

PATHWAYS TO RECOVERY: ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. My business has lost all our staff to the mainland or other businesses since we are unable to open. What resources are available?**

There are a number of resources available to businesses affected by the wildfires. For a list of all business resources, please visit <https://www.mauinuistrong.info/business-relief-resources>. Maui County has also been working with the State on obtaining funds to assist local businesses.

- 2. Some businesses were in the process of being sold on August 8, 2023. If the business changed hands after the August 8th fire, are the new owners eligible for any funding, support, loans, MEO forgivable loans or other grants from SBA, FEMA or any other government agency?**

Every situation may be different. If you were not the owner on the day of the fire, it may not transfer over. It is recommended that you contact SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for more information.

- 3. Does the hotel occupancy reported include the displaced residents?**

Yes, the hotel occupancy reported includes displaced residents because the rooms are being paid for by FEMA or the Red Cross.

- 4. What has been the TAT and GET revenues?**

The TAT and GET are being collected in the room rates being charged to FEMA and the Red Cross. Data from the Tax Department shows GET decreased by 8.7% statewide in August. In September, the GET increased by 2.3%. It is anticipated that the GET will continue to have small increases moving forward. The TAT decreased by 11.3% statewide in September, which reflects August's numbers.

- 5. What grant support is available for Maui visitor-related businesses that have been affected by the downturn in tourism?**

Details are still being finalized as of October 27, 2023. The State has provided Maui County with \$12.5 million that will be disbursed by Maui Economic Opportunity (MEO), Maui Economic Development Board (MEDB) and Maui Community Federal Credit Union. The program will provide forgivable loans, depending on the size of the business, with the bulk of the funds distributed by MEO. The loans will be forgivable as long as one follows the stipulations, which include that the money must be spent in Hawai'i. In addition, the Business Resource and Assessment Center in Kihei is being operated in conjunction with Operation Hope, which has funds available for business owners who may not qualify for an SBA loan. Please also continue to check <https://www.mauinuistrong.info/> for updates.