

ACT 215

S.B. NO. 1732

A Bill for an Act Making an Appropriation for a Local Flood Warning System for Lake Wilson.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. Flooding is a natural hazard that can occur at any time. The frequency and magnitude of flooding can vary from minor flooding causing only inconvenience, to major flooding resulting in loss of life and extensive damage to

agriculture, industry, transportation, and commercial and residential segments of society.

The purpose of a flood warning system is to provide officials with advance information that can be translated into response actions to save lives. An adequate local flood warning system is comprised of community volunteers; rainfall, river, and other hydrologic gauges; a communications network; and a local flood coordinator responsible for issuing flood warnings. An adequate flood warning system would also increase public awareness of the threat of floods and improve public response to flood warnings.

The United States Geological Survey will install a flood warning system at Lake Wilson to provide advance information on an impending flood. The United States Geological Survey will work with the National Weather Service to issue flood warnings and, with the Oahu civil defense agency and Honolulu police department, will help ensure the timely evacuation of residents living downstream from Lake Wilson. However, the State must appropriate matching funds for the purchase of stream gauges and the operation and maintenance of the flood warning system.

The total purchase and installation cost of the stream gauges for the system is \$100,000, of which the State would be responsible for half. The annual operation and maintenance cost for the flood warning system is \$50,000, with the State matching half. It is anticipated that the annual operation and maintenance cost for the flood warning system will be an ongoing expense because such systems require regular upkeep.

SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$19,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2005-2006, and the sum of \$20,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for fiscal year 2006-2007, for the purchase and installation of stream gauges and operation and maintenance of a flood warning system for Lake Wilson; provided that no funds shall be made available under this Act unless dollar-for-dollar federal matching funds for this purpose are first made available.

SECTION 3. The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department of defense for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2005.

(Became law on July 12, 2005, without the Governor's signature, pursuant to Art. III, §16, State Constitution.)