

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20510

June 14, 2024

President Joseph R. Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

We write in support of Governor Josh Green's request that you issue a Major Disaster Declaration to help Hawai'i recover from severe rainfall, and associated flooding and landslides, on the island of Kaua'i in April of this year. We appreciate your personal support for Maui's recovery, but the reality of climate change means that now the people of Kaua'i also need your help to ensure federal funds are available to support their recovery from this latest disaster.

State resources are already stretched thin by recovery efforts for previous disasters, like the wildfires on Maui in 2023. In the past few years, Hawai'i has experienced multiple floods, wildfires, and volcanic eruptions that have depleted government, community, and volunteer agency resources. State and County officials now need federal support for the extensive repair required for flood-damaged small businesses, public roads, and county facilities on Kaua'i.

Heavy rain struck Kaua'i between April 11-14, 2024. Though it began with light rain early on April 11, intense rain poured overnight. It required several evacuations and road closures in the Wailua and Koloa areas. By morning, some parts of the island had received over 12 inches of rainfall. This initial rainfall saturated the ground, and continued heavy rain on April 13-14 caused additional flooding, created landslides, and opened sinkholes. Cars became stranded in flood waters and occupants required rescue.

The County of Kaua'i and the State of Hawai'i quickly issued local emergency proclamations. Emergency Operation Centers were activated from April 11-19. The Kaua'i County Department of Parks and Recreation opened shelters for evacuated and rescued people, County Fire and Police assisted in evacuations and rescues, and the Hawai'i State Department of Transportation performed emergency slope stabilization around Kaua'i. Flood damage forced numerous small businesses to close. At least 121 homes were affected or damaged, putting residents in temporary shelters.

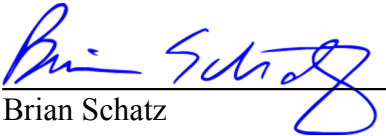
To effectively respond to these needs, we support the Governor's request for the following assistance:

- A Major Disaster Declaration authorizing Public Assistance (PA) for the County of Kaua'i; and
- Authorization of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for the State of Hawai'i.

We are grateful for the prompt attention that the federal government has given Hawai'i for prior

disasters, and we hope that you will continue to support our state's needs in response to these most recent disastrous floods and landslides.

Sincerely,



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Brian Schatz  
United States Senator




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Jim Tokuda  
Member of Congress



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Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



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Ed Case  
Member of Congress