

Lahaina Fire

Media Reports, Photos, and Videos

Info compiled by Anis Solehah Zainudin

Details: provided by [Fire Safety Research Institute \(FSRI\)](https://fsri.org)*:

<https://fsri.org/research-update/lahaina-fire-comprehensive-timeline-report-released-attorney-general-hawaii>

*Note: This report mentioned Hurricane Dora as a cause of the high winds. Further investigations later showed that the hurricane had negligible influence on the fire. The actual issue was strong winds driven by synoptic scale pressure gradients over Hawaii. However, the majority of this report gives an excellent minute-by-minute timeline.

- Ranks among the deadliest fires in U.S. history
- Evening of 7 August 2023, hazardous conditions due to high winds and extreme fire danger. The Maui County Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) partially activated the Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
- High winds arrived on 8 Aug, toppling trees, utility poles fell, and power lines were downed, blocking critical roadways, which made evacuation challenging.
- The origin of the fire can be traced back to 6:35 am on 8 Aug 2023. when a fast-moving brush fire, also later known as “Lahaina AM fire”, ignited near Ku’ialua Street and Ho’okahua Place. The cause of fire is unknown.
- Fire suppression faced the intense wind and a challenging location. Fire was thought to be successfully extinguished, and the fire-response personnel returned to their quarters at around 2:17 pm 8 Aug 2023 local time.
- However, at 2:55 pm, a “Lahaina PM fire” was reported at the same location as the earlier fire. It spread rapidly through direct flame contact, radiant heating and flying embers. Evacuation was limited as the fire was funneled into some of the escape routes, further hindered by downed utility poles and electrical lines. People were forced to use ocean for safe refuge.
- Most of the devastation to Lahaina occurred during 8 and 9 Aug 2023.

From the Maui County website: <https://www.mauicounty.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=12804>

- As of 3 September, the Lahaina fire is reported to be 100% contained, with an estimated 2,170 acres burned.
- There are 115 confirmed fatalities, with 100% of the Lahaina disaster area searched, according to officials.

Contributing Conditions

Source: The Maui Wildfires: A meteorological breakdown
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g0SfiJomAmI>)

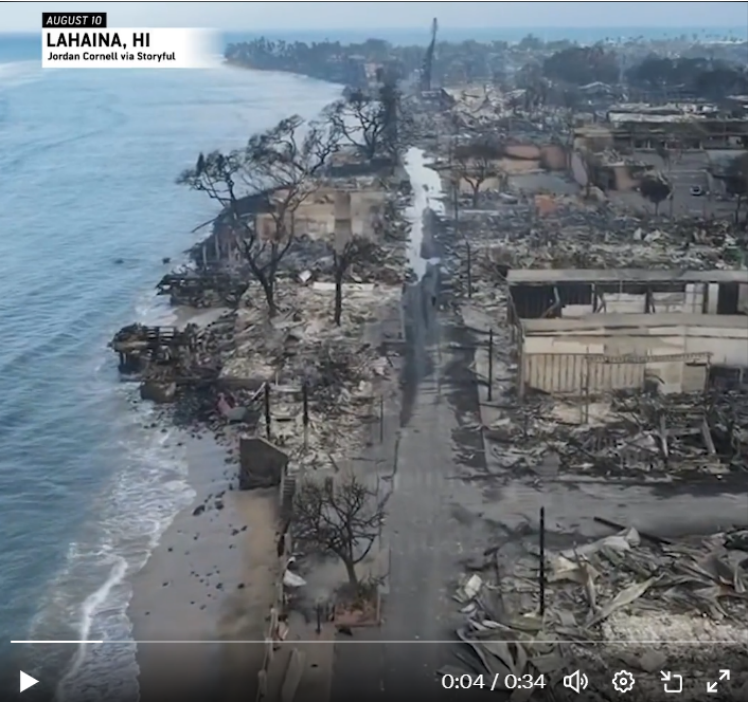
- The US drought weather map (From University of Nebraska-Lincoln) showed on May 2023 that the Lahaina area had had sufficient rainfall to be drought-free. But due to the lack of rainfall in mid to late summer, the drought increased to be significant by August.

