



**GOV. MSG. NO. 1229**

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

June 19, 2015

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,  
President  
and Members of the Senate  
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Joseph M. Souki,  
Speaker and Members of the  
House of Representatives  
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Souki, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on June 19, 2015, the following bill was signed into law:

SB1211 SD1 HD1 CD1

**RELATING TO THE MAJOR DISASTER FUND  
ACT 129 (15)**

Sincerely,

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

Approved by the Governor

on JUN 19 2015  
THE SENATE  
TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE, 2015  
STATE OF HAWAII

**ACT 129**  
**S.B. NO.** 1211  
S.D. 1  
H.D. 1  
C.D. 1

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE MAJOR DISASTER FUND.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State is  
2 vulnerable to a wide range of natural and man-made hazards,  
3 which may result in emergencies or disasters that: threaten the  
4 life, health, and safety of its people; damage and destroy  
5 property; disrupt everyday services, business, and recreational  
6 activities; and impede economic development. Last year,  
7 tropical storm Iselle alone cost the State \$1,300,000 in  
8 response costs and has a reported \$13,200,000 in damage and  
9 debris expenses. According to county officials, as of October  
10 2014, the Puna lava flow on the island of Hawaii has caused  
11 \$14,500,000 in damages, primarily because of construction costs  
12 for emergency access roads. The latest project, reopening Chain  
13 of Craters road, could cost between \$12,000,000 and \$15,500,000.

14 The purpose of this Act is to adequately prepare Hawaii for  
15 the next major disaster by increasing the expenditure ceiling on  
16 major disaster fund moneys.

17 SECTION 2. Section 127A-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
18 amended to read as follows:



1 " ~~[+]~~ §127A-16 ~~[+]~~ Major disaster fund. (a) The director  
2 shall submit requests to the legislature to appropriate from the  
3 general revenues of the State sufficient moneys as may be  
4 necessary for expenditure by or under the direction of the  
5 governor for immediate relief in response to an emergency or  
6 disaster in any part of the State; provided that:

7 (1) The governor has issued a proclamation of a state of  
8 emergency;

9 (2) The governor may not expend in excess of ~~[\$2,000,000]~~  
10 \$5,000,000 for immediate relief as a result of any  
11 single emergency or disaster; and

12 (3) In addition to the funds in paragraph (2), an  
13 additional ~~[\$2,000,000]~~ \$5,000,000 may be made  
14 available solely for the purpose of matching federal  
15 disaster relief funds when these funds become  
16 available to the State following a presidential  
17 disaster declaration.

18 In expending the moneys, the governor may allot any portion  
19 thereof to any agency, office, or employee of the State or a  
20 county for the most efficient relief for the population.

21 Notwithstanding this subsection, the only exception to



1 [-] paragraphs (1), [-] (2), and (3) is that the director may use  
2 up to \$100,000 per year to support emergency reserve corps  
3 training.

4 (b) No later than one month after any allotment by the  
5 governor or the expenditure of any fund moneys, the director  
6 shall report to the legislature on the purpose of the allotment  
7 or expenditure.

8 ~~[-]~~ (c) Federal reimbursement moneys for disaster relief  
9 shall be deemed to be trust moneys and may be deposited into a  
10 trust account with and under the control of the department of  
11 defense. These moneys and any interest earned thereon shall be  
12 used for the purpose identified in subsection (a) and shall not  
13 lapse to the general fund."

14 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,500,000 or so much  
16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 for  
17 deposit into the major disaster fund.

18 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Governor for  
19 the purposes of this Act.

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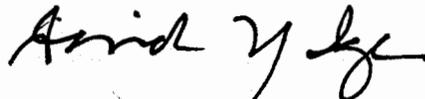


1 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

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APPROVED this 19 day of JUN, 2015



GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII