
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DISASTER PREPAREDNESS.

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

1 SECTION 1. On October 15, 2006, a 6.7 magnitude earthquake
2 struck Kiholo Bay, off the northwestern coast of the island of
3 Hawaii. The strong earthquake caused an extensive amount of
4 property damage to homes, commercial buildings, and public
5 infrastructure, with estimated damage amounting to tens of
6 millions of dollars. Particularly hard-hit was the northwest
7 coast of Hawaii, where agricultural irrigation systems have been
8 devastated by landslides that have prevented the flow of surface
9 water to north Kohala and lower Hamakua. Southern areas of Maui
10 were also inundated with rockslides that damaged sections of
11 roadways in the vicinity of Manawainui gulch, Alelele bay, and
12 Kalepa bay.

13 In addition to the property damage, the other major impact
14 of the earthquake was the widespread electrical blackout that
15 occurred on Hawaii, Maui, and Oahu. The near-total blackout
16 proved especially disruptive for Oahu, with many of its
17 residents and visitors located in high-rise buildings and left
18 without tap water and air-conditioning. Travelers were also



1 severely affected by the lack of information provided to them
2 regarding the availability of transportation, especially air
3 travel.

4 In addition to the efforts of county and state agencies
5 such as civil defense to coordinate and respond to the damage
6 caused by the earthquake, the President issued a Presidential
7 Declaration of a major disaster on October 18, 2006. Shortly
8 afterwards, federal assistance provided by the Federal Emergency
9 Management Agency was approved pursuant to the Robert T.
10 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. Funding
11 was made available for debris removal and emergency protective
12 measures for public facilities as well as for individual
13 assistance and hazard mitigation measures. However, these
14 federal funds require the State to provide matching funds to
15 share in the costs.

16 The purpose of this Act is to provide state matching funds
17 to draw down the federal funds that are available under the
18 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
19 for emergency relief operations in the counties of Hawaii, Maui,
20 Kauai, and the city and county of Honolulu made necessary by the
21 October 15, 2006, Kiholo Bay earthquake disaster as follows:



- 1 (1) Upgrade state and county warning systems by providing
2 emergency backup power generators to selected critical
3 facilities such as:
- 4 (A) Radio and television stations to ensure
5 continuity of operations in informing the general
6 public of potential immediate risks;
- 7 (B) Airports; and
8 (C) Medical facilities;
- 9 (2) Hire consultants to:
- 10 (A) Investigate and survey alternate sources of
11 irrigation water for the island of Hawaii;
- 12 (B) Develop and coordinate plans for public and
13 private partnerships to improve and protect
14 sources and distribution of irrigation water on
15 the island of Hawaii;
- 16 and
- 17 (3) Provide financial assistance to critical facilities
18 such as public schools, hospitals, and nursing
19 facilities for structural and non-structural
20 mitigation projects.



1 In addition, this Act appropriates added funds for various other
2 measures to repair state facilities and improve Hawaii's
3 preparedness for future disasters.

4 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
6 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007 to provide
7 state matching funds for the federal public assistance program
8 and individual assistance program pursuant to the Robert T.
9 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

10 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
11 defense for the purposes of this Act. This appropriation is
12 deemed necessary to qualify for federal aid.

13 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
15 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007 to provide
16 for:

- 17 (1) Repair of state facilities damaged as a result of the
18 October 15, 2006, earthquake, including agricultural
19 irrigation infrastructure in Waimea, lower Hamakua,
20 and north Kohala; and



1 (2) Structural improvements to allow state facilities to
2 better withstand future earthquakes and other
3 disasters.

4 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
5 accounting and general services for the purposes of this Act;
6 provided that the funding for the repair of state facilities in
7 paragraph (1) shall be expended by the department of agriculture
8 for the purposes of this Act.

9 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007 to provide
12 emergency backup power generators for transportation,
13 communication, and medical facilities around the state.

14 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
15 accounting and general services for the purposes of this Act.

16 SECTION 5. The appropriations provided for in this Act
17 shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year for which the
18 appropriation is made; provided that as of June 30, 2008, all
19 unencumbered moneys from the appropriation shall lapse as of
20 that date.

21 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Disaster Preparedness; Funding

Description:

Appropriates funds for disaster preparedness initiatives.
(HB424 HD1)

