

HAWAI'I FIRES CULTURAL AND SOVEREIGNTY RESOURCE GUIDE FOR DISASTER RECOVERY ORGANIZATIONS

An understanding of a community's culture, social norms, and its legacy of oppression, colonialism, imperialism, and systemic racism, is pivotal to any effort to achieve a Just Disaster Recovery for that community. This understanding is doubly important when outside organizations seek to support community-based organizations in achieving this goal. The deep legacy of US colonialism, imperialism, and disenfranchisement that has occurred on Maui from the point of western contact with Native Hawai'ians through today, is central to the story of recovery currently being written. Indeed, the catastrophic wildfires of 2023 were themselves a product of that legacy. To assist outside organizations in understanding this legacy in order to avoid its replication and achieve disaster recovery in line with the NLIHC-led Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition's [7 principles of disaster recovery](#). The following materials should be reviewed by any outside organization working to assist during the recovery from Maui's 2023 wildfires.

"HAWAI'IAN WATER RIGHTS AND DISASTER CAPITALISM" [ARTICLE]

Article in the Guardian by Naomi Klein and Kapua'ala Sproat on ongoing water issues in Maui and how moves by corporations to siphon off water for their operations both help create the devastating wildfires and stymie efforts to fight it.

"1893 EXECUTIVE AGREEMENTS & PROFOUND IMPACTS TODAY" [VIDEO LECTURE]

2013 Lecture by Dr. Keanu Sai of the University of Hawai'i on the 1893 Executive Agreements between the Kingdom of Hawai'i and the United States Government. Dr. Sai also served as lead agent for the Hawai'ian Kingdom in [arbitration proceedings](#) before the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague, Netherlands from November 1999-February 2021.



"UA MAU KE EA: SOVEREIGNTY ENDURES" [BOOK]

An overview of the Political and Legal History of the Hawaiian Islands. The book chronicles Hawai'i's history through storytelling, interviews, archival images and Hawai'ian-language newspaper articles. It takes the reader on a journey from 18th century Hawai'i under the rule of King Kamehameha I, through the 19th century of the Hawai'ian Kingdom to present day Hawai'i.

"DENATIONALIZATION IN THE HAWAIIAN KINGDOM" [VIDEO LECTURE]

A 2017 lecture by Dr. Willie Kauai of the University of Hawai'i at Manoa on the denationalization process of Hawai'ian culture and cultural interchanges between Hawai'i and other societies.

"ACT OF WAR" [FILM]

An hour-long documentary on the 1893 overthrow of the Hawai'ian Kingdom. Produced in association with the Center for Hawai'ian Studies, University of Hawai'i. Featuring historians and scholars Haunani-Kay Trask, Lilikala Kame'eleihiwa, Kekuni Blaisdell and Jonathan Osorio.

ABOUT THE DHRC

Led by the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC), the Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition (DHRC) is composed of over 900 national, state, and local organizations, many of whom are working to actively assist disaster survivors. The DHRC works to ensure that federal disaster recovery efforts reach those most impacted and most marginalized by disasters, including households with low-incomes and those experiencing homelessness.

The DHRC has convened a Hawai'i Wildfires Working Group to help share best practices and provide advocacy support for organizations working in Maui. If you are interested in attending the group please reach out to NLIHC Senior Policy Analyst for Disaster Recovery Noah Patton (npatton@nlihc.org).