May 1, 2015

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim,
President
and Members of the Senate
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

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

This is to inform you that on May 1, 2015, the following bill was signed into law:

SB 1118 SD1  Making an Emergency Appropriation to the Department of Health for Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response Preparedness.

ACT 025 (15)

Sincerely,

[Signature]

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawaii
A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR HAZARD EVALUATION AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE PREPAREDNESS.

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

SECTION 1. This Act is recommended by the governor for immediate passage in accordance with section 9 of article VII of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

SECTION 2. The department of health provides public health and environmental hazard evaluation and emergency response services twenty-four hours per day, seven days a week. These resources have been deployed to several high profile events such as Hurricane Iselle, the Puna lava flows, the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami, and the Honolulu Harbor molasses spill.

Services are funded by the environmental response revolving fund. The fund is capitalized primarily by the state environmental response, energy, and food security tax. Five cents are deposited in the environmental response revolving fund from the $1.05 tax assessed on each barrel of petroleum product sold by a distributor to any retail dealer or end user of petroleum product. However, the environmental response revolving fund balance is dangerously low due to reduced
consumption of crude oil in the State, while demand for public
health and environmental hazard evaluation and emergency
response has increased. Without adequate capitalization, the
department of health will be forced to begin the process of
laying off program staff before the end of fiscal year 2015.

The purpose of this Act is to make an emergency
appropriation for fiscal year 2014-2015 to preserve public
health by continuing environmental hazard evaluation and
emergency response preparedness.

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of $800,000 or so much
thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to be
deposited in to the environmental response revolving fund
established under section 128D-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for
the purpose of hazard evaluation and emergency response
preparedness.

SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the environmental
response revolving fund the sum of $800,000 or so much thereof
as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to be used for the
purpose of hazard evaluation and emergency response
preparedness.
The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of health for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

APPROVED this 1 day of MAY, 2015

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII