

Subject: Concerns of FEMA displacing people with disabilities in group homes

Aloha Partners,

The Maui Disability Task Force and colleagues are writing to express our concern regarding the potential displacement of people with disabilities residing in group homes because of FEMA and FEMA funds.

We have learned that group home(s), including La'akea Village, may be evicting residents as soon as January 15th, 2024, to either make room for survivors and access FEMA money or for FEMA to use the property itself. This would both rob individuals with disabilities of safe accessible housing and vital connected services including support for activities of daily living, health maintenance, and provision of meals.

We request FEMA investigate and nullify any contracts utilizing federal funds that directly or potentially result in people with disabilities becoming unhoused. FEMA must ensure housing contracts that could displace people with disabilities are not executed.

The Maui Disability Task Force was established to bring the Disability Community to the forefront of the Maui disaster response. It was formed to bring stakeholders, including community partners, FEMA, local government representatives, the American Red Cross, and other relief entities, together to address and collaborate on meeting disability-related needs after the wildfires in August 2023.

We look forward to your prompt response.

Mahalo,  
Aloha Independent Living Hawai'i  
Statewide Independent Living Council of Hawai'i  
Na Hoaloha  
The Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies

To send/cc:

- FEMA - HQ, R9, OER, ODIC
- DHS CRCL
- HHS & ACL
- Governor office
- Maui mayor office

- Maui county council
- Office on Aging
- ADA coordinator
- Congressional delegation