

Date	September 4, 2024
Name (Print)	Lorien 'Lolo' Acquintas

**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.

My name is Lorien Acquintas but most people know me as 'Lolo' the owner of Maui Surf Culture on Front + Pihun St.  
Listening to the SBA rep's testimony was extremely difficult because I am one of the '400 who did not qualify. I put my life on the line and sacrificed everything to open my businesses and in an instant it was all lost.  
I received my denial early on in the beginning of Sep. I was shocked by this so I reached out to Congresswomen Tokuda's office. They were incredibly helpful. They were also in shock over the denial. We tried again with the Congresswoman's assistance and ~~we~~ received a letter of denial on Oct 31<sup>st</sup> 2023. The reason stated was 'due to lack of repayment ability'. My businesses burned to the ground, of course there is an 'inability', that's the whole reason for the disaster loan. Because of this denial I was unable to continue my business operation in Wailea. I had secured a place to lease in Wailea but had to watch it fade away and to this day my businesses are inoperable. I had to open a brand new ~~to~~

company just in order to provide for my family.

This entire traumatizing experience and loss of my life as I knew it is a reason I have been inspired to run for office. I want to be part of solutions for Lahaina and Maui. We need hope!

I was not referred to further resources and no one from SBA has checked in on me since receiving that letter in Oct. 2023. I know I can't be the only one.

A huge mahalo for taking the time to come to Maui and learn what took place.

A special thanks to Congresswoman Tokuda and her dedication to us.

- ~~Lolo~~ 

