



DISASTER NEWS

Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes

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SBA DISASTER LOAN ASSISTANCE TOPS \$20 MILLION FOR KIHOLLO BAY EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

Sacramento, CA – Andrew K. Poepoe, District Director of the U. S. Small Business Administration’s (SBA) Honolulu District Office, announced today that SBA has approved more than \$20 million in low-interest disaster loans to homeowners, renters, and businesses of all sizes whose property was damaged by the October 15, 2006 Kiholo Bay Earthquake and its aftershocks.

SBA is the federal government’s primary source of money for the long-term rebuilding of disaster-damaged private property. SBA helps homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes, and private non-profit organizations fund repairs or rebuilding efforts, and cover the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged personal property. SBA disaster loans cover losses not fully compensated by insurance and do not duplicate benefits of other agencies or organizations.

“So far SBA has approved 557 loans for \$18.1 million to homeowners and renters, and 45 loans for \$2.8 million to business owners,” said Poepoe.

“SBA is still accepting applications for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) from small businesses that sustained economic losses due to the Kiholo Bay Earthquake,” Poepoe said. “EIDLs of up to \$1.5 million are available to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred,” he continued.

Eligibility for these working capital loans is based on the financial impact of the disaster only and is available regardless of whether the business suffered any property damage. These loans have an interest rate of 4%, a maximum term of 30 years, and are restricted to small businesses without the financial ability to offset the adverse impact without hardship. The deadline to return Economic Injury Disaster Loan applications is **July 23, 2007**.

SBA Customer Service Representatives continue to be available to answer questions about SBA’s disaster loan programs by calling toll-free **(800) 659-2955**. Hearing impaired individuals may call (800) 877-8339. Individuals and business owners may also obtain information by visiting SBA’s website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance.