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Senator Daniel K. Inouye Papers

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U.S. SENATOR FROM HAWAII



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Commerce Committee Approves Sea Grant Reauthorization

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

For Immediate Release

WASHINGTON – The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation today unanimously approved a bill to reauthorize the National Sea Grant College Program (Sea Grant), which provides education, training, and technical assistance programs that promote the understanding and utilization of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources. The *National Sea Grant College Program Amendments Act of 2008* (S. 3160), reauthorizes Sea Grant for FY 2009 through FY 2014.

Senators Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii), Ted Stevens (R-Alaska), Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.), Olympia Snowe (R-Maine), and John Kerry (D-Mass.) co-sponsored the bill. Modeled after the Land Grant College System, the National Sea Grant College Program Act of 1966 created Sea Grant. The Program is a partnership between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), university based programs, coastal and Great Lakes states, industry, and 300 partner institutions that addresses national, regional, and local coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes issues.

This bill would reauthorize Sea Grant for the tenth time since its inception.

“I am pleased that the Commerce Committee has moved so quickly to reauthorize this important program,” said Senator Inouye, Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. **“Sea Grant fellows have provided expertise and leadership on any number of issues relating to our ocean and coastal resources. The Sea Grant program has been invaluable to the cause of ensuring that these resources and ecosystems will be protected for future generations.”**

“The National Sea Grant College Program has been valuable in providing research and outreach to Alaska’s fishing community and has helped Alaska maintain its status as a leader in sustainable fisheries,” said Senator Stevens, Vice Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. **“I am glad that the Commerce Committee has approved this bill which is vital to keeping America’s oceans and coasts healthy.”**

The Act would authorize \$675 million for FY 2009 through FY 2014. The bill also would invest in services that integrate scientific research and extension services, and encourage increased collaboration among state Sea Grant programs.

The major provisions of the *National Sea Grant College Program Amendments Act of 2008* would:

Authorize appropriations of \$100 million for FY 2009, \$105 million for FY 2010, \$110 million for FY 2011, \$115 million for FY 2012, \$120 million for FY 2013, and \$125 million for FY 2014, which will be used to implement regional coordination and allow for the program as a whole to sustain ongoing research, education, and outreach efforts;

Direct Sea Grant to provide integrated research and extension services;

Place an increased emphasis on collaboration among state Sea Grant programs, specifically at the regional level;

Replace the current cumbersome rating system that required ranking individual programs with one that is based on metrics related to their strategic plans that incorporate local, regional, and national priorities;

Exempt five percent of grants, rather than one percent, from requiring a 33 and 1/3 percent match from external funds, which would allow for the funding of special grants, increased cooperative efforts with other federal agencies and organizations, and exempt Knauss Fellowships from this requirement;

Redesignate the National Sea Grant Review Panel as the National Sea Grant Advisory Board to better reflect its current role, including advising the Sea Grant Director regarding national priorities and designating Sea Grant Colleges and Institutes, and increase the terms of office of Advisory Board members from three to four years;

Require the National Sea Grant Advisory Board to provide a biennial report to the Congress evaluating the National Sea Grant College Program;

Allow for the formation of National Sea Grant Advisory Board subcommittees, which could include individuals who are not Board members; and repeal the requirement for a joint report by the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and the Director of the National Science Foundation.

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Dan Inouye

U.S. SENATOR FROM HAWAII



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Senate Passes Maritime Pollution Prevention Act

For Immediate Release

WASHINGTON, June 27, 2008 (Friday) – The U.S. Senate approved H.R. 802, *the Maritime Pollution Prevention Act (MARPOL Annex VI)* by unanimous consent late yesterday. Reported by the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation with an amendment sponsored by Commerce Committee Chairman Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii) and Vice Chairman Ted Stevens (R-Alaska), H.R. 802 would require the Coast Guard and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to prescribe regulations to implement vessel air emission standards and requirements that are outlined under Annex VI to the MARPOL Convention.

The MARPOL Convention is the global agreement to control pollution from ships. MARPOL Annex VI regulates the emission into the atmosphere of specified pollutants from ships.

“Today we take a significant step toward reducing air pollution from ships operating in United States waters,” said Senator Inouye. “Science tells us that air pollution knows no national boundaries. By taking an international approach to solving an international problem, we have found the best way to combat an issue that affects not only the United States, but the entire international community.”

