



Sunday, August 13, 2023

Dear Fellow Flight Attendants,

For many of us, Sunday is a day of reflection. It's a day to look at both the past week and the week ahead of us and to be thankful for what we have been given. This past week has been incredibly sad and full of emotion. The speed and total devastation of the Lahaina wildfire was shocking. Even as everyone hoped against hope that the news out of Maui would get better, it feels like it has only gotten worse.

On a personal level I am at loss for words to express my profound sorrow for the people of Maui, especially the people of Lahaina and its surrounding communities, and for everyone who has lost family members, friends, or possessions to this tragedy. How do you even begin to express such deep-felt sorrow?

I understand that many of you have similar thoughts and feelings for the people of Maui and may not show it. We are professionals, and sometimes that's not helpful for our own well-being. Many of us can put on a smile and push through the day as though everything is normal when it is not. That is where the AFA's [Employee Assistance Program](#) (EAP) can help. If you need someone to talk to, they are here for you.

I will be forever thankful for our [Employee Assistance Program](#) and the women and men who give of themselves to support all of us – particularly during times like these. You should know that the Hawaiian's EAP Program, led by Kahea Ching, sets the standard for our industry. The program is a reflection of her dedication to you and to her work. We are extremely fortunate to have her and her team, including Namahana Lota, our Honolulu EAP Chairperson, to support us.

On Friday, Robin announced that all the Flight Attendants who live on Maui were safe and accounted for, as are the other Hawaiian employees who live and work on Maui. That was good news that we all can be thankful for. Unfortunately, so far three of our fellow Flight Attendants have been directly impacted by the wildfire. Ryan Casco's family lost their home and all their belongings to the wildfire. Jessica Pratt and her young family lost their home, their car, and everything in them. Sarah Cain lost her home and most cherished items. GoFundMe pages have been set up for [Ryan Casco's](#) family, [Jessica Pratt's](#) family, and for [Sara Cain](#) and Casey Robinson. We encourage you to contribute to their GoFundMe if you are able to do so.

For those of you who live in Maui County and who may or may not have been directly affected by the wildfire, the AFA-CWA Disaster Relief Fund is available to help you. AFA members and retirees, whose primary residences are in the counties listed on the FEMA website are eligible for \$200.00 from the relief fund. Please see the attached note from our AFA-CWA International President Sara Nelson and the other International Officers about the AFA-CWA Disaster Relief Fund.

What happened to Lahaina last week was a tragic event that will be forever etched in our hearts and memories. In the coming days, weeks, and months, so much will need to be done to support the people of Maui and rebuild this vibrant community. It will take a lot of money, time, energy, and most importantly Aloha.

'Ike aku, 'ike mai, kōkua aku, kōkua mai; pela iho la ka nohona 'ohana.

Recognize and be recognized, help and be helped; such is family life. Family life requires an exchange of mutual help, recognition, unity and Aloha.

In Solidarity,

Martin, Kela and Allison

AFA-CWA Council 43
Hawaiian Airlines

AFA Disaster Relief Fund Is Open for Maui Fires

Presidential Declarations (See [afacwa.org/drf](http://www.afacwa.org/drf).)

Hawaii Wildfires (DR-4724-HI)

<https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4724/designated-areas#individual-assistance>

We know that disasters can change lives forever. While we can't stop destructive events from happening, we can, as a Union, assist our members with their recovery. AFA established the Disaster Relief Fund after September 11th to assist our members whose lives were placed in harm's way. *AFA members and retirees, whose primary residences are in the counties listed on the FEMA website are eligible for \$200.00 from the AFA-CWA Disaster Relief Fund.* It is a gift made possible by the generosity of your fellow union sisters and brothers with AFA. (See the AFA website for links to the FEMA site: www.afacwa.org/drf.)

If you would like to apply for AFA-CWA Disaster Relief Funds, visit www.afacwa.org/drf and download the Disaster Relief Fund Application. There are a few ways of submitting your application including:

- Email the application information to lfoster@afanet.org or
- Fax the completed application to 301-253-2790. A cover sheet is not necessary

If you wish to contribute either by check or electronic payment, please visit www.afacwa.org/drf for more information on donating.

In Solidarity,

Sara Nelson, International President
Keturah Johnson, International Vice President
Dante Harris, International Secretary-Treasurer