

JAN 24 2007

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 relatively powerful earthquake caused an extensive
4 amount of property damage to homes, commercial buildings, and
5 public infrastructure, with estimated damage amounting to tens
6 of 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 impacted 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 Administration was approved pursuant to the Robert T.
10 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Appropriation Act.
11 Funding was made available for debris removal and emergency
12 protective measures for public facilities, as well as for
13 individual assistance and hazard mitigation measures. However,
14 these federal funds require the State to provide matching funds
15 to 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 Appropriation
19 Act to repair the damage caused by the October 15, 2006 Kiholo
20 bay earthquake. In addition, this Act appropriates additional
21 funds for various other measures to repair state facilities and
22 improve Hawaii's preparedness for future disasters.



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

7 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
8 public safety for the purposes of this Act. This appropriation
9 is deemed necessary to qualify for federal aid.

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

- 14 (1) Repair of state facilities damaged as a result of the
15 October 15, 2006 earthquake, including agricultural
16 irrigation infrastructure in lower Hamakua and north
17 Kohala; and
- 18 (2) Structural improvements to allow state facilities to
19 better withstand future earthquakes and other
20 disasters.

21 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
22 accounting and general services for the purposes of this Act;



1 provided that the funding for the repair of state facilities in
2 paragraph (1) shall be expended by the department of agriculture
3 for the purposes of this Act.

4 SECTION 4. 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 develop
7 and implement a disaster preparedness communications plan that
8 provides for the following:

- 9 (1) Public awareness campaigns via radio and television
10 advertisements, the Internet, or other forms of media
11 distribution to educate the public; and
- 12 (2) Contingency plans in case of widespread power failure
13 to ensure that communications between agencies
14 responsible for responding to a disaster are
15 maintained, and to ensure timely dissemination of
16 information to the public.

17 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
18 public safety for the purposes of this Act.

19 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
21 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007 to provide



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1 emergency backup power generators for transportation,
 2 communication, and medical facilities around the state.

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

5 SECTION 6. The appropriations provided for in this Act
 6 shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year for which the
 7 appropriation is made, provided that as of June 30, 2008, all
 8 unencumbered moneys from the appropriation shall lapse as of
 9 that date.

10 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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Report Title:

Disaster Preparedness; Funding

Description:

Appropriates funds for disaster preparedness initiatives.