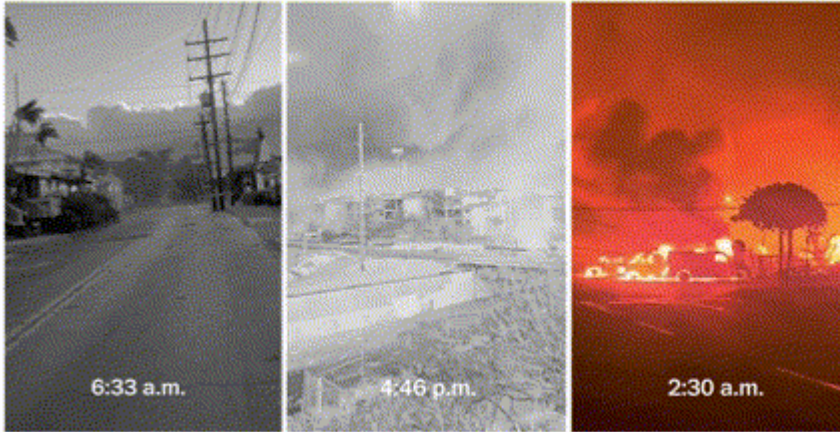
- High pressure north of Hawaii and Low pressure from the ITCZ belt south of Hawaii, created large pressure gradient, which drove a very strong easterly wind over the area that encompassed the Hawaii Islands.
- Hurricane Dora's influence, which located south of Hawaii, was too small to have much an impact in increasing wind, compared to the extremely strong synoptic-scale pressure gradient and its resultant surface winds.
- The Lahaina fire occurred on the Western side of West Maui mountain. Easterly wind going up and down two consecutive mountains, east of Lahaina, resulted in a very dry (low relative humidity) and fast downslope windstorm in the Lahaina area.

Content Warning

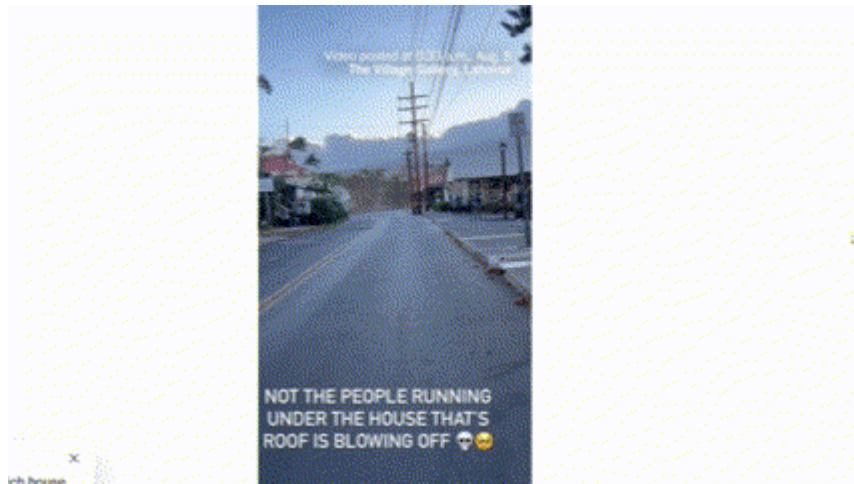
Many photos and videos depict the destruction of homes and businesses, with some in-fire clips being filmed by evacuees. Videos may contain discussion of death and other distressing themes. Viewer discretion is advised.

Media Images and Videos

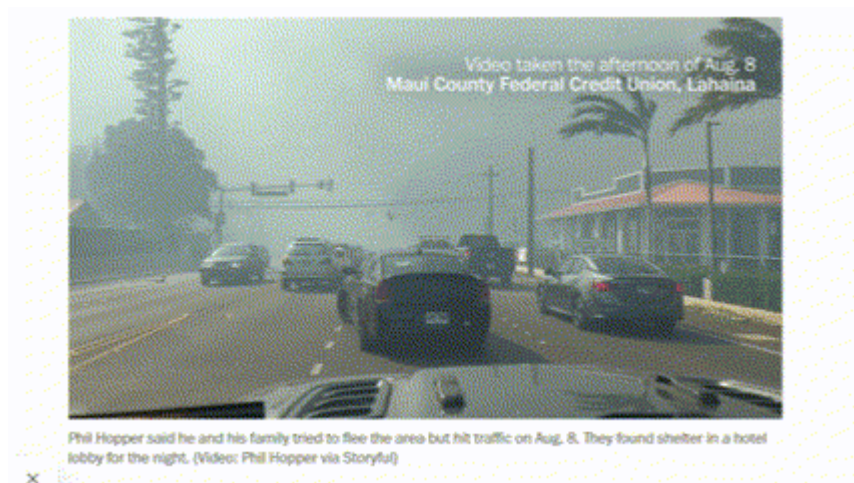
Image/Video	Caption and Source
 <p>Image 1</p>	<p>Link to the video:</p> <p>https://x.com/accuweather/status/1690414307979169792</p> <p>Image 1 from Accuweather post on X</p> <p>Drone footage reveals the extent of the destruction caused by raging wildfires that razed the historic Lahaina to the ground.</p>



