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Local Kaua'i News by Wilma Lee Kapp  
2023 - Quarter 3 – August**

**Local Kaua'i News – Tuesday August 1, 2023**

A middle school on Kauai at the center of bullying complaints is getting a new principal. Ray Carvalho will serve as the interim principal of Waimea Canyon Middle School this school year. He will officially start his new role today.. For several years, parents and students have criticized school leadership for failing to prevent bullying. A petition for change at the school has gathered more than 15-hundred signatures since last month.

The Kaua'i Department of Liquor Control is offering free Narcan, to all of its liquor licensees. Narcan is a nasal spray that blocks the effects of opioids to the brain and quickly restores breathing in someone experiencing an overdose. There is no charge to any licensee that wishes to obtain this life saving product. Supply is limited to two units per licensee. Narcan kits may be obtained during regular business hours at the Department of Liquor Control, located at 4444 Rice Street, Suite 120, in LThu'e. The Department will require those licensees who wish to obtain the kits to view an instructional video prior to being issued the Narcan with instructions on proper use and application. For more information, please contact the Department of Liquor Control at 808-241-4966.

Jurors have returned with a verdict in the Hailey Dandurand trial, finding her guilty of the murder, in the second degree, of Telma Boinville. She was also found guilty on two counts of kidnapping, burglary, unauthorized entry into a motor vehicle and unauthorized possession of confidential, personal information. Dandurand was one of two suspects in the brutal killing of Boinville. Dandurand's then-boyfriend, Stephen Brown, was tried earlier this year and was found guilty of murder and kidnapping.

Native Hawaiians are divided over the first-ever rental high rise that's set to be built in Honolulu. The multi-million dollar project on 820 Isenberg Street is a redevelopment of a portion of the old Stadium property. The 23-story building will have a street level commercial space and over 270 rental units. The project is a temporary housing solution for Native Hawaiians on the waiting list for a DHHL 99-year homestead lot

There's requirements to be a juror in the state of Hawaii are being updated. That means there will be an opportunity for more people to be selected for jury duty. To be eligible to serve on a jury you must be 18, be a U.S. citizen, be able to read and understand English, and be eligible for a discharge if convicted of a felony. The questionnaires will be mailed out to about 225-thousand residents this Friday. You will have ten days to complete and return the form to the Jury Pool Office.

Hawaii's hotel prices were the most expensive in the nation in the first half of this year. The daily average room rate between January and June was 380-dollars. Hotels were earning an average revenue of 285 dollars per room. But, Hawaii had the sixth-highest hotel occupancy rate among major markets. New York and Miami had the second and third priciest room rates.

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**Local Kaua*ʻ*i News – Wednesday August 2, 2023**

Police are investigating the death of a man who was fatally attacked by a dog on Hawaii Island. It happened in Hawaii Ocean View Estates on Tuesday morning. The man in his 70s was attacked by four large dogs in the roadway, where police found him lying unconscious. The owners of the dogs were not home at the time, but police have opened a "negligent failure to control a dangerous dog" case, which is a felony. The owner could face up to ten-years in prison and a 25-thousand dollar fine if they're convicted. The dogs and a litter of ten puppies have been surrendered to the Hawaii County Animal Control and Protection Agency.

An ex-couple has been found guilty of brutally murdering a woman hired to clean a house on Oahu's north shore. Hailey Dandurand, tried separately from her ex-boyfriend Stephen Brown, was convicted of second-degree murder on Tuesday. The jury returned the verdict after less than two days of deliberations. Brown, who was convicted earlier this year, and Dandurand, killed Telma Boinville in a beach house in 2017, then tied her daughter up in a bedroom. Dandurand was also convicted of kidnapping, burglary, unauthorized entry into a motor vehicle and unauthorized possession of confidential, personal information.

There's a good reason Hawaii emergency officials conduct monthly siren tests. Three sirens, on Oahu, Maui and Kauai, malfunctioned within 24 hours of each other on Monday and Tuesday. A monthly siren test was slated for Tuesday morning. But, in some places, the sirens went off early, or not at all. . The siren here on Kauai that malfunctioned had recently been inspected and had faulty components replaced. HI-EMA said the incident may have happened because of a glitch involving circuitry and it is still trying to find the exact cause. The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency says the siren malfunctions were unrelated. Officials with the agency are now checking readings from their equipment to diagnose the problem.

The Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickman treatment is releasing more gallons of partially treated waste water. The navy says about five-thousand gallons of waster water were discharged on Monday night. This comes just a day after The Navy says it discharged 14-thousand-500-gallons of partially treated wastewater into Malama Bay on Sunday and Monday because of a pump failure. However, this time the Navy is blaming King Tides for a higher-than-average flow at the base treatment plant combined with a ongoing improvement project. The military says the water around the base is still safe for recreation.

Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi is against a controversial plan being proposed by the mayor of Anchorage, Alaska. Mayor Dave Bronson is considering shipping homeless people out of his city during the wintertime. They would be given one-way plane tickets to cities with warmer climates. Bronson, who says it would save lives, has mentioned Los Angeles, but not Honolulu. Still, Blangiardi says Bronson is opting against coming up with a solution in his own backyard. Hawaii had a homeless count of nearly six-thousand last year.

Seven out of ten of Oahu's drivers fail to yield for pedestrians. That's the case when it comes to at least one intersection, according to a new city traffic study. Studies are being conducted in nine areas

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with a high number of traffic accidents. The study conducted at the intersection of Lunalilo Home Road and Kaumakani Street in east Oahu found 71-percent of drivers failed to yield for pedestrians. The city of Honolulu has since put signs up near that intersection, telling drivers how often they really stop for pedestrians.

