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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DISASTER RELIEF.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that on August 8, 2023,  
2 wildfires devastated Lahaina and parts of upcountry Maui.  
3 Assistance from Hawaii and the mainland rushed to support Maui  
4 and has continued into recovery. In particular, the Federal  
5 Emergency Management Agency provided response support and offers  
6 recovery assistance via several programs, including the hazard  
7 mitigation grant program. This grant program funds projects  
8 that assist communities to build back better and stronger as  
9 well as reduce future damage from natural hazards statewide.  
10 However, the grant program requires a match from non-federal  
11 funds, and the current estimate of hazard mitigation grant  
12 program funding under the Maui wildfire disaster (FEMA-DR-4742-  
13 HI) is in excess of \$150,000,000. In previous disasters, many  
14 potential applicants have faced difficulty planning for and  
15 identifying funds for the local match and will face similar  
16 difficulty in this instance. This difficulty has been one of  
17 the primary impediments to the complete and efficient use of



1 hazard mitigation grant program funding and warrants assistance  
2 from the State.

3 The purpose of this Act is to establish a disaster relief  
4 match special fund and appropriate funds to provide the local  
5 match requirements of the Maui wildfires hazard mitigation grant  
6 program.

7 SECTION 2. Chapter 127A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
8 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
9 and to read as follows:

10 **"§127A- Disster relief match special fund; established.**

11 (a) There is established the disaster relief match special fund  
12 into which shall be deposited appropriations by the legislature  
13 to the special fund.

14 (b) The disaster relief match special fund shall be  
15 administered and expended by the department of defense to  
16 provide the local match requirements of the Federal Emergency  
17 Management Agency's Maui wildfires hazard mitigation grant  
18 program (FEMA-DR-4742-HI).

19 (c) The department of defense:

20 (1) Shall evaluate applications for funding from the  
21 special fund;



1       (2) Shall recommend priority applications to the Federal  
2       Emergency Management Agency for review, approval, and  
3       award; and

4       (3) May establish criteria for evaluating requests from  
5       potential applicants for matching support out of the  
6       special fund; provided that:

7       (A) The default level of matching support between the  
8       special fund and any other local source shall be  
9       fifty-fifty; and

10       (B) If the department of defense identifies  
11       applicants as small, economically disadvantaged  
12       communities or groups, the department may provide  
13       the entire local match requirement from the  
14       special fund."

15       SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                    or so  
17 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be  
18 deposited into the disaster relief match special fund.

19       SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the disaster  
20 relief match special fund the sum of \$                    or so much  
21 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 to provide



1 the local match requirements of the Federal Emergency Management  
2 Agency's Maui wildfires hazard mitigation grant program (FEMA-  
3 DR-4742-HI) for projects that implement mitigation measures to  
4 prevent and minimize the impacts the natural hazards affecting  
5 the State.

6 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
7 defense for the purposes of this Act.

8 SECTION 5. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of  
9 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,  
10 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the  
11 appropriations contained in H.B. No. , will cause the state  
12 general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be  
13 exceeded by \$ or per cent. In addition, the  
14 appropriation contained in this Act will cause the general fund  
15 expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be further  
16 exceeded by \$ or per cent. The combined total  
17 amount of general fund appropriations contained in only these  
18 two Acts will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling  
19 for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by  
20 \$ or per cent. The reasons for exceeding the  
21 general fund expenditure ceiling are that:



1           (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to  
2           serve the public interest; and

3           (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs  
4           addressed by this Act.

5           SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2042.



**Report Title:**

FEMA; Department of Defense; Maui Wildfires; Hazard Mitigation Grant Program; Disaster Relief Match Special Fund; Appropriation; Expenditure Ceiling

**Description:**

Establishes a Disaster Relief Match Special Fund to support the local match requirements of the Federal Emergency Management Agency Maui Wildfires Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for projects that implement mitigation measures to prevent and minimize the impacts of natural hazards affecting the State. Makes an appropriation. Declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded. Takes effect 7/1/2042. (SD1)

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