

Dan Inouye

U.S. SENATOR FROM HAWAII



Contacts: Peter Boylan/Lori Hamamoto (Inouye) 202-224-3934

SENATOR INOUE AND SENATOR AKAKA LAUD MUCH NEEDED FEDERAL ASSISTANCE FOR DROUGHT RELIEF

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON –Maui County, Hawaii County and the Kalaupapa area of Molokai have been declared agricultural disaster zones after suffering from substandard rainfall that has resulted in severe drought conditions, Senators Daniel K. Inouye and Daniel K. Akaka announced today.

Drought conditions in the affected counties have persisted for years and resulted in crop loss, livestock deaths and water restrictions.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture informed the state of the designation in a letter sent to Governor Linda Lingle.

“Farmers on Maui and the Big Island have been adversely affected by the weather and the global recession and this designation will hopefully help them attain the financial aid they need to ramp up production,” said Senator Inouye.

“Emergency loans and financial assistance provided by the USDA will help Maui and Big Island farmers who have been struggling through extended draught,” said Senator Akaka.

This designation makes farm operators in both primary and contiguous counties eligible to be considered for assistance from the Farm Service Agency, provided eligibility requirements are met.

This assistance includes FSA emergency loans and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program, which was approved as part of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

FSA will consider each application on its own merit by taking into account the extent of losses, security available, and repayment ability.

On the Big Island please contact the FSA at: (808) 933-8381 Ext. 8340

On Maui please contact the FSA at: (808) 871-5500 Ext. 353

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