The National Hurricane Center is monitoring another hurricane in the eastern Pacific. Hurricane Dora is expected to intensify into a Category Three storm today. As of late Tuesday, it had winds of 90-miles-per-hour and was moving west at a rate of 16-miles-per-hour. But, it is far from posing a threat to Hawaii. Hurricane Dora is still about 27-hundred-miles southeast of Hilo. It is on a path to pass Hawaii well to the south. The hurricane could start weakening after passing over cooler waters on Thursday night. Dora is the fourth hurricane to develop in the eastern Pacific so far this season.

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**Local Kaua*ʻ*i News – Thursday August 3, 2023**

The sentencing hearing for Hailey Dundurand is underway. She was convicted in the 2017 North Shore murder of Telma Boinville. The jury is deciding whether Dundurand will spend the rest of her life in prison or get a chance of parole. Yesterday, she was found guilty of second-degree murder, kidnapping and burglary along with other charges. Her then boyfriend, Stephen Brown, was also found guilty of the same crimes. He's sentencing is scheduled for August 30th.

Maui County is getting tougher on air and replica guns, which police say have been involved in more crimes in recent months. A new ordinance that tightens regulations will go into effect on November 1st. Minors will need adult supervision when using air or replica guns. And, flashing one in front of a first responder will be a crime. Violators can face a 500-dollar fine and up to a year in jail. Maui police say they have arrested people posing as officers while using replica guns and using them to rob people. They have also been recovered at schools and involved in road rage incidents.

The mayor of Honolulu is speaking out against a controversial plan being proposed by Anchorage Mayor Dave Bronson. The Anchorage mayor is considering shipping homeless people out of his city during the wintertime. They would be given one-way plane tickets to cities with warmer climates. Bronson, who says it would save lives, has mentioned Los Angeles, but not Honolulu. Still, Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi says Bronson is opting against coming up with a solution in his own backyard. Hawaii had a homeless count of nearly six-thousand last year.

The Honolulu Police Department is moving through a backlog of concealed-carry weapon license applications. Through Wednesday, the HPD has approved 409 licenses for 599 guns. HPD Chief Joe Logan says the goal is to clear the current list of applicants by the end of this month. But, that won't be an easy task, since there are hundreds of applications left to process. The city has received nearly eleven-hundred applications for 15-hundred guns.

Two state agencies are investigating so-called "zoom bombs" that forced them to cancel their online public meetings this week. Full nudity appeared on the screen ten minutes into Tuesday's Hawaii School Facilities Authority meeting. Executive Director Chad Keone Farias says members of the agency had their screens taken over with nude photos, sexual behaviors, and drug use. Officials paused the meeting three times and tried to adjust their security settings, but it didn't work. The Hawaii Community Development Authority says a similar incident happened at its meeting on Wednesday.

Hawaii is seeing another surge in COVID cases. This week it was reported COVID hospitalizations are up 64-percent in Hawaii County. The surge across the big island is also being seen in places like Southeast Texas, Mohave County in Arizona, and central Oklahoma. Nationwide, COVID-related hospitalizations are up 12-percent.

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**Local Kauaī News – Friday August 4, 2023**

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**Local Kaua*ʻ*i News – Monday August 7, 2023**

Kauai Firefighters responded to a brush fire that broke out Saturday afternoon in Waimea. No injuries were reported. Shortly after 2 p.m., multiple units were dispatched to a brush fire reported on a property owned by Gay & Robinson, adjacent to the Waimea River Mouth. When firefighters arrived on scene, they could not initially access the fire by vehicle due to its remote location. Gay & Robinson personnel on scene guided firefighters through their access gate and begun mobilizing heavy equipment to assist in the response. Air 1 soon arrived on scene and conducted water drops to knock down the blaze. The cause of the fire is undetermined.

Hurricane Dora is passing Hawaii well to the south, but the islands will likely still feel an impact in the form of strong trade winds. Forecasters are calling for strong and potentially damaging trades today and tomorrow. Winds are expected to be in the 25 to 45-mile-per-hour range, with gusts clocking in as high as 60-miles-per-hour. A high wind watch for most of Hawaii begins this morning. The winds will mix with a dry airmass, meaning high fire danger. The wind event is expected to peak tomorrow.

Today is the first day of school for Hawaii's public-school students. And thousands of them will have to learn in classrooms that don't have air conditioning. The state Department of Education says 34-hundred classrooms lack air conditioning. And the timetable for installing new units is still unclear. Installation could take another four to five years, depending on if the DOE gets an extra ten-million-dollars from the state legislature to make improvements. Ten-million-dollars appropriated by the legislature last year was enough for new air conditioning units in 860 classrooms.

State health officials are investigating two reports of travel-related dengue fever in Hawaii. Department officials have announced that one of the case had been reportedly on Kauai, the other in Hawaii County. In both cases, the infected person had traveled to regions where the virus is typically found. Authorities say dengue fever is generally spread by mosquitoes. Health officials say people can reduce the risk of the virus by emptying open containers of water, which can serve as breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

The trial of four Honolulu police officers charged in connection with a serious car crash in Makaha is being pushed back a second time. The trial is now scheduled to start on December 18th. A judge has granted the officers' attorneys a motion asking for a continuance. But, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Scott Bell says he was ready to start. The trial was last delayed in May, when it was moved to August 21st. The car crash happened in September of 2021, injuring six people, two of them severely. The officers are accused of chasing the car without their lights and sirens on, then failing to render aid immediately after the crash happened. Witnesses say they returned to the crash scene after running the car off the road and acted like they had no idea what happened.