GIF 1



GIF 2 (6:33 a.m., August 8)



GIF 3 (Afternoon, August 8)

[Link for the next 9 GIFs:](https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2023/08/13/maui-wildfire-started-spread/)

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2023/08/13/maui-wildfire-started-spread/>

GIFs show footage of crazy winds and smoke hour by hour.

Article summary:

The article documented the events of August 8, 2023, when wildfires devastated Lahaina, Maui. Early morning winds escalated into a brush fire that was initially contained but rekindled in the afternoon, rapidly spreading and overwhelming the town. Residents, facing smothering smoke and lack of escape routes, fled in chaos, with some seeking refuge in the ocean. The fires, fueled by high winds and dry conditions, resulted in significant destruction, inadequate emergency alerts, and a disorganized evacuation, leaving Lahaina in ruins and survivors grappling with the aftermath.



On Aug. 8, video shot in the afternoon showed downed power lines and billowing smoke in Lahaina, Hawaii. (Video: Kevin Foley via Storyful)

GIF 4 (4:36 p.m., August 8)



Video taken at 4:46 p.m., Aug. 8
Komo Mai Street, Lahaina

GIF 5 (4:46 p.m., August 8)



Video taken early evening of Aug. 8
Front Street, Lahaina

GIF 6 (Early evening, August 8)



GIF 7 (9:30 p.m., August 8)



GIF 8 (Early morning, August 9)



GIF 9 (12:56 a.m., August 9)



Image 2

[Link to Image 2 :](#)

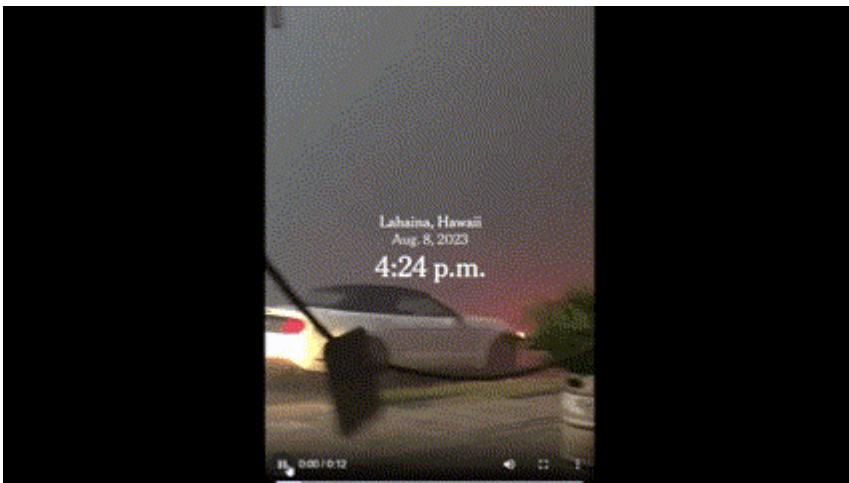
<https://www.cnn.com/2024/03/08/us/hawaii-wildfire-sensors-lahaina>

Image 2:

An aerial image captured on August 10, 2023, depicts the devastation in Lahaina, with homes and buildings reduced to ashes during the massive wildfires in West Maui, Hawaii. Photo by Patrick T. Fallon/AFP via Getty Images.

