

## DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D. GOVERNOR

ANNE LOPEZ ATTORNEY GENERAL

News Release 2023-40

## ATTORNEY GENERAL LOPEZ URGES MAUI PROPERTY OWNERS IN ZIP CODES 96761, 96767, 96790 TO REPORT UNSOLICITED PURCHASE OFFERS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE August 28, 2023

**HONOLULU** – Attorney General Anne Lopez is urging owners of real property in Lāhainā and Kula ZIP codes 96761, 96767, and 96790 to make formal reports of any unsolicited offers—that is, offers not asked for or requested—to purchase an interest in that property.

The Sixth Emergency Proclamation Relating to Wildfires by Governor Josh Green, M.D., declares that it is a crime for any person to intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly make an unsolicited offer to an owner of real property located in the areas encompassed by U.S. Postal ZIP codes 96761, 96767, and 96790 on the island of Maui to purchase or otherwise acquire any interest in that real property.

A defendant who is charged with this crime can attempt to raise an affirmative defense to the prosecution that the "property owner to whom the offer was made was not impacted by th[e] wildfire emergency."

Those found guilty of the crime may be imprisoned for up to one year, fined up to \$5,000, or both.

"Preying on people who suffered the most from the tragedy on Maui is despicable," said Attorney General Lopez. "The Department of the Attorney General will investigate all such criminal activity and hold perpetrators accountable."

If you receive an unsolicited and unwanted offer to purchase or acquire real property in one of the three ZIP codes, do not provide the caller with any personal information. You are urged to immediately hang up the phone and call 911 or report the incident via email to the Department of the Attorney General at <u>hawaiiag@hawaii.gov</u>.

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