The National Park Service is temporarily closing Hawaii Volcanoes National Park to vehicles because of a high wildfire risk. Mauna Loa Road and Hilina Pali Road closed to all vehicles at 5 o'clock Sunday afternoon. Pedestrians and bicycles are still okay, but no one can light campfires. Hawaii is facing extreme fire danger with strong trade winds and low humidity to start the week.

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**Local Kaua*ʻ*i News – Tuesday August 8, 2023**

The National Weather Service has issued several weather alerts as Hurricane Dora passes south of the state. A red flag warning has been issued for leeward areas on all islands from today through 6 a.m. on Wednesday. That means there will be a combination of strong winds, low humidity and warm temperatures which can contribute to extreme fire behavior. A high wind warning is in effect on all islands except Niihau through Wednesday at 6 a.m.

Firefighters on the Big Island have their hands full with two large brush fires burning in north and south Kohala. Crews have been battling the fires since at least 4 a.m. The Hawaii County Fire Department has issued evacuation orders for various Kohala residential areas: Two separate brush fires burning on Maui forced some residents to evacuate in the Kula and Lahaina areas. A brush fire that erupted in the Olinda Road area of Kula in upcountry Maui shortly after midnight has led to the evacuation of residents in nearby neighborhood. Meanwhile The brush fire in the Lahaina area was first reported just after 6:30 a.m. Officials ordered evacuations at 6:40 a.m. Fortunately the Lahina fire was declared 100% contained just before 10 a.m.

Hawaii residents who rely on food stamps will see their benefits cut down this fall. Starting October 1st, a household of one will see a monthly decrease of eleven dollars per month, and a family of four will see a monthly decrease of 35 dollars per month. The U.S. Department of Agriculture is adjusting Hawaii's Thrifty Food Plan funding, even though food prices continue to rise. More than 156-thousand Hawaii residents rely on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as SNAP benefits, or food stamps.

Hurricane Dora remains at category four strength as it moves past Hawaii to the south. As of late Monday night, the storm had sustained winds of 130-miles-per-hour, with higher gusts at times. It is less than 700 miles south-southeast of Honolulu and is moving west at 23-miles-per-hour. The hurricane is expected to expand and weaken during the coming two to three days.

Hawaii leaders are pushing back on Alaska mayor's plan to ship homeless people to warmer places, like Hawaii. All four of Hawaii's mayors are against the idea and they have support from Governor Josh Green. Some of Hawaii's mayors say if anyone is shipped here, they'll consider helping fly them back as there are already over 62-hundred people experiencing homelessness in Hawaii. This all started in July when the mayor of Anchorage announced the city doesn't have enough shelter for people in the winter.

A 46-year-old man is dead after being hit by a car on the eastbound H-1 Freeway in Aiea. Investigators say he was pulled over to the shoulder working on his car on Monday afternoon. He was hit after a woman drifted onto the shoulder and rear-ended his car. The woman was not seriously injured. Investigators don't believe speed, drugs or alcohol were factors in the deadly collision.

A resident is suing Hawaii County, challenging the background checks it mandates for people applying for a concealed-carry gun permit. The man says the background check process forces him to give up his privacy protections. He has applied for a permit through the Hawaii Police Department

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twice this year, and was rejected both times. He says it was because he refused to waive his attorney-client privilege and the right to privacy with his doctor. The man's lawyers say the HPD won't let their client exercise his right to bear arms until he allows the department to go on a "fishing expedition" into his constitutionally-protected private information. Hawaii County officials have not yet commented on the lawsuit.



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**Local Kauaʻi News – Wednesday August 9, 2023**

Much of a historic Lahaina Town is believed to have been destroyed by a massive wind-driven wildfire. That fire as well as two wildfires continue to burn on Maui. The Wildfires killed six people on Maui, Mayor Richard Bissen Jr. said at a morning news conference. Also Six patients were flown from Maui to Oahu on Tuesday night.. Three of them had critical burns and were taken to Straub Medical Center's burn unit, he said. The others were taken to other Honolulu hospitals. At least 20 patients were taken to Maui Memorial Medical Center, he said. We are told that a final assessment of fatalities and damage will be conducted after the Lahaina fires are extinguished.

Kauai Mayor Derek Kawakami issued the following statement on the current wildfire emergency saying Quote: "Our hearts and prayers go out to the people of Maui and the Big Island as they continue to respond to the devastating wildfires in their communities. Seeing the images of the destruction on Maui leaves me speechless. Residents have lost their homes and businesses, and some are still unaccounted for. We pray for our first responders as well as they continue to fight to keep their island and people safe. Kaua'i stands ready to assist our neighbor counties in any way possible and we'll continue to stay in contact with officials on both islands throughout this disaster. End of quote

"President Biden is pledging federal assistance to those affected by the fires on Maui . Biden said in a statement that he is ordering "all available Federal assets on the Islands" to help.

Meanwhile The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) regional administrator authorized the use of federal funds on Aug. 9 to assist the state of Hawaii to combat the Lahaina Fire burning in Maui County. On Aug. 9, the state of Hawaii submitted a request for a Fire Management Assistance Grant at the time of the request, the fire threatened an unknown number of homes in and around Lahaina, with mandatory evacuations for approximately 7,500 people. electrical transmission lines and telecommunications lines in the area. FMAGs provide federal funding for up to 75 percent of eligible firefighting costs.

