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# 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 August 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 quality  
12 testing and contaminant testing is necessary to monitor the  
13 short- and long-term risks of the August 2023 Maui wildfire to  
14 the ecosystem, community, and environment. Various state  
15 departments and organizations are conducting testing and  
16 monitoring of air samples to determine any immediate risks, and



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

3 The purpose of this Act is to allocate funding for long-  
4 term monitoring of air quality in certain communities impacted  
5 by the August 2023 Maui wildfire, as well as support for  
6 research efforts to better understand the environmental concerns  
7 linked to urban 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 quality in communities impacted by  
12 the August 2023 Maui wildfire, 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 the establishment of full-time  
17 equivalent ( FTE) permanent environmental health  
18 specialist IV positions;

19 (2) \$ for expanding Olowalu community air  
20 sampling efforts, including equipment and maintenance;  
21 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



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, 3000.



**Report Title:**

DOH; Air Quality Monitoring; Olowalu; Lahaina; Expenditure Ceiling; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the Department of Health for long-term monitoring of air quality for certain communities impacted by the August 2023 Maui wildfire, as well as support for research efforts to better understand the environmental concerns linked to urban fires, including funding for the establishment of permanent environmental health specialist IV positions. Declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded. Takes effect 7/1/3000. (SD1)

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