As reported by the Senate, H.R. 802 would:

- Require the EPA to promulgate regulations to establish standards for nitrogen oxides (NO_x), sulfur oxides (SO_x), and volatile organic compounds and quality standards for vessel fuel oil in consultation with the Coast Guard.
- Require U.S.-flag vessels and foreign vessels that are operating in the territorial sea, in emission control areas, and in areas designated by the Administrator, in consultation with Coast Guard, to comply with vessel air emission regulations that are issued by the Coast Guard and the EPA. These requirements also would give the Coast Guard the authority to apply Annex VI to party and non-party vessels in the U.S. EEZ in the same manner as the other marine-related Annexes apply to non-party vessels.
- Ensure that the authority to enforce Annex VI would not restrict the freedom of navigation in a country’s EEZ, the right of passage through the territorial sea, or the right of transit passage

though straits used for international navigation.

- Apply vessel air emission standards only to vessels with NO_x marine engines rated above 130 kilowatts, or 175 horsepower.
- Prohibit any person other than the Administrator of the EPA from issuing an Engine International Air Pollution Prevention Certificate on behalf of the United States and require that such certificates are issued consistently with regulations and requirements under the Clean Air Act.
- Require each vessel greater than 400 gross tons and each offshore terminal to be issued an International Air Pollution Prevention Certificate to certify that the vessel's or terminal's equipment is in compliance with all applicable requirements under MARPOL Annex VI, and an Engine International Air Pollution Prevention Certificate to certify that each engine or engine group is in compliance with NO_x standards.
- Require the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating or the EPA Administrator to prescribe regulations that require ports and terminals to provide or ensure the availability of adequate reception facilities for ozone depleting substances, equipment containing such substances, and exhaust cleaning residues. This section also would authorize the Coast Guard to deny a vessel entry into a port or terminal that, in the Coast Guard's determination, is not in compliance with those regulations.

Dan Inouye

U.S. SENATOR FROM HAWAII



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SENATOR INOUE ANNOUNCES \$9.4 MILLION CONTRACT TO HAWAII COMPANIES TO CONTINUE UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE CLEAN-UP

TUESDAY, JULY 1, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Honolulu, Hawaii – United States Senator Daniel K. Inouye is pleased to announce that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has awarded a \$9,467,466 contract to Dawson Group/ Environet Joint Venture, LLC, an 8(a)/Native Hawaiian Organization, to continue clean-up work at the Waikoloa Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) on the Island of Hawaii.

This contract will continue the ongoing successful clearance and cleanup of unexploded ordnance from the 137,000-acre former World War II military training area in the Waikoloa Village-Waimea area of the Big Island. From 2002 to 2008, the Corps safely disposed of approximately 2,000 unexploded munitions, cleared over 8,000 acres and recycled over 250 tons of munition debris and other former military debris.

Senator Inouye said “It is important that we continue and expand our efforts to clear ordnance from former military sites . This is our obligation. Additionally, I wish to commend the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for reaching out to qualified Hawaii companies to continue the clean-up effort. I have no doubt that they will undertake their tasks with professionalism and environmental and cultural sensitivity.”

Dan Inouye

U.S. SENATOR FROM HAWAII



**SENATE PANEL APPROVES \$244 MILLION FOR HAWAII INITIATIVES
IN TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING, ENERGY, WATER, AND TECHNOLOGY**

\$20 Million Earmarked for Honolulu Mass Transit Project

Thursday, July 10, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON — The Senate Appropriations Committee voted unanimously today to approve three funding measures that include nearly \$244 million for transportation, housing, energy, water, and technology initiatives that benefit Hawaii, U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye announced.

“I am especially pleased that my appropriations request for the Honolulu mass transit project was fully funded at \$20 million, especially at a time when requests for federal resources are highly competitive during this period of difficult budgetary times,” Senator Inouye said. **“I am grateful that my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee share my conviction that this initiative is an important project for Honolulu and Oahu.”**

The House appropriations bill sets aside \$10 million for the Honolulu mass transit project.

Other key Hawaii-related initiatives in the three Fiscal Year 2009 appropriations bills that the Senate Appropriations Committee advanced to the full Senate include the Rural Bus Program (\$2 million), the Hawaii-New Mexico Sustainable Energy Security Partnership (\$3 million), and surge, hurricane evacuation, and typhoon studies (a combined total of \$3.2 million).

“The programs seek to improve all aspects of our quality of life in Hawaii – from aiming to make it easier to move from one destination to another on Oahu, to serving those in rural areas who have limited transportation opportunities, to seeking greener and less expensive energy options, and finding ways to cope with the dangers and destruction that hurricanes and typhoons can bring,” Senator Inouye said.

In some instances, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved national programs that benefit Hawaii, but did not break out a specific dollar amount for the state. The programs include Essential Air Service for rural areas, which, in Hawaii, serves the remote communities of Hana, Kalaupapa, and Kamuela, and the High Intensity Drug Trafficking program, which disrupts illicit drug trafficking in the isles. If past funding is a guide, these two programs will receive a combined total of roughly \$5 million to \$6 million.