Article summary:

Hawaii is installing wildfire detection sensors statewide in response to the deadly Lahaina fire in August 2023. These sensors, announced by Governor Josh Green, aim to provide early detection of wildfires to help first responders protect communities more effectively. About 80 sensors will be strategically placed, with the first 20 on Maui expected to be operational by April 8. These sensors use AI to detect heat and distinguish fire-related particles from other elements like volcanic ash and ocean salt. Funded by the Department of Homeland Security and the US Fire Administration, the sensors cost about \$10 per acre. Additionally, new emergency access roads and evacuation routes are being implemented to enhance safety.



GIF 10

[Link for the next 2 images:](#)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/08/15/us/hawaii-maui-lahaina-fire.html>

[Link to the video \(GIF 10\):](#)

https://vp.nyt.com/video/2023/08/14/110640_1_14-hawaii-tictoc-topper_wg_1080p.mp4

People went into the sea to escape the deadly fire.

Link to the video (Image 4): Video can be found in the website.



Image 4

Downed power lines during the events worsening the evacuation process.

Article summary:

Interviews with survivors reveal a lack of timely warnings and chaotic evacuation efforts. Many residents were trapped in traffic, some resorting to flee into the ocean to escape the flames. The town's water system and 911 services failed, and hydrants ran dry, further complicating firefighting efforts. The article raises questions about the adequacy of emergency management and the role of climate change in exacerbating wildfire risks.

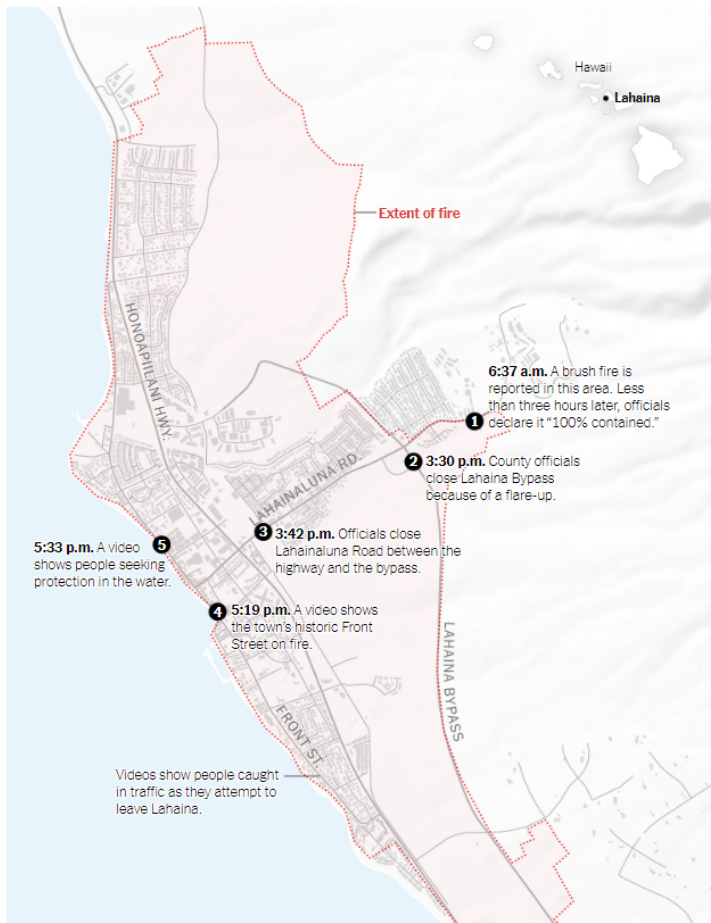


Image 5

Image 5:

Map showing the extent of Lahaina fire. Full map in the website link.



Image 6

[Link to News Story](https://www.civilbeat.org/2023/08/the-lahaina-fire-could-prompt-the-state-to-change-how-it-manages-water-on-maui/): The Lahaina Fire Could Prompt The State To Change How It Manages Water On Maui.

<https://www.civilbeat.org/2023/08/the-lahaina-fire-could-prompt-the-state-to-change-how-it-manages-water-on-maui/>

Image 6:

A line of abandoned vehicles serve as a prove to the speed of the Lahaina fire that moved through the town on Aug. 8. (David Croxford/Civil Beat/2023)

Article summary:

The Lahaina fire on August 8, 2023, highlighted a long-standing dispute over water management in West Maui. Glenn Tremble, an executive with West Maui Land Co., requested additional water from the state to help fight the fire. The approval

took five hours, by which time it was too late. The delay and its impact on firefighting efforts sparked controversy, with some accusing the company of using the tragedy to gain control over the water supply. Environmental groups and state officials debated the prioritization of water usage, particularly between firefighting and traditional agriculture. The incident has prompted calls for changes in water management policies in fire-prone areas.



