2023 Maui Wildfires Key Takeaways



Laddering resources

- De-duplication of services
- Greater coordination of service delivery
- Trust in local community and prior relationships

Long-term considerations

- Inflated housing market & crisis
- Mitigation & preparedness concurrent with re-building
- Community resilience emphasis with collaborative approaches

Vicarious trauma

- Planning to support recovery in the long-term
- Demographic disparities in the service provision
- Timing and consideration of tourism reopening





Key Takeaways from Maui Fire Recovery



Description: Posted on a tree along the path to Honolua Bay is a sign that reads "NO dirt bike, moped, motorcycles. Walk your bike. Keep dog on leash. Old church ground. Many unmarked graves." The signs in Honolua Bay reflect the constant reminders that local residents have to provide to tourists to respect Maui, especially the sites that honor those who have passed on.

Visual Data Collection

"The problem is not that people remember through photographs but that they remember only the photographs." Sontag (2003, p. 79)



Establish guidelines for the burn zone.

We followed other visual scholars and took a strong stance of not focusing on destruction, but that doesn't mean we shied away from topics that were important to our participants.



Build in opportunities for flexibility.

We had to adapt our approach to visual methods at various times throughout the project. We ended up using three different visual methods—photo elicitation, PhotoVoice and visual narratives. *Incorporate interviews in addition to other methods in your IRB.*



Provide time for talk story.

Talk story is a term for slowing down to share stories in Hawai'i. While the term is unique, the premise is not—people wanted time to share their stories. Honor their time.



To view our gallery:



DR. RATNA B. DOUGHERTY
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

