

Dan Inouye

U.S. SENATOR FROM HAWAII



**SENATE APPROVES \$5 MILLION FOR
NATURAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS TRAINING CENTER**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WASHINGTON – Senate Appropriations Chairman Daniel K. Inouye announced that the Senate has approved \$5 million for the Natural Disaster Preparedness Training (NDPTC) at the University of Hawaii in Fiscal Year 2010 in the Homeland Security Appropriations Bill.

The funds will be used to establish the NDPTC, whose mission is to utilize Hawaii’s unique geographic and cultural assets to develop and deliver disaster preparedness training to governmental, private, and non-profit entities and to incorporate urban planning with an emphasis on community preparedness and at-risk populations.

“Given our remote location in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, Hawaii is uniquely vulnerable to the elements and natural disasters like tropical storms, hurricanes, and tsunamis. Yesterday the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration officials announced that El Nino weather conditions were back for the first time in 12 years. The same kind of weather patterns bore Hurricane Iniki in 1992, the deadly storm that devastated Kauai and soaked our state,” said Chairman Inouye. “I am pleased the committee agreed to support the training center which will ensure that Hawaii and our neighboring island nations will be prepared to weather any storm and recover should such a disaster occur again.”