Hawaii Governor Josh Green is discouraging all non-essential travel to free up flights and hotels for locals who've lost their homes. Alaska Airlines says about two-thousand people have evacuated to Maui's airport. Alaska is limiting flights to use fewer staff, sending back-ups to Maui for staff stuck in their homes, while simultaneously trying to get as many people off the island as possible . All major airlines have travel waivers in place, either no change fees or refunds, asking you to stay home for now. Officials are also asking that the public refrain from calling Maui for now in order to free those lines, that have not been damaged, for the emergency responders.

People trying to locate loved ones impacted by the fires can call the American Red Cross hotline at 1-800-733-2767.

We continue to monitor this situation and keep you updated as information becomes available

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**Local Kauaī News – Thursday August 10, 2023**

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**Local Kauaʻi News – Friday August 11, 2023**

Maui officials confirmed an additional 12 fatalities Friday afternoon, bringing the total to 67. The Lahaina fire is still not contained, according to Maui officials. Governor Josh Green warned residents that the area is still very much a devastated zone. Green said he expects the number to continue to climb as search efforts continue. Officials say search-and-rescue teams are using cadaver dogs as they comb through the ruins in Lahaina. This week's wildfires are expected to be the second costliest disaster in the history of Hawaii, second only to damages from 1992's Hurricane Iniki, according to a Friday statement from a prominent disaster and risk modeling company.

Residents of West Maui with identification showing proof of residency and visitors with proof of hotel reservations have access to Lahaina That began today at noon with measures in place designed to secure the heavily impacted area of historic Lahaina town. These measures include no unauthorized public access beyond barricaded areas and a curfew from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. daily in historic Lahaina town and affected areas. West Maui remains without power and water.

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 Josh Green is asking Maui residents not affected by the fires to consider opening up their homes to those in need.

At this time the hawaii red cross is discouraging material donations and encourages monetary donations instead in order for more efficient distribution of assistance. People who wish to help the Maui Community are urged to donate to the Maui Strong fund of Hawaii Community Foundation and the Hawaii Chapter of the American Red Cross. Links for both of those organization can be found on the Kong Radio facebook page as well as on Ron Wiley's facebook. The American Red Cross is acting as the clearinghouse to reunite families. Family members can call 1-800-RED-CROSS for help.

Kauaʻi Bus officials have announced that all bus services on Sundays, including paratransit, will be suspended starting August 27 until further notice, due to an ongoing staffing shortage. "Despite increased efforts to fill our vacant positions, the ongoing staffing shortage has continued to intensify, and to keep the safety of our riders and employees a top priority, Kauaʻi Bus service needs to be reduced starting later this month," said the Executive for the Transportation Agency. Sunday bus service will remain suspended until staffing has returned to sufficient levels. If you or anyone you know is interested in applying for a bus driver position, please visit [www.kauai.gov/jobs](http://www.kauai.gov/jobs)

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**Local Kauaī News – Monday August 14, 2023**

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**Local Kauaī News – Tuesday August 15, 2023**

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**Local Kauaī News – Wednesday August 16, 2023**

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**Local Kaua*ʻ*i News – Thursday August 17, 2023**

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. roughly two-thousand people are still without power. Estimates are that the economic cost to Maui could approach seven-billion-dollars. President Biden and First Lady Jill Biden are set to visit Maui on Monday.

The state Attorney General is hiring a third-party private organization with experience in emergency management and processes to “assess the performance of State and County agencies in preparing and responding to the Maui wildfires,” according to a news release from Attorney General Anne E. Lopez. “This will be an impartial, independent review,” said Lopez, in a statement. “Having a third-party conduct the review will ensure accountability and transparency and reassure the people of Hawaii that all of the facts will be uncovered.

FEMA has distributed over two-million-dollars in financial aid to victims of Maui's wildfires. Over four-thousand people have registered for federal disaster assistance from FEMA, and so far they've approved over 13-hundred households for financial aid. Evacuees can apply for seven-hundred-dollars in cash assistance and a program to cover hotel or rental costs.

The Hawaiian Electric Company could be forced into bankruptcy as a result of lawsuits that accuse it of starting the deadly fire in Lahaina. HECO and Maui County are both being sued for negligence. Similar to utility providers blamed for other devastating wildfires on the mainland, the damages could be worth more than the value of the company. An eyewitness video that shows the possible moment the fire started, when a live powerline fell, is being used as evidence in lawsuits against HECO. Attorneys say a formal power shutoff program could have saved lives. California's main electricity provider, Pacific Gas and Electric, was forced into bankruptcy reorganization following a series of deadly and destructive wildfires that led to lawsuits. The official cause of the Lahaina fire has not yet been determined.

Hawaii is not pursuing a criminal investigation into the devastating wildfire in west Maui. Hawaii Attorney General Anne Lopez is conducting a comprehensive review. But, Governor Josh Green says it is not a formal criminal or civil investigation into the cause of the fire and response that followed. Green says the review is about learning how Hawaii can keep itself safer going forward. Maui County Prosecuting Attorney Andrew Martin also says his office is not currently opening any investigations.