Below are the Hawaii-related initiatives that the Senate Appropriations Committee approved today.

From the Fiscal Year 2009 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill:

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration Formula Funds **\$143,485,622**

Federal Transit Administration Formula Funds **\$35,070,500**

These funds are used to support and maintain the City and County of Honolulu’s bus system, including the purchase of replacement buses and Handi-vans, and the construction of transit centers.

Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project **\$20,000,000**

The appropriation will fund the continuing preliminary engineering phases of initial facility and transit system design, in addition to the refinement of capital cost estimates, as required by the Federal Transit Administration.

H-1 Improvements Kinau and Lusitana On-Ramps **\$5,000,000**

This project, which provides safe freeway access to and from downtown Honolulu.

Rural Bus Program **\$2,000,000**

These funds will be used by Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai counties to purchase buses to expand routes and increase the frequency of service throughout the neighbor

islands. The funds may also be used to provide bus shelters, transit benches, and upgrades to comply with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Federal Land Improvements **\$1,000,000**

Federal property within Hawaii includes several extensive wildlife refuge and national parks located on four islands. These parks encompass rugged volcanic terrain, wetlands, tropical forests, coastline, and historical fishponds used in Native Hawaiian aquaculture. This appropriation will enable access to and within designated federal properties for proper park service maintenance and security.

Hawaii Ferry Funds **\$1,000,000**

This is Hawaii's share of an allocation that is equally divided between Hawaii and Alaska for capital investments in ferry infrastructure or vessels, and will support Oahu's renewed interest in a ferry system from West Oahu to Honolulu.

Essential Air Service

The Essential Air Service Program provides subsidies to air carriers serving the small airports that are vital links to the remote communities of Hana, Kalaupapa, and Kamuela.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grants, Hawaii **\$10,000,000**

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) is working to increase the affordable housing inventory on Hawaiian homelands to meet the demand for housing for low-income Native Hawaiian families. DHHL is seeking to enhance the supply of affordable housing units through the construction of infrastructure improvements, single-family, multi-family, rent-to-own, and rental housing.

Native Hawaiian Housing Loan Guarantee Fund Program **\$1,044,000**

These funds in credit subsidy will support loan-guarantee authority of \$41,504,000. The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) intends to utilize the loan program as an institutional borrower to construct houses for purchase by low-income borrowers by way of direct loans from DHHL.

Laiopua 2020 Community Center, Kailua-Kona **\$500,000**

These funds will be used for the planning, design, and construction of this project.

Kalihi Valley Homes Rehabilitation Project **\$400,000**

This project is for the renovation of abandoned housing units in Honolulu's Kalihi Valley to provide 22 homes for low-income families.

Pacific Gateway Center Business Incubator

Capital Improvement Project

\$300,000

The center will receive the grant. Its clients are immigrants, refugees, and low- to moderate-income entrepreneurs.

From the Fiscal Year 2009 Department of Energy, and Water Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill:

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Hawaii-New Mexico Sustainable Energy Security Partnership

\$3,000,000

This appropriation will be used to increase electricity reliability and critical infrastructure protection for the nation's benefit.

Hawaii Renewable Energy Development Venture

\$2,500,000

This appropriation will be used for the evaluation, testing and/or demonstration of potential renewable energy resources in Hawaii.

Development of High-Yield Tropical Feedstocks

\$1,500,000

This initiative involves the development of high-yield tropical feedstocks for bioenergy. As the most geographically isolated part of the United States, Hawaii is particularly vulnerable to energy shortages. This project would lessen Hawaii's dependence on fossil fuels.

ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Operations and Maintenance

\$3,744,000

The projects: Haleiwa Small Boat Harbor (\$1,000,000), Waianae Small Boat Harbor (\$1,000,000), inspection of completed works (\$659,000), Barbers Point Harbor (\$548,000), and project condition surveys (\$537,000).

Surge and Wave Island Modeling Studies (SWIMS)

\$1,200,000

This appropriation will continue development of technology to predict hurricane/typhoon waves and inundation in Hawaii, and U.S. Pacific and Caribbean territories. These tools support emergency response planning and real-time operations for state and local emergency managers. Partners in the effort include the University of Hawaii and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. These studies will also support efforts to develop wind and wave climatologies for the islands, flood mapping, and engineering research and design tools.

Hurricane Evacuation Studies – U.S. Islands

\$1,000,000

This appropriation will continue development of an integrated real-time planning

and operational system, which will enhance the capabilities of local emergency managers in identifying and managing island populations vulnerable to hurricane/typhoon threats in Hawaii, and U.S. Pacific and Caribbean territories.

