

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1104

November 21, 2023

The Honorable Randy Moore
Chief, U.S. Forest Service
Sidney R. Yates Building
201 14th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Re: Hawaii Applications for the Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) Program

Dear Chief Moore:

I write in strong support of Hawaii's applications for the second round of funding made available through the Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) Program. In total, Hawaii submitted 33 applications totaling \$62 million.

Applicants included county fire departments, the Hawaii Division of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW), community Homeowners Associations, nonprofits such as the Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) and various watershed partnerships throughout the state, and the University of Hawaii. Of the 33 total applications, 10 were for Project Type I funding, which is to develop or revise Community Wildfire Protection Plans. The other 23 were for Project Type II funding, which is to implement Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) that are less than 10 years old.

The devastating August wildfires on Maui illustrated the immense need and urgency for Hawaii communities to be better prepared for future wildfires. The Forest Service's CWDG Program is one of the best federal tools currently available to assist at-risk communities in planning for and reducing fire risk. Accordingly, within applicable rules and regulations, I would appreciate your full and fair consideration of Hawaii's applications.

Sincerely,



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator