

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Councilmembers
Kauanoë Batangan
Tom Cook
Gabe Johnson
Tamara Paltin
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez
Shane M. Sinenci
Nohelani U'u-Hodgins



Director of Council Services
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services
Richelle K. Kawasaki, Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

August 18, 2026

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

**SUBJECT: REQUESTING APPROVAL OF H.R. 5366, THE DOUG
LAMALFA FEDERAL DISASTER TAX RELIEF
CERTAINTY ACT (PAF 26-236)**

As a member of the Maui County Council, I write to request that you please sign into law H.R. 5366, the Doug LaMalfa Federal Disaster Tax Relief Certainty Act, which the House of Representatives passed by voice vote on April 27, 2026, and the Senate passed by unanimous consent on August 7, 2026.

This bill extends the exclusion of qualified wildfire relief payments from gross income and codifies expanded rules letting disaster survivors deduct casualty losses without itemizing. It directly benefits survivors of the August 2023 wildfires that devastated my constituents in the Maui County communities of Lahaina and Upcountry Maui, along with survivors of other disasters across the country. More than two years after the Maui fires, many survivors are still rebuilding, and this relief ensures that the settlement and recovery payments meant to help them do so are not diminished by an unfair federal tax burden.

I respectfully urge you to sign H.R. 5366 into law so its protections can reach Maui's wildfire survivors and disaster survivors across the country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Yuki Lei K. Sugimura". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Yuki" being the most prominent.

YUKI LEI K. SUGIMURA, Vice-Chair
Maui County Council