Pacific Island Land Ocean Typhoon Studies (PILOT) **\$1,000,000**

This appropriation will continue the collection of storm-induced wave and surge data of coral reefs in Hawaii, and U.S. Pacific and Caribbean territories. This unique data set is vital to understanding the physics of wave/reef interactions and the development of predictive models such as SWIMS. Additional efforts will also define the engineering characteristics of reefs with respect to wave and surge reduction. Partners in this effort are the Hawaii State Civil Defense, University of Hawaii, University of Guam, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, NOAA, and the Weather Service.

Sacred Falls Beach Demonstration Project **\$875,000**

This project will lead to the construction of a new 370-foot beach of shoreline to replace the one that has deteriorated and eroded. A combination of low profile, permeable groins, and offshore breakwaters will be built to abate further erosion, and allow sediment to pass through, resulting in a longer-term sustained beach.

*Southeast Oahu Regional Sediment Management
Demonstration Project* **\$500,000**

The funds will be used for technical investigations. Shoreline erosion threatens upland development and coastal habitat along much of the southeast coast of Oahu. Lanikai has lost most of the dry beach width that historically provided a buffer to the impacts of storm waves, and offered unique recreation opportunities.

Kalaeloa Barbers Point Harbor Improvements **\$350,000**

Kahuku Watershed Project **\$344,000**

The Kahuku area on Oahu has historically been subject to flooding and drainage problems. The project is focused on flood control improvements to Ohia Stream and Hospital Ditch.

Ala Wai Canal Project **\$300,000**

Funding will continue the expanded scope of the project's feasibility study to include the Manoa, Palolo, and Makiki streams in addition to ecosystem improvement projects. The Manoa Stream flooding in 2004, which caused more than \$100 million in damages to Manoa residences and the University of Hawaii, highlighted the need to mitigate future flooding.

United States Senate

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COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS,
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~~Hydroelectric Power Assessment~~

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~~\$300,000~~

~~This project will update a 1983 study and assessment by the U.S. Corps of Engineers~~

~~of the state's hydroelectric power potential. Hawaii is highly dependent on fossil~~

~~fuels for energy, and hydroelectric power can be an economical and reliable~~

~~alternative.~~

DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND COORDINATION

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JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRINTING

Wailupe Stream Flood Damage Reduction Project **\$300,000**

The funds will be used to continue preconstruction engineering and design investigations, and initiate plans and specifications. Wailupe Stream is eight miles southeast of Honolulu, and its 100-year flood plain encompasses nearly 600 structures in the residential community of Aina Haina. Construction improvements would minimize flood damage to homes.

Maalaea Harbor **\$200,000**

Navigation conditions in the entrance channel and turning basin of this Maui harbor are hazardous. The interior berthing area is vulnerable to surges resulting in damage to boats. The harbor's berthing capacity of 93 vessels is inadequate.

Hilo Harbor Modifications **\$100,000**

The channel and turning basin of Hilo Harbor are outdated and not designed to accommodate the large vessel sizes required to maximize cargo transportation efficiency to the Big Island. A study will identify and evaluate alternatives for modifying Hilo Harbor.

Kekaha Flood Study **\$100,000**

Kekaha, Kauai, is prone to flooding as was highlighted during storms early this year. The flood study will provide officials with an understanding of the scope of the problem, as well as identifying possible options.

PRIORITY PROJECTS

The following Army Corps of Engineers projects, all part of the Continuing Authorities Program, do not have a specific appropriation. But all have been designated by the Senate Appropriations Committee as priority projects for which federal funds must be released once all Corps requirements are met.

Kahana Pond Wildlife Sanctuary Restoration Project, Maui

Kahoolawe Small Boat Harbor Feasibility Study

Kaunakakai Stream Environmental Restoration

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This initiative will restore habitat for the endangered Hawaiian Stilt by creating 2.75 acres of shallow ponds and wetlands within this stream on Molokai.

Keopu and Hienaloli Streams Flood Damage Reduction

This project is critical to the overall implementation of a flood mitigation plan for the growing Kailua-Kona area of the Big Island. Flooding problems within the Keopu and Hienaloli basins are attributed to inadequately defined channels, steep slopes, inadequate channel and culvert capacities, and accumulation of debris and vegetation.

Kuliouou Stream Flood Damage Reduction Modification Project

Modifications are needed because an upstream development has created high and unstable flows entering the stream. During heavy rainfall, the stream's floodwaters reach very high speeds, and damage the flood control channel, and private and public property.

Mokuhinia/Mokuula Ecosystem Restoration

This project involves the development of tidal wetlands that would provide a habitat for endangered and native waterfowl species at a site that was once home for Hawaiian royalty.