The Hawai*ʻ*i Department of Transportation (HDOT) notifies Kaua*ʻ*i motorists of upcoming work on the Mayor Bryan J. Baptiste Memorial Bridge beginning Monday, Aug. 21 as part of the Wailua Bridge Repair project. This will be a left lane closure in the northbound direction, in the vicinity of North Leho Drive and Kuamo*ʻ*o Road, beginning Monday, Aug. 21 through Wednesday, Aug. 23 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for crews to offload sheet piles for the temporary working platform. There will be intermittent full closures of the bridge, up to three minutes at a time, to safely move the sheet piles

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off the truck to the staging area by crane. Northbound traffic will flow through the remaining open lane. Motorists are advised to expect delays and proceed with caution through the work area.



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**Local Kaua*ʻ*i News – Friday August 18, 2023**

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.

The federal government is launching an independent third-party investigation into the cause of the wildfire that has killed a confirmed 111 people in Lahaina. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' National Response Team is working to determine the origin and cause of the fire. Officials arrived from the ATF's Honolulu Field Office and Seattle Field Division on Thursday. They'll work alongside Maui fire officials and others also investigating the source of the fire. The ATF's team includes an electrical engineer, two Certified Fire Investigators, and one arson and explosives group supervisor, among others.

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.

Maui's flight arrivals are down 80-percent this week. Government officials have been urging tourists to cancel their trips to west Maui after the devastating wildfires. But, they're also reminding people the rest of the island is still open. Officials are instead encouraging people to stay in areas like Wailea, Kihei, or Makena. Experts say Hawaii's economy could lose billions of dollars if Maui's arrivals continue to plummet.

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**Local Kaua*ʻ*i News – Monday August 21, 2023**

President Biden and the first lady are in Maui to meet with first responders and survivors. The Bidens will also tour areas impacted by recent wildfires that have killed at least 114 people. In a statement Sunday, Biden said he'll do everything in his power to help Maui recover and rebuild, while respecting "sacred lands, cultures, and traditions."

There are now 114 confirmed deaths from the wildfire that nearly destroyed Lahaina almost two weeks ago. In the aftermath of one of the worst natural disasters in American history, many questions remain. It's unclear who was making decisions as the flames spread on August 8th. Herman Andaya, the now-former director of Maui's Emergency Management Agency, was not on the island at the time. He left for Oahu for a FEMA meeting the day before, even though forecasts were showing powerful winds and dangerous fire conditions.

The number of people missing in Lahaina is now believed to be closer to 850. That's according to a new FBI-vetted list. The number was recently believed to be as high as two-thousand. Eighty-five-percent of the burned-out historic town has been searched by teams with cadaver dogs. Governor Josh Green says the areas that have yet to be searched include large buildings, where remains might be more difficult to recover.

Maui is seeing a spike in unemployment claims since the deadly wildfires on August 8th. There were six-thousand-663 initial unemployment claims filed between August 9th and 17th. It's the highest number of unemployment claims filed on Maui, which has a tourist-reliant economy, since the pandemic started. Since May, the island was averaging 700 to 800 initial unemployment claims per week. One business owner tells the Star-Advertiser he has had to lay off or furlough nearly 40-percent of his staff since the fire happened. Government officials are reminding tourists that only west Maui is closed, while the rest of the island remains open.

The Maui County Council will hold a public meeting tomorrow morning. The nine a.m. meeting will be the first time members of the public can question county officials since the deadly wildfires nearly two weeks ago. Up until now, officials have only been taking questions from members of the media. According to the meeting agenda, the Maui County Council is planning to "develop a comprehensive recovery and resilience plan" in response to the tragic wildfires.

A limited-edition Beanie Baby is helping raise money for Maui wildfire survivors. Ty Inc. announced it created the 'Aloha Bear' to show solidarity in the island community's time of need. The company said all profits from the bear will be given directly to the American Red Cross to aid survivors.

Maui Fire Department Chief Brad Ventura is speaking out about the wildfire that killed a confirmed 114 people in Lahaina. Ventura says the flames moved from home to home, and from business to business extremely fast, like fire moving through grass. Ventura also confirms all of his firefighters made it out alive, despite being trapped several times. Two fire engines were destroyed, and more than a dozen firefighters lost their homes. In some places, the temperature of the fire was higher than two-thousand-degrees.

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**Local Kauaʻi News by Wilma Lee Kapp**  
**2023 - Quarter 3 – August**

**Local Kauaʻi News – Tuesday August 22, 2023**

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.

President Biden is promising to make sure Lahaina is rebuilt on residents' terms. Speaking during his visit on Monday, Biden said rebuilding will happen the way Maui wants it, not the way others want it rebuilt. He also says the federal government will be respectful of sacred grounds and traditions. His remarks come as fears mount about predatory buyers coming in and buying up real estate before residents have a fair chance.

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. Maui County Mayor Richard Bissen says 27 victims have been identified, and eleven families have been notified of lost loved ones.

As of Monday night, all destroyed single-story homes have been searched for remains. The effort is now shifting to multi-story structures. Gov. Josh Green said this morning that 87% of the total Lahaina burn area has now been searched, but now the hundreds of searchers and over 40 cadaver-detecting dogs turn their attention to multistory residential and commercial buildings, which he said are “very, very treacherous sites.” He said the larger buildings need more caution and more equipment, so it will take some time to complete the search.

