

PATHWAYS TO RECOVERY: TOURISM UPDATE

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is planned to help the businesses that have been affected across the island and not just in Lahaina?

The State 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.

2. Has there been any progress on identifying smaller hotels that want to be a part of the Red Cross room block?

Discussions are ongoing to gain a better understanding of the current needs. FEMA does not typically rent vacation rentals like they do hotels, and they are meeting with operators who have large vacation rental inventories to see if they can determine a reasonable daily rate.

3. Will it really take four years for Maui's tourism economy to return to pre-wildfire levels? What are the next steps for economic recovery?

Lahaina accounts for 15% of the statewide tourism economy, and four years is the current forecast. Governor Green has tasked DBEDT as the State lead to collaborate with Maui County on creating an Economic Recovery Commission to determine how best to proceed with economic development initiatives on the island.

4. Can the evaluation of potential mooring at Mā'alaea be accomplished and expedited under the Governor's Emergency Proclamation?

There is currently no proclamation covering commercial operations at Mā'alaea.

5. Can tendering be an option at Kahului Harbor.

This will need to be evaluated.

To view the current cruise schedule for the Hawaiian Islands, please visit <https://hawaii.portcall.com/#!?tab=2>