



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

GOV. MSG. NO. **743**

June 20, 2006

The Honorable Robert Bunda, President
and Members of the Senate
Twenty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 003
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. President and Members of the Senate:

This is to inform you that on June 20, 2006, the following bill was signed into law:

SB2484 SD1 HD1 CD1

A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING AN
APPROPRIATION FOR VOG
MONITORING STATIONS.
(ACT 213)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James R. Aiona, Jr.", written over a vertical line.

JAMES R. AIONA JR.

JAMES R. AIONA, JR.
Acting Governor

THE SENATE
TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2006
STATE OF HAWAII

S.B. NO. 2484
S.D. 1
H.D. 1
C.D. 1

A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR VOG MONITORING STATIONS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Kilauea volcano on the island of Hawaii is one
2 of the most active volcanoes in the world. It has erupted
3 continuously since 1983, and it emits thousands of tons of gases
4 containing water vapor, sulfur dioxide, and carbon dioxide
5 daily. Kilauea volcano is the nation's largest single source of
6 sulfur dioxide. It has an output several times greater than any
7 power plant. Once airborne, the gases react with other
8 chemicals in the air and are converted to a particulate form of
9 sulfuric acid mists and sulfate particles. This reaction
10 produces a visible haze called "vog."

11 Volcanic emission is a serious health issue. Various
12 studies have shown that exposure to vog may result in elevated
13 risks of adverse health conditions. Vog often irritates the
14 eyes, nose, throat, and lungs. It has been shown to increase
15 the occurrence of adolescent allergies, asthma, and respiratory
16 disease. The particles affect lung defenses and the ability to
17 clear material out of the lungs and can cause bronchitis.
18 Prolonged exposure may be associated with cardiac problems.



1 The department of health's clean air branch currently has
2 three vog-monitoring stations that measure sulfur dioxide in
3 Hilo, Puna, and Kona. The Hawaii Volcanoes National Park has
4 two monitoring stations. Unfortunately, these monitoring
5 stations do not measure vog levels in other parts of the Puna
6 district where thousands of residents are affected.

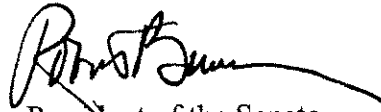
7 The legislature recognized the potential health hazards of
8 vog when it adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 135 in
9 2005, which requested the clean air branch to report the status
10 and findings of its vog-monitoring plan, together with
11 legislative recommendations. The report was submitted to the
12 legislature on December 15, 2005, and acknowledges volcanic
13 emission as an important public health issue. The report
14 proposes locating one additional monitoring station in Mountain
15 View and one in Pahala. It is intended that the stations will
16 be equipped with continuous sulfur dioxide monitors and
17 meteorological equipment. Quality assurance of the data will be
18 performed according to United States Environmental Protection
19 Agency guidelines. It is further intended that near real-time
20 data will be accessible to the public through an Internet
21 website and a telephone hotline, similar to the system employed
22 at the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.




THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: May 2, 2006
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate of the Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006.



President of the Senate



Clerk of the Senate


**THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE STATE OF HAWAII**

Date: May 2, 2006
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006.



Speaker, House of Representatives



Clerk, House of Representatives