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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING ALL HIGH-OCCUPANCY PUBLIC BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTED AFTER  
JANUARY 1, 2025, TO BE DESIGNED TO WITHSTAND CATEGORY FIVE  
HURRICANES AND TO SERVE AS SHELTERS IN THE EVENT OF AN  
EMERGENCY.

1           WHEREAS, Hawaii is vulnerable to catastrophic natural  
2 disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, volcanic  
3 eruptions, and high winds that can devastate communities; and  
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5           WHEREAS, global warming is increasing the frequency of  
6 these natural disasters, including hurricanes, in the State; and  
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8           WHEREAS, warming seas have moved the formation area for  
9 Pacific hurricanes northward over time, causing hurricanes  
10 pathing westward across the Pacific to also move northward,  
11 placing Hawaii more directly in the paths of hurricanes; and  
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13           WHEREAS, historically, Hawaii's two defenses against  
14 hurricanes have been cooler seas that slow and weaken hurricanes  
15 and strong trade winds that tear hurricanes apart, but Hawaii's  
16 seas are now warmer and trade winds occur on less than half of  
17 the days in a year; and  
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19           WHEREAS, without these defenses, there is nothing to slow  
20 or stop hurricanes from a direct hit on Hawaii for a majority of  
21 the year; and  
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23           WHEREAS, global warming causes stronger hurricanes and the  
24 number of category four and five hurricanes worldwide has  
25 doubled in the last thirty years and is expected to continue to  
26 grow; and  
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28           WHEREAS, category five super hurricanes with winds of one  
29 hundred seventy miles per hour and greater, which historically  
30 occurs once every eight years worldwide, are projected to occur  
31 annually by the end of the century; now, therefore,



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BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the House of Representatives concurring, that all high-occupancy public buildings constructed after January 1, 2025, are requested to be designed to withstand category five hurricanes as determined by wind zone maps; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these high-occupancy public buildings are requested to be used as shelters in the event of an emergency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Comptroller, Chair of the State Building Code Council, Planning Director for the Planning Department of the County of Hawaii, Director of the Planning Department for the County of Maui, Planning Director for the Planning Department of the County of Kauai, and Director of the Department of Planning and Permitting for the City and County of Honolulu.

OFFERED BY:



