

Date	September 4, 2024
Name (Print)	Councilmember Tamara Paltin

**WRITTEN SUBMISSION TO BE INCLUDED IN OFFICIAL HEARING RECORD**

**Committee on Oversight and Accountability  
Field Hearing on Assessing the Federal Government's Response  
to the 2023 Maui Wildfires**

We want to hear your story. Below please provide your comments regarding your experiences or thoughts on the federal response and recovery to the Lahaina wildfires. Your response will help inform the Committee's oversight and any recommendations for future congressional action.

Aloha  
of course hindsight is always 20/20 the federal government response immediately after the fire I think is as best as could be.  
The point ~~at~~ which things got out of hand was when the Federal gov + insurance inflated rents throughout the island and out of state property managers were utilized like Lima Charlie over on-island management. Also FEMA continued rental assistance could not keep up even w/ 175% of Fair Market rents + the amount of time FEMA has to get the continued rental assistance before tenants become evicted if landlords expect payment monthly + deposit. As FEMA overhauled their process knowing it wasn't working but because our disaster occurred prior to the roll out was also a problem.  
Please do look into these ways in which we would respond to a disaster of this magnitude of housing long term on the island where the disaster occurred without wrecking the rental market.

Mahalo,  
Tamara A. M. Paltin

\*The official hearing record will be made public as part of the transcript. This will be posted on the Committee on Oversight and Accountability website at: [oversight.house.gov](https://oversight.house.gov)