
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that based on the
2 findings and recommendations of the house of representatives'
3 environmental remediation working group, the wildfires that
4 engulfed urban areas on Maui in 2023 contained more toxic
5 chemicals than wildfires that simply consume wood and natural
6 materials. Materials burned in urban fires can include
7 household appliances, commercial appliances, vehicles, and
8 construction materials, which can leave behind a variety of
9 chemicals, contaminants, and debris that can persist in the
10 ecosystem.

11 The legislature further finds that conducting air and water
12 quality testing and contaminant testing is necessary to monitor
13 the short- and long-term risks of the Maui wildfires to the
14 ecosystem, community, and environment. Various state
15 departments and organizations are conducting testing and
16 monitoring of water and air samples to determine any immediate
17 risks, and long-term monitoring is preferable to evaluate



1 whether there are any long-term risks to human health and the
2 ecosystem.

3 The purpose of this Act is to allocate funding for long-
4 term monitoring of air and water quality in communities impacted
5 by the Maui wildfires, as well as support for research efforts
6 to better understand the environmental concerns linked to urban
7 fires.

8 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
10 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for
11 long-term monitoring of air and water quality in communities
12 impacted by the Maui wildfires, as well as support for research
13 efforts to better understand the environmental concerns linked
14 to urban fires; provided that the sum appropriated shall be
15 allocated as follows:

16 (1) \$ for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) air
17 quality electronics technician I position to support
18 added air monitoring needs;

19 (2) \$ for expanding Kula community air sampling
20 efforts, including equipment and maintenance; and



1 (3) \$ for expanding Lahaina community air
2 sampling efforts, including equipment and maintenance.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
4 health for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 3. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of
6 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,
7 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the
8 appropriations contained in H.B. No. , will cause the state
9 general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be
10 exceeded by \$ or per cent. In addition, the
11 appropriation contained in this Act will cause the general fund
12 expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be further
13 exceeded by \$ or per cent. The combined total
14 amount of general fund appropriations contained in only these
15 two Acts will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling
16 for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by
17 \$ or per cent. The reasons for exceeding the
18 general fund expenditure ceiling are that:

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



H.B. NO. 1839

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

3 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

4

INTRODUCED BY: *Oliver Am*

JAN 18 2024



H.B. NO. 1839

Report Title:

Air and Water Quality Monitoring; Kula; Lahaina; Department of Health; Appropriation; Expenditure Ceiling

Description:

Appropriates funds for long-term monitoring of air and water quality for communities impacted by the Maui wildfires, as well as support for research efforts to better understand the environmental concerns linked to urban fires.

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