



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

NEWS RELEASE

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

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\$600,000 IN DONATIONS RAISED FOR EARTHQUAKE ASSISTANCE

Hawai`i Island Earthquake Recovery Fund to Help Big Island Residents Repair and Rebuild Homes

HONOLULU – Governor Linda Lingle today joined officials from the American Red Cross, Hawai`i Community Foundation (HCF), Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD), and the salesforce.com Foundation in announcing donations to help residents and organizations affected by the Oct. 15 earthquake and aftershocks and the establishment of the **Hawai`i Island Earthquake Recovery Fund** to assist Big Island residents with repair and rebuilding of damaged homes.

To date, private donations totaling \$600,000 have been made to assist in emergency relief and rebuilding efforts. The primary donor was the salesforce.com Foundation, representing members of the salesforce.com community including customers, employees and partners. These private funds will supplement the \$1,629,271 for housing assistance that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has already approved as of this morning.

“While we are very fortunate that no lives were lost and no serious injuries were reported as a result of the earthquake, many of our fellow residents, especially on the Big Island are coping with the damage or loss of homes and property,” said Governor Lingle. “Through the generosity and aloha spirit of the salesforce.com Foundation and organizations like the American Red Cross, Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster and Hawai`i Community Foundation who are always first to step forward in times of crisis, we as a community are coming together to help our neighbors on the Big Island recover.”

(more)

“I am once again grateful for the compassion and generosity of our community,” said Marc Benioff, chairman and CEO of salesforce.com. “Philanthropy and a commitment to social service are woven into the fabric of the salesforce.com culture and have been core values from our inception. This donation demonstrates the great results that can be achieved by extending that commitment out beyond the corporation itself to leverage a community of customers, partners and employees.”

“We want to thank the Governor for bringing us all together to help the victims of the earthquake, and our generous donors for their wonderful contribution to the cause of humanity,” applauded Coralie Chun Matayoshi, CEO of the American Red Cross, Hawai`i State Chapter.

Earthquake Assistance

A portion of the \$600,000 is earmarked for two Big Island entities for rebuilding and repair, as well as for the American Red Cross to provide immediate assistance:

- \$50,000 will go to Kona Community Hospital to help with building repairs.
- \$50,000 will go to North Kohala Community Resource Center for a special project to repair homes in the Kapaau and Hawi communities on the Big Island.
- \$200,000 will go to the American Red Cross to meet the immediate emergency needs of residents impacted by earthquake. Since the earthquake struck, the Red Cross has opened shelters; set up a special hotline; provided food, water and cleanup kits to victims; performed damage assessments on over 10,000 homes and found 40 destroyed, 217 with major damage, and 617 with minor damage; reached out to over 180 families; initiated casework and provided financial assistance for food, clothing, storage containers, tarps, dishes, bedding, and emergency and transitional housing; minor household repairs; and offered mental health counseling to those in need.

Hawai`i Island Earthquake Recovery Fund

The balance of \$300,000 will go into the **Hawai`i Island Earthquake Recovery Fund**, which will be administered by the Hawai`i Community Foundation to help Big Island residents with longer-term repairs and rebuilding. HCF will distribute funds to appropriate non-profit organizations that are willing and able to help those affected by the earthquake get their homes repaired or rebuilt. Such organizations could provide volunteers to help with the labor, while the funds could be used to purchase building materials.

The Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster will assess the impact of those affected by the earthquake and identify what kind of help is needed. VOAD is an organization of non-profit entities that collaborate in times of disaster to meet the needs of those affected. Member entities include: Aloha United Way, Alu Like, American Radio Relay League, American Red Cross, Big Island Amateur Radio Club, Catholic Charities, Christian Reformed World Relief Committee, Hawai`i Conference of the United Church of Christ, Hawai`i District -The United Methodist Church, Hawai`i Foodbank, Hawai`i Pacific Baptist Convention, Hawai`i Services on Deafness, Helping Hands Hawai`i, Honolulu REACT Team, Pacific Health Ministry, Salvation Army, University of Hawai`i School of Social Work, and Volunteer Resource Center of Hawai`i.

If you are interested in assistance from the Hawai`i Island Earthquake Recovery Fund, log on to www.hawaiiiredcross.org or call the Red Cross Kona office at (808) 326-9488. Those who need help with rebuilding or repair of their homes must first seek assistance from the Red Cross and FEMA. Applications for FEMA assistance can be filed online at www.fema.gov.

“We appreciate the leadership shown by salesforce.com Foundation in establishing this fund,” said Kelvin H. Taketa, president and CEO of the Hawai`i Community Foundation. “We, of course, would like to encourage others to join in support of the longer-term recovery and rebuilding needs of the Big Island community.”

For more information about the fund, log on to www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org.

Contributions to the fund can be sent to:

Hawai`i Island Earthquake Recovery Fund
c/o Hawai`i Community Foundation
1164 Bishop Street, Suite 800
Honolulu, HI 96183

Make checks payable to: “Hawai`i Community Foundation” and indicate in memo section: “Hawai`i Island Earthquake Recovery Fund”

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For more information, contact:

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