FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Media Contact: Rachel Kudlak Marketing Lead randerson@phoenix-society.org 616.208.1141

National Nonprofit Dedicated to the Burn Community Ready to Provide Support to Hawaii Wildfire Survivors and Burn Care Team

Phoenix Society for Burn Survivors is at the ready to support those impacted by the Maui wildfires and the care team at the Straub Burn Unit.

As dangerous wildfires continue to rip across Hawaii, Phoenix Society for Burn Survivors, the leading national nonprofit dedicated to supporting the burn community, is mobilizing support for survivors and loved ones by working with care teams and patients at the Straub Burn Unit in Honolulu.

"On behalf of Phoenix Society, we send our deepest condolences to the families of those who lost loved ones in the Maui wildfires along with our support to those recovering from injuries," said Amy Acton, CEO of Phoenix Society. "As the recovery process begins, it is important for people to connect with and support each other. Our team is beginning to work with the medical community to ship recovery kits to burn survivors and stand ready to connect with caregivers and survivors to provide assistance."

As the immediate response continues and recovery begins, Phoenix Society encourages caregivers and loved ones to utilize its virtual support groups and available online resources as they begin the journey of burn recovery. These vital resources can be found at www.Phoenix-Society.org and cover topics such as what to expect with physical healing, how to care for yourself as a caregiver, and healing from burn trauma.

The Straub Burn Unit is also a certified Phoenix SOAR (Survivors Offering Assistance in Recovery) hospital. The Phoenix SOAR program connects survivors and their support systems with trained volunteers who have experienced similar trauma to serve as a trusted guide on their unique journey forward. Phoenix Society and our network of trained Phoenix SOAR volunteers are at the ready to support those impacted by the Maui wildfires and the care team at the Straub Burn Unit.

###

About Phoenix Society for Burn Survivors

For more than four decades, thousands of burn survivors, loved ones, healthcare professionals, and community allies have found comfort, support, and guidance—community—in the same place: Phoenix Society for Burn Survivors. Burn survivors and their loved ones face a lifelong journey of physical, emotional, and social recovery. Connecting with others who have walked a similar path is essential for optimal recovery and social reintegration. Phoenix Society for Burn Survivors is the leading connector for those affected by a burn injury, the primary resource for quality information and education, and the trusted authority for all in the burn community. Based in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Phoenix Society takes its name from the legendary bird

consumed by flame but rises again, more vibrant than before. For more information, visit <u>www.phoenix-society.org</u>.

Phoenix SOAR (Survivors Offering Assistance in Recovery) was designed by a national advisory team of healthcare professionals and burn survivors to provide a structured volunteer peer support program. Offered in hospitals and burn centers around the world, Phoenix SOAR is the gold-standard peer support program for the burn community. This training program is designed to provide insight, knowledge, and communication skills necessary for the peer supporter to interact with families who have experienced a burn injury.