



**US Army Corps
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Corps Completes Dam Break Studies

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(FORT SHAFTER, HI NR 02-08) The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has completed ten of the eleven detailed dam break studies on selected dams throughout the State of Hawaii as a result of special funding obtained by U.S. Sen. Daniel K. Inouye. The eleven dams studied were selected from a prioritized list of dams identified by the State DLNR Dam Safety Program as being of concern primarily due to downstream urban development.

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. Sen. Inouye, after having toured the storm damage on Kauai in 2006, secured \$2M in the FY06 Emergency Supplemental Appropriation Act to conduct special dam break studies.

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“I am pleased that the Corps of Engineers was able to provide assistance with the preparation of such complicated engineering studies to simulate the inundation effects of critical dams that are above major urban areas,” said Sen. Inouye. “These studies provide key information to can help the State and counties better understand and mitigate against the potential hazards caused by any dam failure.”

The dam break studies were conducted by a team of Corps staff and the consulting firms of Tetra Tech, PB Americas in joint venture with Northwest Hydraulic Consultants, SSFM International in joint venture with WEST Consultants, and Oceanit Laboratories. The final reports have been transmitted to the State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources for continued follow-up with dam owners and local emergency preparedness agencies. The dams studied were: Nuuanu Dam No. 4 and Wahiawa Dam on Oahu; Twin, Waita, Elua, Aepo, Puu Lua, Reservoir 24, and Upper Kapahi reservoirs on Kauai; Kualapuu Reservoir on Molokai; and Halamanu Reservoir 21 on Maui (scheduled to be completed in March 2008).

“These studies involved evaluating various hydrologic and dam failure scenarios, and hydraulic analysis that resulted in maps of the downstream areas that may be adversely affected and now likely the standard for conducting dam break studies,” said Derek J. Chow, Corps of Engineers Chief of the Civil and Public Works Branch.

“The State Dam Safety Office is pleased to receive these reports and will work closely with dam owners and emergency agencies,” said Edwin Matsuda, State Dam Safety Officer. “Along with these studies, we have made great strides in the State’s role in overseeing dams throughout the State.”

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