
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.

1 The cost of establishing the two vog-monitoring stations is
2 \$160,000. The clean air branch is actively pursuing a federal
3 grant for the two stations, but funding is uncertain because of
4 federal budget cuts.

5 The purpose of this Act is to make an appropriation for two
6 vog-monitoring stations, one at Mountain View and one at Pahala,
7 or at any alternate location as determined by the Department of
8 Health.

9 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$150,000 or so much
11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007 for the
12 installation of vog-monitoring stations, one at Mountain View
13 and one at Pahala, or at any alternate location as determined by
14 the Department of Health on the island of Hawaii.

15 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
16 health for the purposes of this Act.

17 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.

SB2484, SDI, HDI, CD1

Report Title:

Appropriation; Vog-Monitoring Stations

Description:

Appropriates funds out of the general revenues to install vog-monitoring stations, one at Mountain View, one at Pahala, or any alternate location as determined by the Department of Health on the island of Hawaii. (CD1)