Once search and recovery efforts are finished, cleaning up on Maui will be a massive task. That's according to Hawaii Senator Brian Schatz. Schatz says it will not be as simple as bringing in heavy equipment and digging up rubble. He says, because there are so many hazardous materials, FEMA, the EPA, and Army Corps of Engineers will need to collaborate on a disposal plan.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency hopes to prevent as much pollutants entering the coastal waters as possible after wildfire damage in Maui. Commander Steve Calanog said rain events can cause ash and debris to flow down stream and potentially into the ocean but the EPA has some strategies to prevent this. Once hazardous items and wastes have been removed, their plan is to apply a soil tackifier which will prevent ash from being blown into the ocean. Calanog says it is a non-toxic substance and is like a glue keeping the ash in place for several months.

Governor Josh Green is making a plea for visitors to return to Maui. During Monday's presidential visit, Green said aside from Lahaina and other parts of west Maui, all other parts of the island are safe and open. Green says visitors will boost the struggling economy and speed up recovery efforts. Since the fire on August 8th, visitor arrivals have dropped to levels not seen since the pandemic started. Maui was averaging seven-thousand daily domestic arrivals before the fires. Now it's averaging below two-thousand.

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**Local Kauaʻi News – Wednesday August 23, 2023**

Kauaʻi police responded to an unattended death after a man was found dead in his home following a structure fire Monday morning. Shortly after 5AM firefighters were dispatched to a structure fire on Kaumakani Avenue. Upon their arrival, they found a single-family dwelling fully engulfed in flames. As firefighters gained control of the fire, they discovered a deceased male in one of the rooms. A preliminary investigation revealed that the man died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

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.

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.

Hawaii is facing above-normal significant fire potential through October. That's according to the National Interagency Fire Center. The U.S. Department of Agriculture also says Hawaii's counties have 96-percent more wildfire hazard potential than communities on the mainland. Experts cite several contributing factors, including climate change causing hotter temperatures, episodic drought, recurring high winds, the growth of invasive grasses, the loss of plantation workforces that kept fires in check, water shortages, and mistakes in land management.

FEMA confirms that, as the Lahina fire burned, the top emergency management officials in Hawaii and the Pacific region were all together at an annual conference at a resort in Waikiki. They were being educated on how to respond in crisis situations. The 74 emergency management leaders, many of the top in the nation, were just a half-hour plane ride away from Lahaina. The now-former Maui County Emergency Management Agency director, Herman Andaya, was among the attendees. Six other leaders from the state's emergency management office were also there. FEMA says active fires on Maui and the Big Island were being discussed during the conference.

A benefit concert in Oahu has raised over 850-thousand-dollars for those impacted by wildfires. Multiple musicians, organizations, and media outlets showed up to Maui Ola: A Benefit Concert for Maui. Artists such as Anuhea, Kolohe Kai, Paula Fuga, and more, performed on stage for the telethon event. Over one-hundred hula practitioners also attended to support Maui through mele and hula. In total, Maui Ola raised over 850-thousand dollars as well as over a million-dollars worth of non-monetary contributions.

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**Local Kaua*ʻ*i News – Thursday August 24, 2023**

Maui County is filing a lawsuit against HECO. The county claims the company "acted negligently by failing to power down their electrical equipment despite a National Weather Service Red Flag Warning on August 7th." The flames destroyed over 22-hundred structures in Lahaina and Kula. The suit is seeking civil damages for the loss of public property, buildings, fire response costs, a loss in revenues and historical and cultural landmarks which were a result from the Maui fires. The damage is an estimated five-point-five billion dollars.

The Hawaii state Attorney General's is stating that nothing is off limits in her fire inquiry. The AG is now calling what was first termed a "review" an "investigation. Attorney General investigations into past disasters in Hawaii such as the deadly burst of Ka Loko reservoir led to criminal charges. And nationally After the deadly Camp Fire wiped out the town of Paradise, Calif., in 2018, utility PG&E pled guilty to 84 counts of manslaughter.

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.

DNA collection scammers are targeting Lahaina wildfire survivors. On Wednesday, a Maui resident contacted the Family Assistance Center in Kaanapali after getting a call from someone claiming to be from "DNA Services." The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency says those calls are all scams, and anyone who answers one should hang up immediately and contact police. Officials say the Family Assistance Center is the only facility authorized by Maui County to collect DNA samples. And, it doesn't call people or ask for payments in exchange.

There are new details after a prisoner died of an apparent suicide in their cell in Hilo. The man was found dead last Friday, at Hawaii Community Correctional Center. The 55-year-old had a longstanding mental disability, and the Civil Beat reports he was due for a mental evaluation. The man shared a cell with two other inmates. Family members say he was harassed by fellow inmates, but it's unclear if that included his cellmates. This is believed to be the eighth suicide in a state correctional facility in the past three years.

Builders of so-called monster homes on Oahu could face monster fines of \$25,000 or greater under a proposed bill being floated by the city. The Honolulu Planning Commission on Wednesday voted to

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recommend the City Council adopt a measure related to large dwellings, this one being advanced by the city Department of Planning and Permitting, which would amend the city’s Land Use Ordinance. Under the proposed bill builders who violate city laws relating to “development standards” and permitted uses and structures would be subject to an initial fine of up to \$25,000, plus up to \$10,000 a day per violation.

Upwards of seven-thousand people have applied for help via Maui United Way. The nonprofit has set up an Emergency Financial Assistance Program that's giving a thousand dollars to adults in impacted fire zones. The program has received more than two-million-dollars in funding from tens of thousands of donors. Applicants must show proof of residency.

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**Local Kaua*ʻ*i News – Friday August 25, 2023**

Maui county has released a validated list of names compiled by the FBI of those reported missing after the Lahaina fires. There are 388 people on Maui County's official list of unaccounted-for Lahaina residents. That list has now been published on various news web sites. 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.

