
A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING
AUTHORITY

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

1 SECTION 1. This Act is recommended by the governor for
2 immediate passage in accordance with section 9 of article VII of
3 the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

4 SECTION 2. Act 67, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, authorized
5 the department of accounting and general services to raise the
6 ceiling of the state risk management revolving fund to
7 accommodate unanticipated increases in property insurance
8 premiums and deductibles. The increased spending ceiling in Act
9 67 included in its assessment an additional \$777,000 that would
10 be needed from the Hawaii public housing authority for insurance
11 liability. While Act 67 raised the risk management ceiling, it
12 did not appropriate funds to the housing authority to cover this
13 cost. The purpose of this Act is to make an emergency
14 appropriation in general funds for the Hawaii public housing
15 authority to repay the department of budget and finance for a
16 loan made to address the risk management costs for liability
17 insurance billed to the Hawaii public housing authority by the



1 department of accounting and general services for fiscal year
2 2006-2007, in addition to payroll costs for the state public
3 housing program. Both the federal and state public housing
4 programs would normally fund these costs; however with the
5 increased insurance costs in conjunction with financial
6 constraints with both programs, funds are not readily available.

7 The federal low rent program houses some of the most
8 vulnerable families in the State of Hawaii. Unemployed families
9 can still be admitted to this program and have a roof over their
10 heads. The United States department of housing and urban
11 development provides a formula for housing authorities to
12 calculate rent, which is thirty per cent of adjusted income.
13 The average rent in federal public housing is \$237 per month.

14 The federal government provides public housing authorities
15 with a subsidy for the operation and management of public
16 housing to cover the shortfall between rents collected and
17 operational expenses. However, in the past years the amount of
18 the subsidy provided by the federal government has declined.
19 Nationally, public housing authorities are eligible to receive
20 \$4,600,000,000 in operating subsidies (a ten per cent increase
21 over 2006); however, the United States congress has appropriated
22 only \$3,860,000,000 or eighty-three per cent of the amount



1 needed. In 2007, the Hawaii public housing authority received
2 only eighty-three per cent of the operating subsidy for which it
3 was eligible. After factoring in the cost of utilities, which
4 is an increasing expense during the present era of rising energy
5 prices, the subsidy provided by the federal government met only
6 sixty-five per cent of the program's actual need. Consequently,
7 there is a deficit for the federal low rent program for fiscal
8 year 2007-2008.

9 The state elders fund, which also relies on rents collected
10 to manage and maintain projects, is also suffering under budget
11 constraints. While the deficit in this program is not as long
12 in duration as in the state public housing program, the Hawaii
13 public housing authority is unable to compensate the state
14 elders fund with its own reserves, as it has done in the past.
15 The state elders housing program, which is supported by this
16 fund, provides safe, decent, and affordable housing for one of
17 the State's most vulnerable populations.

18 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$10,000,000 or so
20 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 to
21 the Hawaii public housing authority to repay the department of
22 budget and finance for a loan to pay for liability insurance and



1 payroll costs and to address the budget deficits for the federal
2 low rent program, state family public housing program, and state
3 elders housing program.

4 SECTION 4. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the
5 Hawaii public housing authority for the purposes of this Act.

6 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Emergency appropriation; Hawaii Public Housing Authority

Description:

Emergency appropriation in general funds for fiscal year 2007-2008 to repay the department of budget and finance for a loan made to cover payroll and risk management costs for liability insurance for fiscal year 2006-2007, and to address a critical funding shortfall for operational costs of its public housing programs for fiscal year 2007-2008. (SD1)

