



### **Hello BCO Members & Community,**

In response to the fire that has devastated Maui, the BCA has put in place the following disaster relief effort to help support our Dharma friends in Hawaii through our BCA Social Welfare Committee:

Here is how you can help:

1. Donations can be made on-line through: <https://bca.kindful.com/>
2. Donations can also be made by check. Please make check payable to: BCA Endowment Foundation (Please note on memo line: MAUI RELIEF)
3. Mail checks to: BCA Endowment Foundation - 2140 Durant Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94704

Also, attached please find the letter from the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii (Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani, President, Dr. Warren Tamamoto, and Rev. Blayne Higa, Chairman - Committee on Social Concerns) which details their disaster relief efforts.

Please share all of this information with your members and friends. Your support of our Dharma friends in Hawaii is greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Gassho,  
Rev. Michael Endo  
Executive Assistant to the Bishop  
BCA Headquarters

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## **Statement regarding the Wildfires and Destruction in Maui, Hawaii**

**We are all watching in great sadness and horror, the loss of life and destruction of homes and communities in Maui, Hawaii, due to the devastating wildfires. Our thoughts go to all there who have lost loved ones, homes, businesses, temples and churches, and their community. What a tremendous loss for everyone.**

**I recall a story from the Jataka Tales in our Buddhist tradition. Once there was a huge forest fire and all of the animals in the forest were running away from the fire for safety. One little bird was flying into a lake, dipping its wings in water, then flying over the forest fire dropping little drops of water to fight the fire. Back and forth the little bird flew. The other animals shouted to the little bird, "What are you doing? You cannot put out the fire that way?!" The little bird shouted back, "I may not be able to stop the fire, but this is all that I can do. I must try."**

**In the face of such devastation, we will all do what we can do, whether it is to contribute to the disaster relief, to share our encouragement, or for those in Maui, to begin to rebuild, one step at a time, doing what they can do.**

Gassho,  
Rev. Marvin Harada  
Bishop  
Buddhist Churches of America



## HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII

STATE HEADQUARTERS

1727 PALI HIGHWAY ■ HONOLULU, HI 96813 ■ PH: (808) 522-9200 ■ FAX: (808) 522-9209

[www.hongwanjihawaii.com](http://www.hongwanjihawaii.com)

August 10, 2023

Dear Dharma Friends,

We have been watching in disbelief the tremendous destruction caused by the recent wildfires on Maui. The loss of life, livelihood, and property has been devastating. Lahaina Hongwanji and its Sangha were directly affected by the fires. The temple, columbarium, classroom building, and minister's residence were completely destroyed in the horrific fires that devastated historic Lahaina town. Many temple members were forced to evacuate, and many homes were burnt to the ground. Our hearts go out to all who have been impacted by this disaster. As residents and our fellow Sangha members begin the process of rebuilding and healing, Hawaii Kyodan is committed to supporting relief efforts on Maui.

In the spirit of compassionate action, we have established the **MAUI WILDFIRE DISASTER RELIEF FUND**. You can donate in the following ways:

1. Online at [www.hongwanjihawaii.com](http://www.hongwanjihawaii.com) by clicking on the "Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief" button under the "Donate" tab.
2. Through GoFundMe at the following link: <https://gofund.me/ff77a520>
3. Check and cash donations can be sent directly to Hawaii Kyodan Headquarters. Please make check payable to HHMH and in the memo line designate "Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief" to ensure proper credit.

**Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii**  
1727 Pali Highway  
Honolulu, HI 96813

All donations collected will go to support Lahaina Hongwanji and relief efforts on Maui. The Office of the Bishop and Committee on Social Concerns will prioritize addressing the immediate and short-term needs of temple families displaced by the fires and supporting the greater community as it rebuilds. The Committee will select reputable relief agencies and organizations to support in order to ensure our donations will directly aid those impacted by this disaster. Updates will be shared on our website at [www.hongwanjihawaii.com](http://www.hongwanjihawaii.com).

Mahalo for your generosity and support during this time of tragedy.

In Gassho,

Handwritten signature of Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani in black ink.

Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani  
Bishop

Handwritten signature of Dr. Warren Tamamoto in black ink.

Dr. Warren Tamamoto  
President

Handwritten signature of Rev. Blayne Higa in black ink.

Rev. Blayne Higa, Chair  
Committee on Social Concerns

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii is recognized as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization under the rules and regulations of the Internal Revenue Service. Tax ID #99-0073500

# ***Buddhist Church of Oakland***

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**Email:** [OfficeBCO@BuddhistChurchOfOakland.org](mailto:OfficeBCO@BuddhistChurchOfOakland.org)

**Phone:** (510) 832-5988

**Website:** <https://BuddhistChurchofOakland.org>

**YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/c/BuddhistChurchofOakland>