



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

March 5, 2021

The Honorable David Ige
Governor
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Governor Ige:

In accordance with 7 CFR 759.5(a), I am designating Maui County in Hawaii as a primary natural disaster area due to a recent drought.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor (see <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>), Maui County suffered from a drought intensity value during the growing season of 1) D2 Drought-Severe for 8 or more consecutive weeks or 2) D3 Drought-Extreme or D4 Drought-Exceptional.

A Secretarial disaster designation makes farm operators in primary counties and those counties contiguous to such primary counties eligible to be considered for certain assistance from the Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met. This assistance includes FSA emergency loans. Farmers in eligible counties have 8 months from the date of a Secretarial disaster declaration to apply for emergency loans. FSA considers each emergency loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of production losses on the farm and the security and repayment ability of the operator.

Local FSA offices can provide affected farmers with further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom J. Vilsack". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue rectangular background.

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary