



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 04/11/2025

Time: 03:00 PM

Location: CR 225 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Energy and
Intergovernmental Affairs

Senate Public Safety and Military Affairs

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Resolution Title: HCR 0164, HD1 URGING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU, COUNTY OF MAUI, COUNTY OF HAWAII, AND COUNTY OF KAUAI TO CREATE AND MAINTAIN A COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF HURRICANE REFUGES AND SHELTERS ELECTRONICALLY ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) would like to provide comments on HCR 164, HD 1.

The Department supports the State and Counties with emergency operations via Emergency Support Function ESF-6, Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services.

To prepare for any disaster, the Department agrees that having a comprehensive list of hurricane refuges and shelters would benefit emergency operations.

However, the comprehensive list of hurricane refuges and shelters should not be electronically accessible to the public as it may cause confusion. The emergency event will determine the shelter needs and openings. During emergency operations, the various counties' emergency management agencies and/or civil defense along with the shelter working group will determine which shelters will be opened during that specific emergency event. A specific emergency event may not require all shelters to be opened. Having the comprehensive list available, accessible, and open to the public could cause confusion during emergency response operations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
'A'UNIKE MOKU'ĀPUNI NO KA NĀ KĀWAI KULA

PRINCESS VICTORIA KAMĀMALU BUILDING
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543

April 11, 2025

The Honorable Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs
The Thirty-Third Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Elefante, Senator Wakai, and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HCR164 HD1 / HR159 HD1 URGING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU, COUNTY OF MAUI, COUNTY OF HAWAII, AND COUNTY OF KAUAI TO CREATE AND MAINTAIN A COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF HURRICANE REFUGES AND SHELTERS ELECTRONICALLY ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC.

The Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities respectfully submits **in support of HCR164 HD1 / HR159 HD1** which is urging the City and County of Honolulu, County of Maui, County of Hawaii, and County of Kauai to create and maintain a comprehensive list of hurricane refuges and shelters electronically accessible to the public.

Hawaii's geographic isolation and increasing exposure to severe weather events underscore the urgent need for comprehensive emergency preparedness—especially for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. The Council advocates for equitable access to safety resources, and this resolution directly supports that mission.

Individuals with developmental disabilities often require accessible facilities, functional supports, and clear information to ensure their safety during emergencies. Currently, the lack of a centralized, electronic list of hurricane shelters—including data on access and functional needs accommodations—presents a significant barrier to safe evacuation and sheltering. Without clear and consistent access to information such as shelter location, capacity, accessibility, and pet policies, individuals with disabilities and their caregivers are left vulnerable during critical times.

We commend this resolution's call to include:

- Category of hurricane shelters can withstand;
- Capacity limits to avoid overcrowding;
- Pet-friendliness, as service animals and emotional support animals are essential for many;
- Most importantly, designation for access and functional needs accommodations, which directly supports our community.

Furthermore, collaboration with the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency to publish a unified statewide shelter list ensures consistency and broader public awareness, including for those who may relocate or travel inter-island during emergencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of HCR164 HD1 / HR159 HD1**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daintry Bartoldus".

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator



**Senate Committees on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs
& Public Safety and Military Affairs
Testimony on HCR164
Relating to Public Access to Hurricane Refuges and Shelters**

April 11th, 2025

3:00 PM

Room 225

The Climate Change and Health Working Group (CCHWG) is a cross-sector collaborative interested in strengthening climate and health resiliency in Hawai'i. CCHWG supports this resolution urging Hawai'i's counties to improve public access to life-saving information through a comprehensive, electronic list of hurricane shelters and refuges.

Testimony of the Hawai'i Climate Change and Health Working Group

In Support of HCR 164

Relating to Public Access to Hurricane Refuges and Shelters

Aloha Chair Wakai, Chair Elefante, Vice Chair Chang, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committees,

The Climate Change and Health Working Group supports HCR 164 / HR 159 and its intent to ensure that residents of Hawai'i have timely access to accurate and comprehensive information on hurricane shelters and refuges across the state.

As a collaborative dedicated to protecting public health in the face of climate change, we recognize the urgent need to improve disaster readiness. Increasingly severe and frequent

storms present a growing threat to Hawai'i's communities, especially those already experiencing health and housing vulnerabilities.

Currently, no county offers a centralized, easily accessible online platform detailing critical information such as shelter locations, structural capacity, pet policies, and accessibility features for those with special needs. This lack of transparency undermines public preparedness and poses serious risks to health and safety during extreme weather events.

A centralized, electronically accessible list will empower individuals and families to make informed decisions before and during emergencies. It will also support health equity by ensuring that all residents—regardless of ability, age, or income—can locate suitable shelter options.

Furthermore, coordination with the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency to create a statewide list will enhance interagency communication and consistency, while amplifying community trust and preparedness.

For these reasons, the Climate Change and Health Working Group urges the Legislature to adopt this resolution as a critical step toward public safety and climate resilience.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support.

Sincerely,
The Climate Change & Health Working Group

HCR-164-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2025 2:45:01 PM

Testimony for EIG on 4/11/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chanara Casey Richmond	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HCR 164. Chanara Richmond, HD42

HCR-164-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2025 6:10:09 PM

Testimony for EIG on 4/11/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cindy R Ajimine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** this bill and find it unfathomable that this is not already done and must be legislated. Please pass this bill and **include other emergency resources** in one **consistent location** so "stay-cation" travelers can also easily find it.

HCR-164-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 2:35:46 PM

Testimony for EIG on 4/11/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frank Schultz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this initiative.