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Headline: Hawaii Wildfires 2023
Description: August 15, 2023. Wailuku,

Hawaii.

American Red Cross staffer Doyle Rader holds hands with Thao Tran as she recalls her harrowing and desperate story of survival from the wildfire that swept through Lahaina. She and her husband, Loc, climbed into the ocean to try and escape the smoke and flames as the fire bore down on them from their left and right. Tran found herself floating in the water, unable to keep her head above the surface. She credits a stranger for saving her life. He reached down and pulled her back up above the water to safety.

"He brought me from down [and] pulled me out because the wave kept me sinking,"

Tran said.

After the fires subsided, the fire department was able to help reunite her and her husband before they found their way to the shelter at the War Memorial Gymnasium in Wailuku on Maui, operated by the Red Cross and its partners. Tran recognized a familiar face at the shelter: The man who

saved her life.

"He pulled me from Hell back to

Heaven," Tran said. Photo by Scott

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City: Wailuku

City: Wailuku State/Province: Hawaii