



**Department of Defense
Civil Defense Division**

News Release

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For Immediate Release

**DECEMBER SEVERE WEATHER RESULTS
IN PRESIDENTIAL DISASTER DECLARATION**

HONOLULU - President George W. Bush today approved a request from Governor Linda Lingle to declare a major disaster for the State of Hawai'i due to the severe weather event that affected the islands December 4-7, 2007. Governor Lingle requested the federal declaration on January 5, 2008 after assessments conducted by joint federal, state, and local teams determined that damage was severe enough to warrant supplementary federal assistance.

The Major Disaster Declaration will provide 75 percent matching funds for response and recovery to the December incident as well as hazard mitigation. Federal assistance for this disaster is available to the state, eligible local governments and non-profit organizations for the counties of Hawai'i, Kaua'i, and Maui. The matching funds can be used for repair or replacement of public facilities and infrastructure.

A recovery team from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will arrive in the islands on Monday, February 11, 2008.

FEMA Administrator David Paulson named Kenneth R. Tingman as the Federal Coordinating Officer for the recovery operations. State Civil Defense Vice Director Ed Teixeira will serve as the State Coordinating Officer.

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