



FEMA

Honolulu Harbor Generator Project Pays Off

Honolulu, HI - When the Kiholo Bay earthquake (measuring Mw6.7) struck early on a Sunday morning in October 2006, the shaking was felt on the islands of Hawaii, Oahu and Maui. Seven minutes later, another powerful earthquake occurred, this one measuring Mw6.0.

Following the earthquakes, the island of Oahu experienced a major power outage which lasted for 13 hours. Fortunately for the residents, visitors and businesses of the State, the large generators that were installed at the Honolulu Harbor performed as planned: providing power to maintain refrigerated containers with perishable goods, operating cranes and avoiding dependency on city power.

The State of Hawaii consists of an island chain situated in the northern Pacific Ocean. Because of the remote location of the Islands, the residents and businesses are dependent on the transport of goods from the mainland to Hawaii and then to the neighboring islands.

The primary providers of this service are Matson Navigation Company and Young Brothers, Limited. Young Brothers, a private company, is the principal inter-island maritime freight company and moves approximately three million tons of goods per month. All containerized shipments are handled through Honolulu Harbor and shipped to the neighboring islands by barge.

Matson Lines receives shipments from the mainland and handles approximately 70 to 80 percent of the cargo in and out of Honolulu Harbor. Perishable goods for the islands are shipped in refrigerated containers (reefers). The proper temperature must be maintained within these reefers throughout the transport to avoid loss of the perishable goods.

“If the facility would shut down,” states Jeffrey Low, Manager, Planning and Facilities for Young Brothers, “the entire inter-island distribution of needed goods is affected.”

The installation of generators at both facilities proved to be a very effective mitigation measure, both operationally and financially. Matson has three which are housed in containers and located centrally to the crane operations. They are protected from truck traffic by bollards and k-rails placed around the perimeter of the generator site.

Maintenance of the generators is a high priority. The maintenance schedule is based on the hours of use, however, they are fired up monthly in coordination with the testing of the State Civil Defense sirens.



Honolulu County, Hawaii



Quick Facts

- Sector: **Public/Private Partnership**
- Cost: **\$690,000.00 (Estimated)**
- Primary Activity/Project: **Utility Protective Measures**
- Primary Funding: **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)**