

MAR 0 8 2024

SENATE 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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33 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
34 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024,

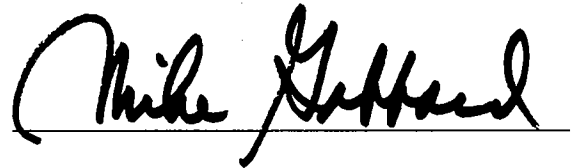


1 that all high-occupancy public buildings constructed after
2 January 1, 2025, are requested to be designed to withstand
3 category five hurricanes as determined by wind zone maps; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these high-occupancy public
6 buildings are requested to be used as shelters in the event of
7 an emergency; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
10 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Comptroller, Chair of
11 the State Building Code Council, Planning Director for the
12 Planning Department of the County of Hawaii, Director of the
13 Planning Department for the County of Maui, Planning Director
14 for the Planning Department of the County of Kauai, and Director
15 of the Department of Planning and Permitting for the City and
16 County of Honolulu.
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19

OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Hubbard", is written over a horizontal line.