

---

---

## HOUSE RESOLUTION

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.

1           WHEREAS, the intensity and severity of extreme weather  
2 events is increasing globally, with the Hawaiian island chain  
3 facing growing threats of major storm system impacts; and  
4

5           WHEREAS, despite Hawaii's rising risk of experiencing  
6 extreme weather events, electronically accessible information is  
7 severely lacking as it relates to locations where the public can  
8 seek refuge at a moment's notice and continued shelter in the  
9 time following a disruptive weather event; and  
10

11           WHEREAS, as few public buildings meet minimum requirements  
12 to qualify as hurricane refuges and shelters, there are limited  
13 options in each county for the public to evacuate, while demand  
14 is likely to exceed available inventory; and  
15

16           WHEREAS, at present no county offers a comprehensive  
17 electronically accessible list on a government-run website that  
18 provides crucial information such as the category of hurricane  
19 the facility is able to sustain, capacity limits, accommodations  
20 for special needs individuals, or the ability to shelter pets;  
21 and  
22

23           WHEREAS, to ensure information is both up-to-date for  
24 government entities maintaining refuges and shelters and for  
25 members of the public who may need to access this information,  
26 it is critical to take a more focused approach towards  
27 aggregating and making data available; now, therefore,  
28

29           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
30 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session



# H.R. NO. 159

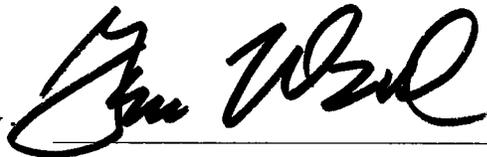
1 of 2025, the City and County of Honolulu, County of Maui, County  
2 of Hawaii, and County of Kauai are urged to inventory all  
3 designated emergency refuges and shelters and document their  
4 ability to withstand a category one hurricane or higher; and  
5

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City and County of  
7 Honolulu, County of Maui, County of Hawaii, and County of Kauai  
8 are urged to publish an electronic list accessible to the public  
9 on a government-run website to include the following criteria,  
10 at minimum:

- 11
- 12 (1) Location of a possible shelter or refuge area  
13 including the name of the facility, address, and  
14 relevant site-specific instructions;
  - 15
  - 16 (2) Category of hurricane the shelter or refuge area is  
17 able to sustain;
  - 18
  - 19 (3) Capacity limit;
  - 20
  - 21 (4) Pet-friendliness designation; and
  - 22
  - 23 (5) Special needs accommodation designation; and  
24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED each county is urged to collaborate  
26 with the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency to publish a  
27 statewide list of shelters and refuge areas and their respective  
28 hurricane ratings; and  
29

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
31 Resolution be transmitted to the Administrator of the Hawaii  
32 Emergency Management Agency; Director of the City and County of  
33 Honolulu's Department of Emergency Management; Administrator of  
34 the Maui Emergency Management Agency; Administrator of the  
35 Hawaii County Civil Defense Agency; and Administrator of the  
36 Kauai Emergency Management Agency.  
37  
38  
39

OFFERED BY: 

MAR 07 2025