North Kohala Navigational Improvements

This initiative would bring navigational improvements for boat launching facilities to the North Kohala area of the Big Island.

Waiale Stream Improvements

From the Fiscal Year 2009 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill:

Native Hawaiian Organization Association

\$300,000

This appropriation will help establish the Honolulu-based Native Hawaiian Organization Association. The Association was recently formed to increase the competitiveness of Native Hawaiian organizations to secure government contracts. It was also formed to ensure transparency in the funds distributed for community benefits as profits are generated by the organizations. The goal of this grant is to establish a networking and mentoring system that provides opportunities for partners and businesses, Hawaiian and non-Hawaiian, to access an additional economic tool to keep more of the federal contract opportunities with Hawaii small businesses. This model is envisioned as helping to break the cycle of poverty.

DANIEL K. INOUE
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United States Senate

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Oahu Technology and Innovation Park

Over the past decade, Hawaii has reached "critical mass" in the development of the dual-use technology sector. The goal now is to enhance working synergies, and to move toward self-sustainability. To achieve this goal, the development and construction of an Oahu Technology and Innovation Park is needed. Due to the Honolulu area's lack of industrial and research lab space, companies are scattered in various areas without any meaningful networking and partnering opportunities. The purpose this grant is to first support this planning effort by bringing disparate parties (federal, state, county government officials, small and large technology companies, and the University of Hawaii) together to discuss the priorities and requirements for such a Park, and to help these parties move through the process from construction to operation.

Hawaii High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area

Hawaii's HIDTA designation was received in 1999, and the Hawaii HIDTA is uniquely situated to significantly disrupt illicit drug trafficking in Hawaii. Because Hawaii's geographic location links it to Asia, Oceania, and the Pacific, the work conducted in Hawaii is key to preventing new drugs from abroad from gaining at foothold in the United States.

Dan Inouye

U.S. SENATOR FROM HAWAII



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO RECEIVE \$3.6 MILLION FOR OCEAN-RELATED RESEARCH

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye announced today that the Hawaii Undersea Research Laboratory at the University of Hawaii has been awarded a federal grant of nearly \$3.3 million for research in the waters off the main and Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

“This grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is a testament to the excellent work undertaken by HURL,” Senator Inouye said. “The lab’s research teams have discovered a new species of scorpionfish, observed the growth and evolution of Loihi, the next of Hawaii’s islands, which lies deep underwater off of the Big Island’s southeast coast, and even found in 2002 the Japanese midget submarine that was the first vessel sunk in the attack on Pearl Harbor nearly 67 years ago. HURL is on the cutting edge of ocean science.”

In addition to the \$3,273,459 grant for HURL, the University of Hawaii also was awarded two other ocean-related federal grants from NOAA:

* \$250,000 to develop hatchery and nursery protocols for the commercial production of pink snapper, opakapaka.

* \$120,000 to continue research on reducing sea turtle bycatch, including studying captive sea turtles and conducting open ocean field trials. The program has been expanded to include bycatch mitigation research with sharks.

Dan Inouye

U.S. SENATOR FROM HAWAII



**SENATE PANEL APPROVES \$602.3 MILLION FOR MILITARY
CONSTRUCTION, AGRICULTURE PROJECTS IN HAWAII,
AND FOR EAST-WEST CENTER FUNDING**

Thursday, July 17, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON — The Senate Appropriations Committee today unanimously approved \$602.3 million for Hawaii-related projects, with 94 percent of the funds – nearly \$565.7 million – dedicated to military construction, U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye announced.

The Appropriations panel also approved \$22 million for the East-West Center, and nearly \$14.7 million for local agriculture initiatives. The Hawaii-related programs are contained in three funding bills for Fiscal Year 2009 that the Senate Appropriations Committee advanced to the full Senate for consideration.

“I am especially pleased that the Military Construction Appropriations Bill dedicated \$21.3 million for Phase 5 construction work of Saddle Road because this project involves both public safety and national defense preparation,” said Senator Inouye, a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee since January 1971. “The defense-generated traffic on the portion of Saddle Road that cuts through the Big Island’s Pohakuloa Training Area is significant. Furthermore, Army officials have determined that the roadway needed to be realigned outside of the training area to eliminate potential problems involving military vehicles and artillery firing positions with the general public.”

Therefore, a 13-mile stretch of Saddle Road, known as Military Access Road, is designated to be moved outside of the training area. Since 2001, \$67 million in

federal funds has been spent on the first four phases of the Saddle Road project.

The Senate Military Construction Appropriations Bill also includes \$279 million for improvements and infrastructure expansion at Schofield Barracks that will be undertaken through five projects.

