

---

# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

---

REQUESTING THE ADJUTANT GENERAL TO IDENTIFY THE LOCATION OF  
EVERY PUBLIC SAFE ROOM IN THE COUNTY OF HAWAII PROVIDING  
SUITABLE SHELTER FROM VOG AND DEVELOP PLANS TO ESTABLISH  
SUCH SAFE ROOMS IN ADDITIONAL AREAS THAT NEED THEM.

1 WHEREAS, the ongoing eruption at Kilauea Volcano continues  
2 to spew thousands of tons of ash and dangerous sulfur dioxide  
3 gas daily; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, when Kona weather with southerly winds settles in,  
6 various parts of Hawaii County are immersed in health-  
7 threatening vog that forms when sulfur dioxide mixes with  
8 sunlight and dust particles; and  
9

10 WHEREAS, the volume of vog in the air above many  
11 communities has jumped dramatically since March 2008, when the  
12 amount of sulfur dioxide spewing from Kilauea began to double;  
13 and  
14

15 WHEREAS, the noxious gases emitted from a volcano can  
16 settle on a community too quickly for the entire community to  
17 timely evacuate; and  
18

19 WHEREAS, in those situations, it would be more practical  
20 for residents to remain indoors, minimize outdoor activity, and  
21 seek shelter from volcanic emissions in safe rooms; and  
22

23 WHEREAS, safe rooms equipped with air conditioners and air  
24 purifiers can provide effective shelter from vog; and  
25

26 WHEREAS, a comprehensive account of every publicly  
27 accessible safe room providing suitable shelter from vog would  
28 greatly bolster vog-related preparation and response efforts;  
29 and



1 WHEREAS, in addition to heading the state Department of  
2 Defense, the Adjutant General also serves as the state Director  
3 of Civil Defense pursuant to section 26-21, Hawaii Revised  
4 Statutes; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, the state Director of Civil Defense is responsible  
7 for coordinating the activities of all civil defense  
8 organizations in Hawaii, public or private, pursuant to section  
9 128-3(b), Hawaii Revised Statutes; now, therefore,

10  
11 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
12 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
13 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the Adjutant General is  
14 requested to:

15  
16 (1) Identify the location of every public safe room in the  
17 County of Hawaii providing suitable shelter from vog;  
18 and

19  
20 (2) Develop plans to establish such safe rooms in  
21 additional areas that need them;

22  
23 and

24  
25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Adjutant General is  
26 requested to take steps to obtain funding from the Federal  
27 Emergency Management Agency for safe room air conditioners and  
28 air purifiers; and

29  
30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
31 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Adjutant General and  
32 the Administrator of the Hawaii County Civil Defense Agency.

