



maui  
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### **Maui Humane Society Partners with Greater Good Charities & Wings of Rescue to Airlift Over 600 Shelter Pets from the Hawaiian Islands to Mainland to Conduct the Largest Pet Rescue Flight in History**

*More than 80 Shelter Pets from Maui Humane Society to Board Paws Across the Pacific*

**Pu'unene, HI (October 27, 2020)** Maui Humane Society partners with Greater Good Charities and Wings of Rescue to fly over 600 shelter dogs and cats from Hawaii to the U.S. mainland, making *Paws Across the Pacific* the largest pet rescue flight in history. More than 80 of the shelter pets to board the *Paws Across the Pacific* are from Maui Humane Society.

"Our own Wings of Aloha transfer program has been on pause for over 6 months due to cancelled flight routes because of COVID. Without the option of sending animals off island, we've been relying on foster families to care for our increased animal population, but there's only so many animals our community can absorb. This opportunity couldn't have come at a better time and we are so grateful," said Steve MacKinnon, Maui Humane Society CEO.

These healthy and loving pets are being moved from overcrowded pet shelters on five islands across the state and then flown to shelters in Washington state, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana where they'll be quickly adopted into loving forever homes.

"Pet shelters in Hawaii are in a COVID-19 crisis. Normal operations have been affected by months of shut down, economic downturn, limited hours, and routine flights to mainland halted," said Liz Baker, CEO of Greater Good Charities. "The *Paws Across the Pacific* flight is urgently needed to make space in Hawaii's shelters for at-risk pets who otherwise wouldn't be able to receive necessary care to survive."

On October 28, *Paws Across the Pacific* will board more than 600 shelter dogs and cats on a chartered Hercules C-130 plane that will make stops on Kauai, Oahu, Maui, and Hawaii islands. Hawaii shelter partners include Kauai Humane Society, Hawaiian Humane Society, Lanai Cat Sanctuary, Hawaii Island Humane Society, Maui Humane Society and Aloha 'Ilio Rescue.

The Hercules C-130 with the over 2,400 furry paws is scheduled to arrive at Seattle's Boeing Field on the morning of October 29, where pet shelters and rescue groups will pick them up, while 120 of the shelter pets continue their journey to Walla Walla and Coeur d'Alene. Mainland shelter partners include: PAWS, The NOAH Center, Seattle Humane, Humane Society of Skagit Valley, Kitsap Humane, Oregon Humane Society, Humane Society for Southwest Washington, Kootenai Humane Society, Seattle Area Feline Rescue, TRACS, SpokAnimal, Blue Mountain Humane Society, and Embrace a Discarded Animal Society.

The *Paws Across the Pacific* airlift is being conducted in coordination with the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association to ensure the safety and health of pets on the flight. In addition to flying pets to their new

families, Greater Good Charities and The Animal Rescue Site are providing enrichment and critical medical supplies to assist the shelters and the sheltered pets of Hawaii.

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*Paws Across the Pacific* is made possible with support from the John R. Peterson Foundation, The Animal Rescue Site, Banfield Foundation, VCA Charities, Royal Canin, PEDIGREE Foundation, Tito's Handmade Vodka, Petco Foundation, Healthy Paws Pet Insurance & Foundation, Air Charter Service, Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health, MuttNation Foundation, Kamaka Air Cargo, and Jackson Galaxy.

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#### **About Maui Humane Society**

Maui Humane Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, serving the community for over 60 years and is Maui's only open admission shelter. Our mission is to protect and save the lives of Maui's animals, accepting all in need, educating the community and inspiring respect and compassion toward all animals. The Maui Humane Society takes in more than 4000 animals annually and serves many times that number through community outreach programs. Equally important, through the many programs and services offers, MHS provides support for Maui's approximately 90,000 pet owners as well as Animal Management Services for the County of Maui.

#### **About Greater Good Charities**

Greater Good Charities is a 501(c)(3) national nonprofit organization, with a 100/100 rating on *Charity Navigator*, that works to amplify the good in the world to improve the health and well-being of people, pets, and the planet. Since 2007, Greater Good Charities has given over \$300 million in cash and in-kind grants to over 5,000 charitable partners worldwide and funded projects in 121 countries. To date, Greater Good Charities has provided \$18 million in support for COVID-19 disaster-relief, including cash grants, in-kind supplies, and programmatic support. To learn more about how Greater Good Charities is amplifying the good across the globe, please visit [greatergood.org](http://greatergood.org) or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [Twitter](#).