In the Agriculture Appropriations Bill, the Hilo-based U.S. Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center was awarded \$2 million for continued construction work, and \$1,254,000 to expand its research portfolio to include the development of new postharvest processing techniques and value-added products that can help the local agriculture industry grow.

The ongoing wildlife services and brown tree snake interdiction program was earmarked for \$1.1 million.

Below are the Hawaii-related initiatives that the Senate Appropriations Committee approved today.

From the Fiscal Year 2009 Military Construction Appropriations Bill:

ARMY

Pohakuloa Training Area, Big Island

Military Access Road **\$21,300,000**

This appropriation is for Phase 5 of the Military Access Road (Saddle Road) project. Thirteen miles of the road will be relocated from outside to outside of the training area to ensure public safety.

Schofield Barracks

Infrastructure Expansion **\$76,000,000**

Battalion Complex **\$69,000,000**

Brigade Complex **\$65,000,000**

Barracks **\$42,000,000**

Battalion Complex **\$27,000,000**

Wahiawa

Wideband SATCOM Operations Center **\$40,000,000**

ARMY RESERVE

Fort Shafter

Army Reserve Center **\$19,199,000**

NAVY

Barking Sands

Advanced Radar Detection Laboratory \$28,900,000

Kaneohe Bay

BEQ - Marine Corps Base Kaneohe \$28,200,000

Pearl Harbor

Fitness Center \$45,000,000

Sub Drive-In Magnetic FAC (INC 2) \$41,088,000

Child Development Center \$29,300,000

Joint Forces Deployment Staging Area FISC \$5,990,000

Defense Logistics Agency, Pearl Harbor

Replace Fuel Pipeline \$27,700,000

From the Fiscal Year 2009 Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Bill:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

East-West Center

\$22,000,000

The Honolulu-based center is an internationally recognized education and research organization. Through its many programs that bring together academics, researchers, and journalists, it strives to promote understanding, peace, and prosperity in the Pacific Rim.

From the Fiscal Year 2009 Department of Agriculture Appropriations Bill:

U.S. Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center (PBARC)

Construction

\$2,000,000

This appropriation is for the construction of the second phase of PBARC in Hilo. Plans are under way to construct the office adjacent to the completed Phase 1, and the screenhouse/headhouse complex. This construction is critical since valuable lab space is being used for offices. Moreover, the current research program requires screenhouse/headhouse space.

***Agricultural Postharvest, Value-added Products,
and Processing Program***

\$1,254,000

This program expands the research portfolio of PBARC. Further expansion of

Hawaii's agriculture requires the development of new postharvest processing techniques and value-added products available for the Hawaii market and for export.

Agriculture Pre-clearance Quarantine Inspections

\$1,750,000

This appropriation funds a program, authorized by an amendment introduced by Senator Inouye to the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, that relieves the State of Hawaii of the cost of agriculture inspections at Neighbor Island airports. Those inspections are federally mandated, and would otherwise cost the State approximately \$3 million annually.

Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions

\$1,598,000

This funding is part of a \$3,196,000 appropriation for the Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions grant program. The purpose of this program is to strengthen educational activities, including applied research and community development projects, at universities and colleges with students of Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian ancestry. In the past, grants awarded to eligible Hawaii institutions focused on activities that lead to the development of value-added agricultural products, overseas markets, and Native Hawaiian-owned production and marketing businesses.

Tropical Aquaculture Feeds

\$1,541,561

This project provides an opportunity to support two emerging industries in Hawaii toward reducing the state's and region's dependence on imports while promoting environmental sustainability. Offshore aquaculture will need to reduce feed costs to remain competitive and manage better organic pollution from its operations, while bio-fuels production will need to find ways to manage and add value to its waste stream which can be utilized as feed ingredients.

Wildlife Services and Brown Tree Snake Interdiction

\$1,100,000

These funds will be used to continue the operation of a State Wildlife Services Office in Hawaii, which provides on-site coordination of activities to control pests and diseases in Hawaii and the American Pacific, including efforts to control the brown tree snake and the coqui frog.

Tropical and Subtropical Agricultural Research

\$800,000

This funding will be used to continue agriculture research programs that are applicable to growers in tropical and subtropical regions. The program specializes in methods to prevent and control invasive alien species, with the ultimate goal of lowering quarantine requirements. This goal is a priority for Pacific and Caribbean

farmers because quarantine is one of their most significant trade barriers.

Hawaii Agriculture Research Center (HARC)

\$677,000

HARC focuses on improving the efficiency of sugarcane production, developing new products from sugarcane, and supporting the expansion of diversified agriculture in Hawaii. HARC's ongoing projects include completing the genetic fingerprinting for coffee, pineapple, macadamia nuts, and papaya; identifying the genes responsible for fungal resistance in papaya; and supporting a sugarcane breeding program.

