nearly three-and-a-half-acre park. The park's comfort station, a longtime haven for the homeless, will also be addressed. Crews will remove graffiti and fix broken fixtures inside the restrooms. Moiliili Neighborhood Park is scheduled to be closed from October 2nd to 31

9/26/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) An 18-year-old man is behind bars in connection with a shooting that left two people dead and two others wounded at the Waianae Boat Harbor. The man was arrested Monday, two days after the shooting. Police say the suspect was also injured in the incident, but it's unclear how. He was taken to a hospital in stable condition. One of the surviving victims, a 21-year-old woman, is in critical condition.

Honolulu officials now have a better eye on Chinatown. Mayor Rick Blangiardi's office says the first phase of security camera upgrades in Chinatown is finished. Seven surveillance cameras are now monitoring intersections in areas with the highest crime rates in Chinatown. The next set of cameras is scheduled to be installed later this year. The city is planning to have 52 security cameras over every major intersection in Chinatown by the end of 2024. They will be monitored by the Honolulu Police Department.

9/27/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) One of the two people killed in last weekend's shooting at the Waianae Boat Harbor is now identified as a suspect. Honolulu police say the 19-year-old man shot at two people before he was shot to death early Saturday. A second, surviving suspect, an 18-year-old man, was arrested. Two people were killed and two others were wounded. One of the surviving victims, a 21-year-old woman, remains in critical condition.

9/29/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) A man who police say caused an hours-long lockdown of Schofield Barracks is behind bars. The man, who police believe was armed, was arrested on Molokai on Thursday night. A lockdown and shelter in place order lasted about two and a half hours. The man was wanted in connection with an alleged assault at Schofield Barracks, and was believed to have fled in a Toyota Prius. Military and Honolulu police swept Schofield Barracks looking for the man.

A 16-year-old boy arrested in connection with a deadly shooting at a cockfight in Maili will be charged as an adult. The shooting in April left two people dead and three others wounded. The teen was booked and processed as an adult on Thursday. He has been charged with first-degree murder, second-degree murder, three counts of second-degree attempted murder, and five gun-related counts. He is being held on two-million-dollars bail.

3. Red Hill Spill:

7/11/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) The Navy will allow the Honolulu Board of Water supply to test the water in its Red Hill Shaft. The Navy initially denied the request a month ago. The BWS wants to find out more about the status of the contamination plume from the 2021 Red Hill fuel spills that sickened thousands of people. Part of the test will determine how the Navy's filtration system is working. The BWS is also concerned about the state Department of Health's exposure

report that mentioned additives like a de-icing agent being found in the drinking water. BWS Manager and Chief Engineer Ernie Lau says water samples could be taken from the Red Hill Shaft early next month.

7/12/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) The Navy is giving a Red Hill contract to a Hawaii-based company whose offices were recently raided by federal agents. On Tuesday, the Navy announced the no-bid contract has gone to Dawson, a major federal government and defense contractor. Dawson will manage maintenance and repairs for the firefighting system at the Red Hill fuel storage facility. The contract previously belonged to Kinetix, which the military blamed for last November's 13-hundred-gallon toxic firefighting foam spill. A military investigation says the company botched its installation of a valve, then failed to turn off pumps, causing chemicals to leak. Meanwhile, details of the federal investigation involving Dawson haven't been announced.

9/13/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) Supporters of the plan to defuel the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility may have just scored a big win. On Tuesday, the Pentagon officially told Congress that removing fuel from the World War Two-era facility won't hurt military readiness or operations in the Pacific region. The military is planning to drain 104-million gallons of jet fuel from the underground facility, then ultimately shut Red Hill down forever.

4. Skyline:

7/5/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) People will now be charged to use Honolulu's Skyline. The rail system opened Friday with free rides through yesterday. Customers will need a HOLO card to board. There are wider gates for wheelchairs, strollers, luggage and bikes. This is the first phase of the project. It took 12 years to build and runs eleven-miles, serving nine stations between East Kapolei and Aloha Stadium. Two more phases are planned to extend the line.

7/6/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) Honolulu's new rail line saw an estimated 71-thousand passengers during its first five days in operation. All Skyline rides between Friday and Tuesday were free. Wednesday was the first day of paid rides. The total number of passengers from Wednesday is expected to be released sometime today. Officials are expecting a dip in numbers as the initial excitement wears off, and because rides are no longer free.

