

# Dan Inouye

U.S. SENATOR FROM HAWAII



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## **SENATE APPROPRIATIONS PANEL APPROVES \$34.2 MILLION FOR HAWAII INITIATIVES IN ENERGY AND WATER**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**WASHINGTON — Hawaii will receive more than \$34.2 million in federal funds in Fiscal Year 2010 aimed at improving the state’s renewable energy initiatives and facilities while also supporting efforts to mitigate flooding in low lying areas, Senate Appropriations Chairman Daniel K. Inouye announced today.**

**The funds were approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee when the panel voted in favor of passing the Fiscal Year 2010 Energy and Water Appropriations bill.**

**“Relying solely on imported energy is costly and damaging to Hawaii’s environment. This money will help our state to secure our current energy sources while developing clean, renewable energy technology that take advantage of our natural resources,” said Chairman Inouye. “In the process of seeking increased energy independence and diversifying our clean technology sector we will also minimize the impact power generation has on our environment.”**

**The Hawaii Natural Energy Institute, the Pacific International Center for High Technology Research and the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at the University of Hawaii at Manoa will each receive \$6 million toward their efforts to develop renewable, sustainable energy initiatives that maximize Hawaii’s unique access to solar, water, wind, geothermal and other natural resources.**

**The Hawaii Natural Energy Institute’s funding will go toward the Hawaii Energy Sustainability Program which supports the goal of deriving at least 70 percent of Hawaii’s energy from renewable sources by 2030.**

**The Pacific International Center for High Technology Research will use their funds for the Hawaii Renewable Energy Development venture which addresses energy security while developing programs and processes that will move Hawaii closer to energy self-sufficiency.**

**The College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at the University of Hawaii at Manoa will receive \$6 million for the development of high yield tropical feed stocks and biomass conversion.**

**The Senate Appropriations panel also approved more than \$16.2 million for U.S. Army Corps, Hawaii District Funds. Of this amount, \$4.3 million is to improve the drainage system and underground water storage in Kahuku, an area of Oahu hit hard by rain during the winter and spring months.**

**“Everyone remembers the 40 days of rain that inundated our state in 2006 that caused deadly flooding on Kauai and millions of dollars in damage on Oahu,” said Chairman Inouye. “The funding this bill provides allows for flood mitigation studies and models to be developed with the goal of avoiding future hardship in the event of torrential rains.”**

**The legislation will be considered by the full Senate at a later time.**