Multi-species Fruit Fly Facility

\$500,000

The funds will be used for the design for a multi-species fruit fly breeding facility in Waimanalo, and to conduct an environmental impact statement. Fruit-fly rearing is crucial to any long-term control strategy imperative for a thriving agricultural industry.

*Varroa Mite Suppression to Ensure National
and Global Pollination Capacity*

\$500,000

Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) has devastated bee keepers on the mainland, and is severely limiting the supply of bees to those commercial crops requiring bee pollination. If CCD were to become established in Hawaii, the Hawaii Department of Agriculture estimates that the damage the commercial bee industry and subsequent impact on farmers requiring pollination bees would be more than \$140 million. The varroa mite severely weakens bees, is widespread on the mainland, and may be an important contributing factor to CCD. In recent years, even more catastrophic damage has been averted because the Big Island is free of varroa mite, and is a major supplier of queen bees to mainland bee keepers. The largest U.S. supplier of queen bees is in Kona on Big Island. In April 2007, however, varroa mite was discovered in four abandoned bee hives on Oahu, and surveys have shown that the varroa mite is widespread on Oahu, but not yet detected on the Neighbor Islands.

The appropriation will be used to initiate a plan that would: 1) suppress the varroa mite on Oahu; 2) trap honey bees at ports to prevent the spread of mite infested honey bees to neighboring islands; 3) monitor for early infestation of varroa mites on neighboring islands; 4) develop an eradication program should varroa mites be detected on the Neighbor Islands; and 5) establish a packaged bee program to replace infested and collapsed bee hives on Oahu.

Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations

\$412,000

This initiative will continue to assist approved projects designed to increase water storage capacity, efficiency of delivery systems, and water conservation in Hawaii.

Lower Hamakua Ditch Watershed, and Upcountry Maui Watershed will each receive \$206,000.

Agricultural Development and Resource Conservation **\$400,000**

Funds would be used to continue this successful statewide agricultural development and resource conservation program. The program was initiated on Molokai and has been used to support agriculture development in the Molokai Hawaiian homestead community. It includes intensive training sessions to instill in new entrepreneurs the skills necessary for establishing and sustaining new agriculture-related businesses. This amount would be divided between the Counties of Kauai, Maui, Oahu, and Hawaii.

Agricultural Development in the American Pacific **\$372,000**

This program addresses common Pacific island-based agriculture and community issues through cooperative research, extension, and instruction programs that are culturally appropriate, socially acceptable, economically viable, and environmentally compatible. The program's objective is to help Pacific region residents live healthier and more productive lives by further developing their agricultural skills and knowledge.

Pineapple Nematode Control **\$284,000**

The appropriation is for the Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center to conduct research leading to nematode resistance, flowering control, and mealy bug wilt disease resistance in commercial pineapple varieties, and to expand the techniques and knowledge obtained from this program to create disease and pest resistance in other tropical crops.

Hawaii Floriculture Industry Development **\$259,000**

These funds will be used to support industry-directed research projects to develop new varieties of tropical flowers with unique appearances, that are disease resistant, and have longer shelf lives. These characteristics are critical to the floriculture industry's ability to remain competitive in the global marketplace.

Papaya Ringspot Virus **\$252,000**

There are other Hawaiian varieties of papaya, susceptible to Papaya Ringspot Virus, which would benefit from the insertion of the resistance gene into these fruit. To broaden the variety of resistant papaya, it is critical that continued research be conducted to identify new methods of securing disease resistance without compromising marketability. In addition, there are other threats on the horizon for the papaya industry such as the discovery of the papaya mealybug on Maui in 2004

and the impact of white peach scale on papaya that threaten the viability of the Hawaii papaya industry. Research is needed to continue to support both the expansion of the ringspot virus resistance and to address these new threats.

Minor Crop Pest Control

\$239,000

This research program focuses on Hawaii's important horticultural crops, all of which are classified as minor crops. While the program has not been limited to pest and disease problems of fruit and nut crops, tropical fruits are viewed as offering considerable export potential as well as import replacement to Hawaii if management techniques can be developed for major pest and disease problems. The funds will be used by the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to continue developing environmentally compatible methods to control pests and diseases in small-scale tropical and subtropical crops.

