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For Immediate Release

**CHAIRWOMAN COMMITS FCC TO SUPPORTING HAWAII AS THEY
RECOVER FROM WILDFIRE DEVASTATION**

Chairwoman Provides Public Updates on Agency Efforts to Support Maui

WASHINGTON, August 18, 2023—Federal Communications Commission Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel issued the following statement in response to the Maui wildfires that have impacted thousands of residents, and provided an update to the public on the agency’s efforts to support local disaster assessment and recovery efforts:

“Having worked for Senator Inouye, I experienced firsthand the kindness and collective spirit of Aloha that guides the people who call Hawai’i home. The agency has staff on the ground in Maui assessing the impact on communications services and infrastructure to help local, state, and federal authorities to identify how to best support restoration and emergency response. We have been issuing daily public communications status reports that track the restoration progress, with 17 out of 21 cell sites now restored, the Maui 911 call center now functional, and broadcasters continuing to operate and share important community updates and news. Also, over 10,000 cable and wireline subscribers have had service restored, but more work remains. We will continue to work closely with local, state, and federal partners as families and residents all over the island begin to rebuild and recover from these devastating wildfires.”

The agency is supporting communities impacted by the Maui wildfires in a variety of ways, including:

- Deploying FCC staff to Hawaii to determine the impact to public safety and emergency alerting communications capabilities.
- Enabling wireless providers to deploy temporary microwave stations to the affected area to support wireless service.
- Monitoring the operational status of communications services and infrastructure on Maui and coordinating with government partners, industry, and public safety to support their restoration efforts.
- Enabling the County of Maui to use additional frequencies to support public safety communications.
- Activating a tailored version of its Disaster Information Reporting System to obtain targeted, granular communications status information to aid emergency responder decision-making.
- Posting updates—including reports on the operational status of communications—on a dedicated webpage (www.fcc.gov/HawaiiWildfires), which also includes tips for the public when communicating during an emergency.
- Supporting FEMA and Hawaii disaster operations through spectrum coordination activities.
- Performing remote High Frequency Direction Finding (HFDF) scans to determine and share operational status of AM stations that support public safety communications.

- Assisting carriers with transportation logistics and state processes to expedite communications restoration activities.
- Supporting Urban Search and Rescue Operations by issuing Special Temporary Authority (STA) to operate equipment required by search personnel.
- Engaging federal, state, and local officials on the ground to determine priority needs, provide situational awareness, and share expertise to inform decision-making and the implementation of communications services.
- Extending filing and regulatory deadlines for licensees and applicants in Hawaii so they can focus on the response.
- Engaging with FirstNet to assist with movement and placement of assets to support public safety officials' field engagements.
- Lastly, the FCC's Operations Center is available 24/7 to assist public safety and industry with communications needs related the response and restoration on Maui.

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*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*