



**DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**News Release**

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GOVERNOR

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For Immediate Release: June 9, 2008

**FIND YOUR FLOOD RISK WITH THE HAWAI'I FLOOD HAZARD ASSESSMENT TOOL**

HONOLULU -- The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) announces the availability of a new Hawai'i Flood Hazard Assessment Tool (FHAT) to assist Hawai'i residents and property owners to locate and evaluate their flood hazard risks based on FEMA's Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM).

The public can access this tool via the State of Hawai'i National Flood Insurance Program web page: [www.hawaiinfip.org](http://www.hawaiinfip.org).

"This has been a goal of the state to create a tool that will easily assist all property owners and businesses to determine their flood hazard risks," said Carol Tyau-Beam, the State's National Flood Insurance Program Coordinator.

After logging in to the tool website, the user can enter their property tax map key number or property address, and can quickly view the relevant flood zone information as well as the parcel map and aerial photograph of the parcel.

This information will help property owners determine their level of risk from flooding and assist them in determining if flood insurance and/or regulatory building requirements apply to their structure.

Throughout 2008, DLNR plans to continue to refine and expand the flood hazard assessment tool's capabilities to include more features.

The development of this tool was accomplished through a cooperative agreement with FEMA under their Map Modernization Management Support program. DLNR's consultant, Onyx Group, incorporated various county databases, imagery and FEMA's digital and hard copy FIRM maps into a geographical information system (GIS) to produce a very intuitive and useful product.

For further information please call the DLNR Engineering Division offices on O'ahu at 587-0233.

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For more information news media may contact:

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**Background information:**

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is a federal program, which was established to allow property owners in participating communities to purchase insurance protections against losses from flooding.

Participation in the NFIP is based on an agreement between local communities and the federal government that states if a community will adopt and enforce a floodplain management ordinance to reduce future flood risks to new construction and substantial improvements in Special Flood Hazard Areas, the federal government will make flood insurance available within the community at a low cost.

The NFIP is administered by the Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration (FIMA), formerly the Federal Insurance Administration (FIA) and the Mitigation Directorate, components of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) has been designated as the state coordinating agency responsible for assisting the coordination of the program between the federal and county agencies in Hawai'i. All four of Hawai'i's counties are participating in the NFIP and each community has a representative NFIP coordinator.

In order for FIMA to determine the insurance premium rates, FEMA developed flood hazard rating maps called FIRMs (Flood Insurance Rate Maps). The supporting documentation for the FIRMs are published in the FIS (Flood Insurance Study). Development in Special Flood Hazard Areas, as identified on the FIRMs, are regulated by the NFIP.

The minimum NFIP rules and regulations are set forth in Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Each community must also establish local flood hazard ordinances, which may be more stringent than the NFIP regulations.