Non-toxic Fruit Fly Control

\$211,000

The objective of this project is to develop and evaluate non-toxic, environmentally suitable, and publicly acceptable technologies and processes for fruit fly control to reduce pest impacts in Hawaii to allow the interstate and international movement of Hawaii agricultural products. Tephritid fruit flies in Hawaii, Mediterranean fruit fly, oriental fruit fly, melon fly and solanaceous fruit fly, spend their entire immature stages feeding and growing in one of more than 200 varieties of fruits. They are responsible for direct crop damage and economic losses as well as seriously hindering the expansion and diversification of tropical/subtropical agricultural systems. In Hawaii and other American affiliated islands of the Pacific, the presence of fruit flies is considered a major obstacle to the expansion of agriculture through export.

Rodent Control

\$172,000

This funding supports the continuing effort for rodent control and for developing control methods for the rapidly increasing vertebrate pest populations in Hawaii.

Women in Technology

\$150,000

This is a technical assistance and workforce training project designed to assist small businesses on Maui, Molokai, and Lanai in the recruitment of women and minorities, groups that are under represented in technology-related careers.

Hawaii Plant Material Center

\$113,000

These funds will enable the Hawaii Plant Materials Center to expand its seed production, continue seed production training in the community, and increase seed deliveries to the Island of Kahoolawe. The Center propagates native plants with the

dual objective of supporting the federal cleanup and re-vegetation of Kahoolawe, and establishing economically competitive native plant nurseries. The Center's achievements include developing a 20-acre nursery on Molokai.

Molokai Agriculture Development and Resource Conservation \$71,000

This program has evolved from attention to individual enterprises into focusing projects designed to improve the agriculture infrastructure on Molokai, which is a predominantly Native Hawaiian community. The goal of this initiative is sustainable economic development through improvements in the natural resources infrastructure including, but not limited to, water, water reuse, and restoration of mono-cropped lands.

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Dan Inouye

U.S. SENATOR FROM HAWAII



INOUYE HAILS TWO OCEAN-RELATED BILLS AWAITING ENACTMENT

Tuesday, September 30, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye announced today that two ocean-related bills important to Hawaii have received final congressional approval, and have been sent to the White House for the President to sign into law.

The measures are H.R. 5618, the National Sea Grant College Program Amendments Act of 2008, and S. 1582, the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act Amendments of 2008. The House passed both bills yesterday, Monday, September 29, 2008. The Senate gave its approval on Friday, September 26, 2008.

“As an island state, Hawaii will always consider the ocean a precious resource,” said Senator Inouye, who chairs the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, which has jurisdiction over marine resources and maritime transportation.

“The University of Hawaii is home for the state’s Sea Grant College Program, one of 32 in a national network. Since its establishment 40 years ago, UH Sea Grant has been in the forefront of research supporting aquaculture, marine biotechnology, protecting coastal ecosystems, and identifying coastal hazards. Furthermore, the program’s findings are shared to help guide positive decision-making. And its specialists develop marine science programs that reach students at all levels – from kindergarteners to those doing graduate or post-graduate work.

“I am especially pleased that UH Sea Grant has been involved in efforts to clean up marine debris, especially in the Northwest Hawaiian Islands.”

S. 3160, the Senate companion bill to H.R. 5618, was introduced by Senator Inouye. H.R. 5618 reauthorizes the National Sea Grant Program through Fiscal Year 2014.

S. 1582, the hydrographic services measure, reauthorizes the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act. It was introduced by Senator Inouye.

“The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s hydrographic services are vital to Hawaii’s maritime commerce and assist in the protection of our ocean environment,” Senator Inouye said. “NOAA’s ongoing work to update nautical charts for the areas around Hawaii assists maritime commerce by identifying dangers – and aids – to navigation. Accurate charts mean the smooth flow of commerce, as well as the protection of coastal ecosystems.”

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Dan Inouye

U.S. SENATOR FROM HAWAII



UH RESEARCH TEAM JOINS NASA'S ASTROBIOLOGY INSTITUTE
Scientists to Study Water and Its Relation to Life in the Universe

Thursday, October 2, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye announced today that a research team from the University of Hawaii has been selected to investigate the origin, history, and distribution of water and its relation to life in the universe.

The UH team is one of 10 selected by NASA from universities across the country as the newest members of the space agency's Astrobiology Institute at NASA's Ames Research Center at Moffett Field, California. The teams will receive five-year federal grants that average \$7 million.

"The selection of the UH team is testament to the excellence and rigor of the university's science research, and the contributions to astrobiology that UH can make," said Senator Inouye, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. "All of Hawaii should be proud of UH's selection."

According to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, "Astrobiology is the study of the origin, evolution, distribution, and future of life in the universe. This multidisciplinary field encompasses the search for habitable environments in our Solar System and habitable planets outside our Solar System, the search for evidence of prebiotic chemistry and life on Mars and other bodies in our Solar System, laboratory and field research into the origins and early evolution of life on Earth, and studies of the potential for life to adapt to challenges on Earth and in space."

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