
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 the island of Hawaii, where agricultural irrigation
8 systems have been devastated by landslides that have prevented
9 the flow of surface water to north Kohala and lower Hamakua.
10 Southern areas of Maui were also inundated with rockslides that
11 damaged sections of roadways in the vicinity of Manawainui
12 gulch, Alelele bay, and Kalepa bay.

13 In addition to the property damage, the earthquake also
14 caused a widespread electrical blackout on Hawaii, Maui, and
15 Oahu. The near-total blackout proved especially disruptive for
16 Oahu, with many of its residents and visitors located in high-
17 rise buildings and left without tap water and air-conditioning.
18 Travelers were also severely affected by the lack of information



1 provided to them regarding the availability of transportation,
2 especially air travel.

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

15 The purpose of this Act is to provide the state matching
16 funds required to receive the federal funds that are available
17 under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency
18 Assistance Act for emergency relief operations in the counties
19 of Hawaii, Maui, Kauai, and the city and county of Honolulu made
20 necessary by the October 15, 2006, Kiholo Bay earthquake
21 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. In accordance with section 9 of article VII, of
5 the Constitution of the State of Hawaii and sections 37-91 and
6 37-93, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined
7 that the appropriations contained in this Act will cause the
8 state general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2006-2007
9 to be exceeded by \$ or per cent. The reasons for
10 exceeding the general fund expenditure ceiling are that the
11 appropriations made in this Act are necessary to serve the
12 public interest and to meet the needs provided for by this Act.

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 state matching funds for the federal public assistance program
17 and individual assistance program pursuant to the Robert T.
18 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

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



1 SECTION 4. 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 for:

5 (1) Repair of state facilities damaged as a result of the
6 October 15, 2006, earthquake, including agricultural
7 irrigation infrastructure in Waimea, lower Hamakua,
8 and north Kohala; and

9 (2) Structural improvements to allow state facilities to
10 better withstand future earthquakes and other
11 disasters.

12 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
13 accounting and general services for the purposes of this Act;
14 provided that the funding for the repair of state facilities in
15 paragraph (1) shall be expended by the department of agriculture
16 for the purposes of this Act.

17 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007 to provide
20 emergency backup power generators for transportation,
21 communication, and medical facilities around the state.



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

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

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



Report Title:

Disaster Preparedness; Funding

Description:

Appropriates funds for disaster preparedness initiatives.
(HB424 HD2)

