
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 [~~b~~] (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.

20



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.

4



Report Title:

Major Disaster Fund; Expenditure Ceiling; Increase; Reports;
Appropriation

Description:

Increases the expenditure ceiling on Major Disaster Fund moneys.
Requires the Adjutant General to report any allotment of fund
moneys or any expenditure of fund moneys to the Legislature
within one month of the allotment or expenditure. Appropriates
funds for deposit into the Major Disaster Fund. (CD1)

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