

Isle flood

funds get

Senate OK

WASHINGTON (UPI) — More than \$9 million has been authorized for Hawaii in a half billion dollar public works authorization bill which was approved by the Senate yesterday.

The bill, which now goes to a House Senate conference committee, authorizes \$7,249,000 in Federal funds for the Kaneohe-Kailua flood control project on Oahu and \$1,952,000 in Federal funds for Nawiliwili harbor improvement.

The two Hawaii projects, which were offered as an amendment to the overall bill, were cosponsored by Hawaii's two Senators, Hiram L. Fong and Daniel K. Inouye.

THE SENATE approved of the amendment by voice vote before passing the rivers, harbors and flood control measure which authorizes the expenditure of \$569.6 million for projects in 22 states.

The House passed version of the overall authorization bill was for \$584.79 million but did not include any authorization for the two Hawaii projects.

Both the Hawaii projects were designed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and have received approval of the State of Hawaii.

In the Kaneohe-Kailua project the State's share is \$330,000 while in the Nawiliwili project, \$428,000 will come from non-Federal funds.

FONG, in offering the amendment, said it was being put forward to speed up the necessary authorization so the actual appropriations for the two projects can be requested next year.

Actual construction of the two projects also would be contingent on presidential approval.

Fong said in a floor speech that the Kaneohe-Kailua area on the Windward side of Oahu has a long history of intense rain storms and destructive floods and that the project was needed to remove the threat to life, crop and property losses.

The flood control measures carried out by the City and County of Honolulu thus far have not provided adequate protection against major floods.

INOUYE told the Senate "the extensive flood damage to which the Kaneohe area has been subjected illustrates the urgent need for the flood control project."

On the Nawiliwili project, Fong said the existing harbor was not designed for the larger tankers presently serving Hawaii and that the harbor should be widened.

Inouye said the "probability of a vessel becoming grounded and thereby closing the Nawiliwili harbor" was a hazard which could be corrected by the amendment offered.

He said the existing threat of a blocked passage was "aggravated by the almost total dependence of the Island of Kauai on imports by ocean transportation."

UNDER the Kaneohe-Kailua project the Federal funds would be used to build a dam and reservoir on the upper basin of the Kamooalii Stream and for improvements on the channel at the mouth of the Kaneohe Stream.

Recreational facilities also would be built.

Plans for the Nawiliwili harbor calls for widening the entrance channel and the northern side of the transition area and increasing the size of the harbor basin.