



STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU 'ĀINA O HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
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**ATTORNEY GENERAL LOPEZ FIGHTS FOR LAHAINA DISASTER
CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FEMA FUNDS**

*AG Lopez Joins Coalition of 22 Attorneys General Seeking Court Order to Stop
Freezing of FEMA Funds*

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HONOLULU – Attorney General Anne Lopez joined a coalition of 22 other attorneys general in filing [a motion seeking a court order](#) to force the Trump administration to unfreeze essential funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). In the motion, Attorney General Lopez and the coalition highlight that the Hawai'i Department of Human Services' (DHS) Disaster Case Management Program (DCMP) is being severely impacted by the funding freeze on programmatic funds and that the program could be forced to discontinue work as of April 4, 2025, if federal funding is not released.

The DCMP is a FEMA-funded program that connects survivors of disasters with specially trained Disaster Case Managers (DCMs) to help assess and address their disaster-related unmet needs, with services made available to all survivors impacted by the 2023 Maui wildfires. DCMs work with survivors to create unique disaster recovery plans that are individualized to each household, and include resources, decision-making priorities, guidance and tools. The DCMs act as a “quarterback” to help survivors

navigate their recovery and work with the myriad of resources available to help survivors meet their needs.

The DCMP is a team of more than 120 staff members across DHS, its contracted provider, and the provider's subcontracted local community-based organizations that provide these crucial recovery services to the more than 6,300 survivors the DCMP team has assisted since November 2023. The DCMP currently serves approximately 1,729 active cases, totaling more than 4,431 individuals.

Despite multiple court orders, including [a preliminary injunction issued on March 6](#) blocking the Trump administration from unlawfully freezing federal funds, the administration continues to withhold hundreds of millions of dollars in grants to states from FEMA, including the DCMP. Attorney General Lopez and the coalition filed a motion to enforce the preliminary injunction, seeking a court order requiring the administration to immediately stop the freezing of FEMA funds.

The administration's funding freeze policy, issued through an array of actions including a January 27 memorandum from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), illegally withheld trillions of dollars in federal funds for states and other entities like nonprofit organizations and community health centers. In the days after the policy was first issued, states could not access Medicaid dollars. Most recently, withheld FEMA funds have jeopardized public safety, disaster response, and emergency preparedness throughout the country.

As Attorney General Lopez and the coalition assert in the motion to enforce, further freezing of FEMA funds endangers the continuation of the DCMP and its support for more than 4,000 survivors of the 2023 Maui wildfires.

"There is a court order in place that prohibits FEMA from freezing, blocking, canceling, suspending, terminating, or otherwise impeding the disbursement of appropriated funds to Hawai'i and other plaintiff states in accordance with a categorical pause or freeze of funding, yet FEMA has not complied," said Attorney General Lopez. "FEMA's actions affect states across the nation—and the DCMP is an example of the serious consequences that can arise from abruptly changing how funds are disbursed."

"The DCMP provides the comprehensive recovery support that our survivors need to rebuild their lives. This abrupt delay in disbursement of these critical funds essentially cripples our ability to sustain current operations," said DHS Deputy Director Trista Speer. "This means the thousands of wildfire survivors we serve will be left without access to the support they need to navigate their complex recovery journeys."

The state of Hawai'i is represented in this litigation by Special Assistant to the Attorney General Dave Day and Solicitor General Kaliko'onālani Fernandes.

This effort is led by the attorneys general of California, Illinois, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York and Rhode Island. Joining Attorney General Lopez in the coalition are the attorneys general of Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin and the District of Columbia.

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