Image 7

[Link for Image 7:](https://www.yahoo.com/news/chaos-terror-failed-communications-left-155848096.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAF-ocx5XmXfhTmBgkT-Q7EzeiKqkCGQ1AR-UHEv5s7-sgZQbZf0Pc1b4pVFT1B-oYF88zrcOAxyEAXqJJc5n81DgHZOKiA6GVDqjaRrFN7iwwQNuMthGeXDi60m1DOLw8izBIfI2TnARwZBDci5jC3a4L6TXyql6PdKOts4Epdrj)

https://www.yahoo.com/news/chaos-terror-failed-communications-left-155848096.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAF-ocx5XmXfhTmBgkT-Q7EzeiKqkCGQ1AR-UHEv5s7-sgZQbZf0Pc1b4pVFT1B-oYF88zrcOAxyEAXqJJc5n81DgHZOKiA6GVDqjaRrFN7iwwQNuMthGeXDi60m1DOLw8izBIfI2TnARwZBDci5jC3a4L6TXyql6PdKOts4Epdrj

Image 7:

A large banyan tree remains standing amid widespread destruction in Lahaina, Hawaii, on Thursday. (Rick Bowmer / Associated Press)



Image 8

Image 8:

Noe Lopes waits with her granddaughter Leilani and great-granddaughter Kawehi after being forced from their home near Lahaina on Thursday. (Robert Gauthier / Los Angeles Times)

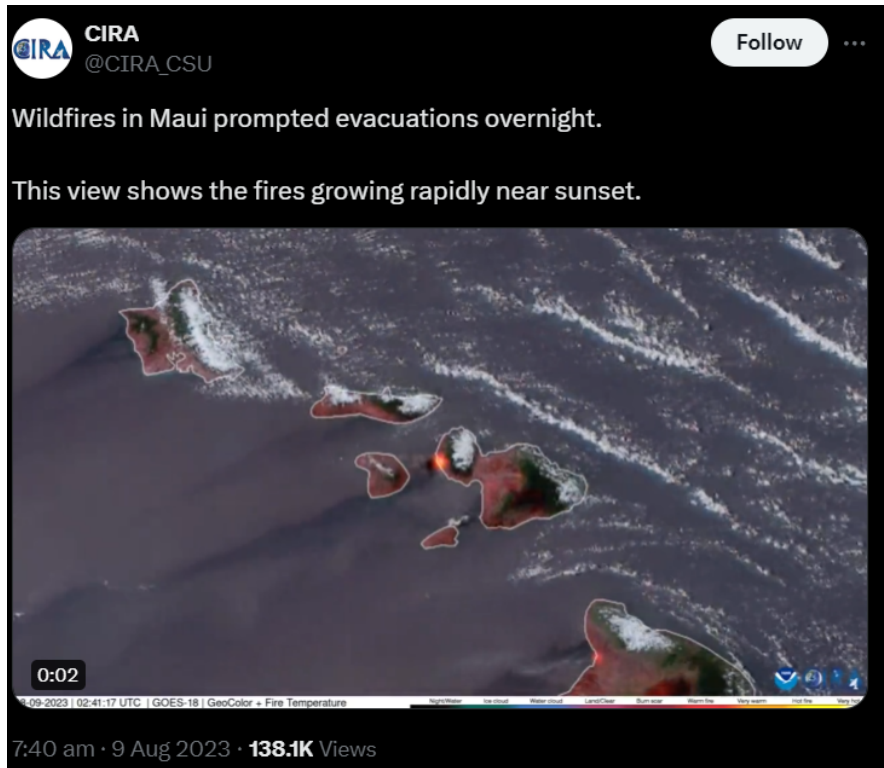


Image 9

[Link to Image 9:](https://x.com/CIRA_CSU/status/1689285585905577984?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Eetweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1689285585905577984%7Ctwgr%5E1035675e1c84320ec6756364bdb4a7d60051c0f4%7Ctwcon%5Es1_&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.washingtonpost.com%2Fweather%2F2023%2F08%2F10%2Fhawaii-fires-science-hurricane-winds%2F)

https://x.com/CIRA_CSU/status/1689285585905577984?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Eetweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1689285585905577984%7Ctwgr%5E1035675e1c84320ec6756364bdb4a7d60051c0f4%7Ctwcon%5Es1_&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.washingtonpost.com%2Fweather%2F2023%2F08%2F10%2Fhawaii-fires-science-hurricane-winds%2F

Image 9:

Wildfires in Maui prompted evacuations overnight.

