



**US Army Corps
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Army Corps Begins Hawaii Dam Break Studies

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By Honolulu District Public Affairs

(FORT SHAFTER, HI - NR 01-07) The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has started detailed dam break studies on selected dams throughout the State of Hawaii as a result of special funding obtained by U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye.

The 11 dams being studied were selected from a prioritized list of dams identified by the State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources Dam Safety Office as being of concern primarily due to downstream urban development.

“These studies involve evaluating various hydrologic and dam failure scenarios, and hydraulic analysis that will result in maps of the downstream areas that will be adversely affected,” said Derek Chow, Corps of Engineers Senior Project Manager.

The products will be used by the State Dam Safety Office and dam owners in the preparation of required emergency action plans.

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2-2-2 DAM STUDIES

“I am pleased that the Corps of Engineers continues to play a critical role in evaluating the durability of Hawaii’s dams,” said Inouye. “These studies will provide key recommendations to help the State and counties better understand and mitigate against the potential hazards caused by any dam failure.”

On March 14, 2006, the privately-owned Kaloko Dam on the island of Kauai failed, sending a wall of water downstream that swept away homes, overtopped the Morita Dam and damaged Kuhio Highway. After touring the storm damage, particularly damages caused by the Kaloko Dam failure, Inouye requested emergency relief funds for Hawaii in the FY06 Emergency Supplemental Appropriation Bill that was being developed in the U.S. Senate at the time. Once signed into law, the FY06 Emergency Supplemental Appropriation Act contained \$2 million for the dam break studies in accordance with congressional intent and as expressed by Inouye.

A team of Corps staff and the local consulting firms of Oceanit Laboratories, SSFM International, PB Americas, Inc. and Tetra Tech, Inc. are conducting the studies. Dams to be studied are: Nuuanu Dam No. 4 and Wahiawa Dam on Oahu; Twin, Waita, Elua, Aepo, Puu Lua, Halamanu Field 21 and Upper Kapahi reservoirs on Kauai; Kualapuu Reservoir on Molokai; and Reservoir 24 on Maui.

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3-3-3 DAM STUDIES

“We look forward to partnering with the Army Corps of Engineers in this project as the results will greatly assist us in our efforts to ensure public safety as well as provide additional technical assistance to the dam owners,” said Edwin Matsuda of the State DLNR Dam Safety Program.

The final reports of these studies are scheduled to available at the end of 2007.

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