Governor Josh Green believes the number of fatalities from the Lahaina wildfires have almost peaked. Officials list the current number of casualties at 115. On Thursday, Green said that, to his knowledge, authorities hadn't found any additional casualties, calling it a "very hopeful sign." He also said 95-percent of the Lahaina burn area has already been searched for victims.

The final American Red Cross shelter on Maui closed on Tuesday as the remaining wildfire survivors who were living at the shelter have now transitioned into more permanent housing, according to Gov. Josh Green's office. Since August 16, the American Red Cross, Hawai*ʻ*i Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) relocated nearly 3,000 survivors of the Maui wildfires from congregate shelters to contracted hotels. In total, more than a dozen hotels and timeshare properties are currently housing more than 4,400 shelter survivors and hotel employee survivors, while some 900 people are booked in Airbnb units. These accommodations will continue to provide meals, casework services, financial recovery resources and other disaster relief assistance.

The devastation in Lahaina extends past land. 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. They have placed a boom at the mouth of Lahaina Harbor to soak up any fuel that may have risen to the surface. Officials say, the faster the fuel is collected, the less long-term risks it presents to marine life and the environment.

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**Local Kauaï News – Monday August 28, 2023**

The 14th annual Kauai Marathon and half Marathon will take place this coming Sunday Sept 3rd. The race starts at 6 AM and while traffic will flow thru the area you can expect some lane and road closures in the areas surrounding Koloa, Poipu, Lawai and Kalaheo areas between the hours of 5 AM and 1 PM. You are asked to drive with caution and patience this coming Sunday Sept 3 on our southside. For more information call 808-240-6525 or visit Kauai Marathon Dot Com.

You are invited to attend a meeting regarding the Kauai Water use and Development Plan. The next meeting will be taking place tomorrow August 29 at the Lihue Neighborhood Center and the final of the series of meetings will take place this Thursday August 31 at the Kilauea Elementary School Cafeteria. The plan serves as a long-range planning guide for the Commission on Water Resource Management. You can find a copy of the presentation at Kauai Water.com. For more information call 808-245-5455.

Darryl Oliveira is The Maui Emergency Management Agency 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.

The death toll after the wildfire in Lahaina stands at 115. Forty-three victims have now been identified publicly. The death count has remained at 115 for nearly a week, but hundreds of people remain missing or unaccounted for. 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. Warning sirens were not sounded in Lahaina on August 8th, which continues to be a major controversy.

Hawaiian Electric is acknowledging that its power lines may have caused the first fire in Lahaina. However, the company said it's not responsible for the second afternoon fire because there was no electricity flowing through the wires. Officials say the cause of afternoon fire has not been determined.

State health officials are warning of an uptick in COVID cases across Hawaii. Infection numbers have continued to rise over the last month, and will likely continue to rise amid the wildfire crisis on Maui. Hawaii's state epidemiologist, Dr. Sarah Kemble, says it's a reminder for people to take care of their health. On Wednesday, the Hawaii Department of Health reported a seven-day average of 153 cases per day, up from 88 per day in mid-July.

Tropical Storm Irwin is developing in the eastern Pacific. Forecasters do not expect the storm to pose any kind of threat to Hawaii. The system is expected to weaken into a post-tropical remnant low by the time it reaches the central Pacific. As of early this morning, Tropical Storm Irwin is about two-



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thousand miles east of Hilo and moving west-northwest at ten miles per hour. It has maximum sustained winds of 40-miles-per-hour. Hurricane-force winds are at least 74-miles-per-hour.

The U.S. Labor Department is giving more than 10 million dollars to support disaster-relief jobs after Maui wildfires. The money will allow the Hawaii Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to provide people with temporary jobs focused on clean up and repair efforts. They will also be able to provide humanitarian assistance to the wildfire survivors.

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**Local Kaua'i News – Tuesday August 29, 2023**

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency is cancelling its all hazard Outdoor siren alert system test for September. The live audio broadcast test, which is required by the FCC, will go on. The siren 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.

The leeward areas of all Hawaiian islands will be under a fire weather watch between tomorrow afternoon and Thursday afternoon. The National Weather Service is calling for trade winds between 15 and 30-miles-per-hour, with gusts between 40 and 45-miles-per-hour. Forecasters expect any fires that develop to spread quickly. You are advised to Report any possible fires – including signs of smoke or flames – by calling Kaua'i Police Department Dispatch at 808-241-1711.

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. 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. Authorities are now moving on to the next phase in removing hazardous waste and debris from the devastated area. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will lead efforts to remove debris from fire-damaged areas across Maui.

On the Big Island A man from Eden Rock is facing several charges after he allegedly assaulted his father and held him captive. It happened last Wednesday off a house on Paniolo Street. The 57-year-old father said his 30-year-old son Mark Akina assaulted him with a knife and stick while also punching and kicking him. Police say Akina was charged on Saturday with several crimes including kidnapping, terroristic threatening and abuse of a family member. He's currently in custody with a bail set at 82-thousand dollars.

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**Local Kauaʻi News – Wednesday August 30, 2023**

Our Department of Public Works want you to know that there will be lane closures on Olohena road beginning tomorrow August 31 and continuing Friday Sept 1st. Workers will be laying out and marking areas that need Pavement reconstruction. The work will be occurring on Olohena Road between Kamalu Road and Kaapuni Road from 8AM to 3PM. For the safety of the workers one lane of Olohena road in that area will be closed with flaggers alternating traffic in the remaining lane. Short traffic delays of up to 5 minutes are to be expected.

