

Supporting Wildfire Relief in Maui



On August 8, 2023, a wildfire devastated the historic town of Lahaina in Maui, Hawaii, killing 100 people and causing thousands more to lose their homes. In December, more than four months after the disaster, 6,300 of Maui's wildfire survivors were still living in hotels contracted by the Red Cross and FEMA.

Peace Winds' Response

On August 16, a Peace Winds team arrived in Maui to aid survivors and assess the needs on the ground. Peace Winds staff distributed relief supplies at temporary shelters and gathered in-kind donations for wildfire-affected pets and pet owners.



Left to right: Destruction in Lahaina; Peace Winds and Hawaii Animal Rescue Foundation Staff; Peace Winds and Hawaii Red Cross staff

Since then, with more than \$250,000 from donors in Japan and around the world, Peace Winds has shifted its focus from short-term relief to supporting the long-term recovery process. We began partnering with local Hawaiian organizations, providing funding and in-kind psychosocial support, and meeting the needs of Maui's homeless pets. To date, Peace Winds has supported the following initiatives:

- **Nā Keiki O Emalia** works with trauma survivors to offer support groups, age-appropriate children's books about grief, daycare spaces, and community events with psychosocial support resources. To make these activities possible, NKOE is providing facilitator training for staff and volunteers.
- **Hospice Maui** is a hospice center that offers grief support. The organization offers workshops on trauma-informed care and self-care to the counselors, social workers, teachers, call center staff, hospital staff, and first responders who are working tirelessly to support Maui's wildfire survivors.

- **Hawaii Animal Rescue Foundation** houses homeless pets, provides them with veterinary care, adopts them to loving homes, and works to reunite families with their missing animals. Peace Winds is contributing to the high cost of vet care and providing the shelter with some of its most needed supplies.
- **Emergency relief supplies**, including food, water, hygiene items, and baby goods were distributed at temporary shelters by Peace Winds staff during the initial days. Pet food, leashes, collars, and crates were also provided for Maui's wildfire-affected pets.



Peace Winds and Hawaii Animal Rescue Foundation Staff



Peace Winds and Nā Keiki O Emalia staff

It will take years for the Lahaina community to completely rebuild and for residents to return to their homes. Peace Winds is committed to maintaining its partnerships with local organizations for as long as we are able, and we continue to provide funding and in-kind support to meet the long-term needs of the community.

To support Peace Winds' work, you can make a tax deductible donation through either of the following websites:

www.peacewindsamerica.org
www.globalgiving.org/projects/55214

For more information, please contact info@peacewindsamerica.org.

About Peace Winds

Founded in Hiroshima in 1996, Peace Winds is a trans-Pacific alliance including Peace Winds America and Peace Winds Japan that prepares for and responds to natural disasters and humanitarian crises around the world. With programs in nearly 40 countries in Asia, Africa, the Americas, the Middle East, and Europe, Peace Winds collaborates with governments, businesses, and civil society to save lives, provide relief, and advance recovery in communities impacted by crisis. Peace Winds America is a US-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.