7/7/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) The Honolulu rail line is proving things are often more popular when they're free. One-thousand-245 people rode the Skyline on Wednesday, which was the first day of paid rides. That translates to 88 riders per hour during the 14 hours it was open. On Tuesday, the final day of free fares, there were 18-thousand-108 riders. Honolulu officials are hoping to see an average of eight-thousand to ten-thousand riders per day by the end of the year.

Skyline has now been open for a week, but the controversy surrounding its construction continues. The contractor hired to build the five-mile airport segment of the rail line is suing the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation. It claims HART caused expensive construction delays because it failed to address problems connected with the relocation of utilities. The contractor, a joint venture company, says HART breached its contract. It's suing for more than 99-million-dollars in damages and interest.

7/10/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) Skyline ridership numbers are expected to be down this week, on what is the rail line's first full week of paid rides. During its first five days in operation, when rides were free, Skyline saw more than 70-thousand passengers. Officials are expecting just one-thousand to two-thousand riders per day this week. But, Honolulu transportation officials say the goal is still to reach ten-thousand riders per day. Based on public feedback, there are also plans to add more hours of operation within the coming years. Some riders have been complaining that seven p.m. is too early to close.

The city on Wednesday announced the grand opening date of the first phase of the Honolulu rail project in a press conference. The first phase begins in Kapolei and extends to the now-shuttered Aloha Stadium. There are nine stations along the initial route. It's slated to open June 30 with ridership beginning at 2 p.m. The Department of Transportation said its offering free ridership for 4th of July weekend following opening day.

7/11/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) The number of people paying to ride Skyline is better than initially thought. Free rides ended last Tuesday. Honolulu initially said a few more than 81-hundred people paid to ride the rails in the first five days after that. The total has now been revised to more than 18-thousand, because passengers who transferred from TheBus were not initially counted as train riders. People can pay one fare to ride buses and trains if they transfer from either system within a two-and-a-half-hour window.

7/21/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) The Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation Board wants more financial information about the city's three-week-old rail line. On Thursday, the board asked HART Executive Director and CEO Lori Kahikina for more details about the cost of the ongoing construction of Skyline. Board members also asked why they weren't made fully aware of a 99-point-one-million-dollar lawsuit filed by a contractor earlier this month. The

contractor, which is building the second segment of Skyline, claims it's owed money for unpaid extra time and work.

7/31/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) Skyline is now a month old and ridership continues to fall. Honolulu's new rail system opened on June 30th, and saw 72-thousand riders during its first five days of operation. Rides were free for those five days. The daily average has now settled in to between three thousand and four-thousand riders. For those who are riding Skyline, they're at least getting their trains on time. Officials say 98-point-five-percent of trains are arriving on schedule.

8/3/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) A contractor working for the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation has punctured a gas line along Dillingham Boulevard in Kalihi for the second time this week. It happened Monday, forcing several nearby businesses to close for the day. Then it happened again Wednesday afternoon. Hawaii Gas says the line has been temporarily plugged until permanent repairs can be made. Dillingham Boulevard was closed for a time but has since reopened.

9/19/23 – Newscast (30 sec. 7am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 3pm, 4pm) Honolulu transportation officials are reporting an increase in Skyline ridership since August 21st. The Department of Transportation Services says it has coincided with the start of fall classes at Leeward Community College and the University of Hawaii West Oahu. The University of Hawaii and all of its campuses started the fall semester on August 21st. The DTS says the Skyline stop near Aloha Stadium is still the busiest.

6. PSAs :

1. Doctors Without Borders – 2x/week (:60/:30)
2. Help Heal Vets – 2x/week (:60/:30)
3. Starlight – 2x/week (:60)
4. Adopt US Kids – 2x/week (:60)
5. Mercy Ships – 2x/week (:30)
6. Oxfam – 2x/week (:30)
7. Mental Health – 2x/week (:60)
8. Cancer Screening – 2x/week (:30)
9. Caregiver Assistance – 2x/week (:60)
10. Online Pharmacies – 2x/week (:60/:30)
11. V Foundation – 2x/week (:60)
12. Pests – 2x/week (:30)
13. Parkinsons – 2x/week (:60/:30)