Kauaʻi Fire Department firefighters extinguished a brush fire in Keālia and a trash fire in Anahola on Tuesday. “Yesterday's eastside fires were quickly contained and extinguished thanks to the prompt response of our first responders and those who reported the blazes,” said Kauaʻi Fire Department Chief Michael Gibson. No injuries were reported, and no structures were damaged. The cause of the fires is under investigation.

The National Weather Service has issued a Fire Weather Watch for leeward areas of Kauai beginning at noon on Wednesday, August 30 extending through 6 pm on Thursday, August 31. A Fire Weather Watch means that critical fire weather conditions are forecast to occur. and Report any possible fires – including signs of smoke or flames – by calling Kauaʻi Police Department Dispatch at 808-241-1711.

Refrain from ALL outdoor burning, including cooking; Avoid the use of mechanized equipment outdoors, including the use of yardwork equipment; Do not drive your vehicle in dry, tall grass. The underside of your vehicle is hot and can easily ignite grasses from your exhaust muffler; Ensure trailer chains do not drag on the ground; Be aware of wind direction and gusts that could spread fire rapidly; Have an escape route to a clear area safe from rapid-fire spread;

President Biden is pledging 95-million dollars to harden Hawaii's power grid against natural disasters. This comes after Maui was devastated by wildfires earlier this month. The funds will be used to strengthen critical transmission lines and other electrical infrastructure in the state. Biden said he's ready to mobilize any support they need. The fires 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.

The EPA is saying it's going to take "several months" for crews to clear out household hazardous materials from the ruins in Lahaina. That includes things like paint, batteries, and pesticides. Once those are cleared, debris removal will begin. Clean up started earlier this week after crews finished searching the area for remains.

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A Honolulu-based contractor at the center of a major bribery scheme has been sentenced to three-and-a-half years in prison. Milton Choy, who was sentenced Tuesday, bribed ex-Maui County officials and at least two state lawmakers. In six years, Choy put more than two-million-dollars into bribing Stewart Stant, the former director of Maui's Department of Environmental Management. In return, Choy got more than 19-million-dollars in no-bid contracts for his company. Choy agreed to cooperate with federal investigators after he was caught. That eventually led to guilty pleas from former state lawmakers, J. Kalani English and Ty Cullen.

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**Local Kauaīi News – Thursday August 31, 2023**

The Kauai Island Utility Cooperative has cut power in some areas of our island as a precaution against wildfires because of today's red flag warning. Some residents lost electricity after 6 p.m. Wednesday. The electrical line serving Kokee was de-energized, affecting about 100 customers in Kokee and Makaha Ridge. The electrical line serving the Mahaulepu area has been re-energized as well. Power will be restored after the red flag warning is over, and after KIUC crews inspect powerlines to make sure they're safe to re-energize.

Hawaii is facing high fire danger due to gusty trade winds coupled with low humidity. A red flag warning is in effect for the leeward areas of all islands until 6 p.m. Gusts could be as high as 45 miles-an-hour, with the strongest gusts expected downwind of terrain.

Maui County and the FBI are expected to release an updated list of the people considered missing in Lahaina on Friday. The current list features 388 names. On Tuesday, it was announced that the search for human remains in the rubble of the five-square-mile disaster area is complete. That means it's still unclear where hundreds of people are. The official death toll has stayed at 115 for the past nine days.

Gov. Josh Green says he hopes that the number of people unaccounted for from the Lahaina fire—currently 388—will fall below 50 names when a new list comes out on Friday. So far the number of people who died in the country's deadliest wildfire in over a century has plateaued at 115. The Governor said the number of people that actually filed missing reports was closing to 112 or 115 to the Maui authorities. And of those individuals, a substantial number—more than half—were immediately found.

Native Hawaiian and faith leaders are holding a day long vigil on Friday to honor those who lost their lives in the Lahaina wildfire. There will be a ceremony at sunrise, noon and sunset on each island. A Native Hawaiian sunrise vigil will go from 6 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. Faith leaders will hold theirs from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. And the second Native Hawaiian ceremony will round out the day from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

An overdose medication is being made available through some vending machines in Hawaii. The Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center will be placing 30 vending machines stocked with free naloxone around Honolulu, Kauai, Maui and Hawaii counties. They'll be located at jails, prisons and other venues.

A man who killed a cellmate at Oahu Community Correctional Center has been sentenced to 40 years in prison. The 30-year-old killer pleaded guilty to manslaughter earlier this year. He killed a 62-year-old man who he was sharing a quarantine cell with near the peak of the pandemic in 2020. The man made national headlines in 2019, when he broke into a home in Honolulu and squatted there while the homeowners were traveling on the mainland. He left a graphic video on the family's computer, describing his plans to perform surgeries on them.

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Tourist are being urged not to cancel their trips to some parts of Maui. Right after the Lahaina fire happened, visitors were initially urged to stay away from Maui. But now U.S. Senator Brian Schatz is saying South Maui resorts need visitors to keep locals employed. He took to Twitter saying people who are planning a trip to Wailea or Kihei should continue with their plans but act with respect. Schatz added that furloughs and layoffs are starting because people think the whole island is closed.

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. Winfrey, who has a home in Maui, said she's been meeting with people in the community and that they are under immense financial burden. Johnson, who spent part of his childhood in Hawaii, said community leaders in Maui are offering their guidance to ensure the money will go to those who need it most.