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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE MAJOR DISASTER FUND.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the devastating  
2 wildfires brought on by winds from hurricane Dora on August 8,  
3 2023, resulted in one of the worst natural disasters in the  
4 State's history. The wildfires caused loss of life and the  
5 displacement of thousands on the island of Maui. The disaster  
6 also destroyed nearly all of Lahaina.

7       The legislature further finds that to support response and  
8 recovery efforts and address immediate 2023 Maui wildfire  
9 funding needs, the governor, through several emergency  
10 proclamations relating to wildfires and other executive powers,  
11 has redirected appropriations from selected general fund  
12 operating appropriations originally intended for specific  
13 purposes and capital improvement projects, to the department of  
14 budget and finance. The department of budget and finance  
15 subsequently transferred funds to the major disaster fund. With  
16 the veto of S.B. No. 3068, C.D. 2 (2024), and in light of the  
17 provisions of S.B. No. 582, C.D. 1 (2024), provisions regarding



1 transparency and accountability for the use of appropriations  
2 redirected no longer exist in statute.

3       The legislature believes that full transparency and  
4 accountability requires a full accounting of all appropriations  
5 transferred and deposited into the major disaster fund, and all  
6 reimbursements of Federal Emergency Management Agency funds  
7 received by the major disaster fund. In addition, assessing the  
8 impacts to departments of the transfers made from various  
9 appropriations is vital to ensuring that programs from which  
10 funding was transferred remain effective.

11       Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish timely  
12 notice and reporting requirements to the legislature regarding  
13 the transfer of appropriations to the major disaster fund.

14       SECTION 2. Section 127A-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
15 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

16       "(b) No later than [~~sixty~~] thirty days after any allotment  
17 or transfer by the governor or the expenditure of any fund  
18 moneys, the administrator shall report to the legislature on the  
19 purpose of the allotment, transfer, or expenditure. The report  
20 shall:



- 1        (1) Describe the allotment, subsequent use of the  
2        transferred funds, or the expenditure; and
- 3        (2) Include an accounting for Federal Emergency Management  
4        Agency eligible and ineligible expenses that specify:
- 5        (A) The date of allotment, transfer, or expenditure;  
6        (B) The amount of allotment, transfer, or  
7        expenditure;
- 8        (C) The program identification number from which  
9        funds were transferred or expended;
- 10       (D) The program identification number to which funds  
11       were transferred;
- 12       (E) The impact on the program identification number  
13       from which funds are transferred or expended; and
- 14       (F) A detailed explanation of:
- 15       (i) The uses of the resources transferred or  
16       expended; and
- 17       (ii) The public purposes served by the transfer  
18       of the resources."

19       SECTION 3. No later than October 1, 2025, the governor and  
20       administrator of the Hawaii emergency management agency shall  
21       submit to the legislature a summary report containing the



1 information specified in section 2 of this Act for the previous  
2 fiscal year.

3 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025, and  
4 shall be repealed on July 1, 2026; provided that section 127A-  
5 16(b), Hawaii Revised Statutes, shall be repealed and reenacted  
6 in the form in which it read prior to the effective date of this  
7 Act.



**Report Title:**

Governor; Major Disaster Fund; Notice Requirement; Reporting Requirement

**Description:**

Establishes timely notice and reporting requirements to the Legislature by the Governor regarding the transfer of appropriations to the Major Disaster Fund. Effective 7/1/2025. Sunsets 7/1/2026. (CD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

