



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

NEWS RELEASE

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

For Immediate Release: Monday, October 23, 2006

**FEMA APPROVES INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE FOR BIG ISLAND
RESIDENTS AFFECTED BY EARTHQUAKE**

HONOLULU – Governor Linda Lingle announced today that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will provide federal relief and recovery assistance for individuals, households and businesses on the Big Island who were affected by the Oct. 15 earthquake.

FEMA's decision supplements the major disaster declaration for the entire state signed by President George W. Bush on Oct. 17 to provide federal relief to the state and counties under the Public Assistance Program. The individual assistance, to be coordinated by FEMA, can include grants to help pay for temporary housing, home repairs, and other serious disaster-related expenses. Low-interest loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration also will be available to cover residential and business losses not fully compensated by insurance.

"We appreciate the approval by FEMA to assist Big Island residents as they continue to recover from last Sunday's earthquake," said Governor Lingle. "One of the main concerns raised by residents I met with last week in North Kohala was whether they would be able to receive federal assistance to repair their homes and businesses. While no amount of assistance can cover the loss of personal sentimental items, the announcement by FEMA today will help bring some peace of mind to many residents. We will continue to work with FEMA and Hawai'i County to ensure that those who are eligible for assistance receive the help they need in a timely manner."

FEMA and State Civil Defense will announce details on how Big Island residents and business owners can apply for assistance.

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