This view shows the fires growing rapidly near sunset.



Image 10

Link:

<https://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/14980379>

Image 10:

A man reacts as he sits on the Lahaina historic banyan tree damaged by a wildfire on Aug. 11 in Lahaina, Hawaii. (AP Photo)



Image 11

[Link to Image 11:](https://www.mauinews.com/news/local-news/2024/01/last-of-the-100-known-lahaina-fire-victims-idd/)

<https://www.mauinews.com/news/local-news/2024/01/last-of-the-100-known-lahaina-fire-victims-idd/>

Image 11:

Photos of victims are displayed under white crosses at a memorial for victims of the August 2023 wildfire, above the Lahaina Bypass highway on Dec. 6, in Lahaina. Hawaii officials said Friday, that they have identified the last of the 100 known victims of the wildfire that destroyed Lahaina in August of last year. — AP file photo.



Image 12

[Link to Image 12:](https://www.cnn.com/2023/08/13/us/maui-wildfires-hurricane-dora-sunday/index.html)

<https://www.cnn.com/2023/08/13/us/maui-wildfires-hurricane-dora-sunday/index.html>

Sarah Salmonese sits where her apartment once stood in Lahaina, Hawaii, on Friday, August 11.



Image 13

Image 13:

The state flag of Hawaii flies over a sign in Lahaina that says "tourist keep out" on August 16. Vacationers are being asked to stay home as Maui recovers. Many hotels are housing evacuees.

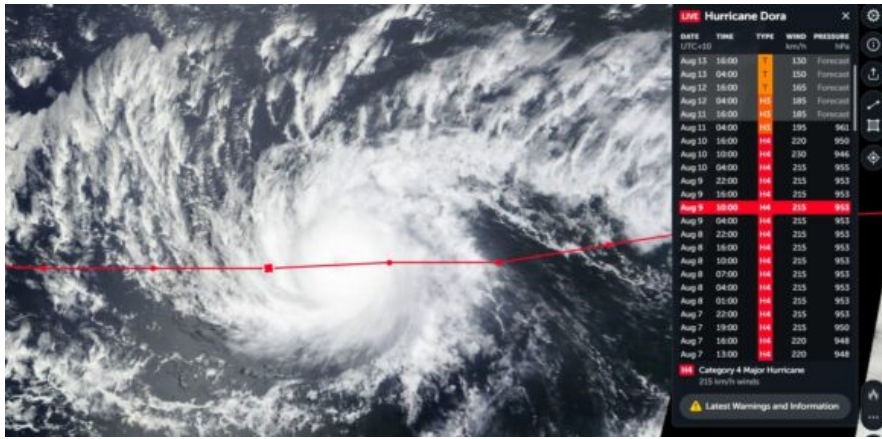


Image 14

[Link to Image 14](#) :

<https://www.extremestorms.com.au/major-fire-devastates-lahaina-maui-hawaii-strong-winds-drought-and-hurricane-dora-plays-a-role-august-7-to-9-2023/>

Example of article that overstating the contribution of Hurricane Dora to the Lahaina fire event.

Analysis: Burning of Lahaina's sacred sites is a major loss for Native Hawaiians. But their history will live on

Article summary:

The wildfires have devastated Native Hawaiian by destroying sacred sites, and landmarks. However, efforts to restore these sacred sites like Moku'ula are ongoing.

[Link to the article](#).

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/analysis-burning-of-lahainas-sacred-sites-is-a-major-loss-for-native-hawaiians-but-their-history-will-live-on#:~:text=Native%20Hawaiians%20are%20devastated%20by,are%20important%20to%20Native%20Hawaiians.>