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.
1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
2 health for the purposes of this Act.
3 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
Report Title:

Description:
Makes an emergency appropriation to the Department of Health to support public health and environmental hazard evaluation and emergency response preparedness. (SD1)

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