<u>NEWS RELEASE</u> MAYOR RICK BLANGIARDI CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Wednesday, August 9, 2023 Communications Office: (808) 768-5768

Support and Solidarity for Maui in the Aftermath of the Devastating Lahaina <u>Fire</u>

HONOLULU – Mayor Rick Blangiardi on Wednesday released the following statement in response to the deadly wildfires on Maui.

"In the wake of the catastrophic fire that swept through Lahaina last night, our hearts go out to the residents, businesses, and communities of Maui who have been impacted by this tragic event. Our thoughts are with those who have lost their homes, livelihoods, cherished possessions, and in the most devastating cases their loved ones.

The wildfires in Lahaina, Kihei and Upcountry Maui has been a sobering reminder of the unpredictable and destructive power of nature. We extend our deepest condolences to the families who have suffered losses and our gratitude to the first responders, firefighters, and emergency personnel who worked tirelessly to contain the flames and ensure the safety of residents and visitors.

I want to assure the people of Maui that the City and County of Honolulu stands ready to do anything and everything we possibly can to provide support and resources to aid in the rescue, recovery, and rebuilding efforts. Our government, in collaboration with state agencies and nonprofit organizations, will work diligently to ensure that those affected by the fire receive the assistance they need to rebuild their lives."

—PAU—

Stay connected with Mayor Rick Blangiardi on social media: <u>Facebook - Mayor Rick Blangiardi</u> <u>Twitter - @MayorRickHNL</u> <u>Instagram - @MayorRickHNL</u>