
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
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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
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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
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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 access and functional needs individuals, or the ability to
21 shelter pets; and
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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,
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
2 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
3 of 2025, the City and County of Honolulu, County of Maui, County
4 of Hawaii, and County of Kauai are urged to inventory all
5 designated emergency refuges and shelters and document their
6 ability to withstand a category one hurricane or higher; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City and County of
9 Honolulu, County of Maui, County of Hawaii, and County of Kauai
10 are urged to publish an electronic list accessible to the public
11 on a government-run website to include the following criteria,
12 at minimum:
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- 14 (1) Location of a possible shelter or refuge area
15 including the name of the facility, address, and
16 relevant site-specific instructions;
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- 18 (2) Category of hurricane the shelter or refuge area is
19 able to sustain;
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- 21 (3) Capacity limit;
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- 23 (4) Pet-friendliness designation; and
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- 25 (5) Access and functional needs accommodation designation;
26 and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these electronic lists
29 published by the City and County of Honolulu, County of Maui,
30 County of Hawaii, and County of Kauai include disclaimers that
31 these refuges and shelters may not necessarily be open during a
32 particular emergency as the designating of emergency refuges and
33 shelters will be determined and announced at the time such an
34 emergency is declared; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED each county is urged to collaborate
37 with the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency to publish a
38 statewide list of shelters and refuge areas and their respective
39 hurricane ratings; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Administrator of the Hawaii
3 Emergency Management Agency; Director of the City and County of
4 Honolulu's Department of Emergency Management; Administrator of
5 the Maui Emergency Management Agency; Administrator of the
6 Hawaii County Civil Defense Agency; and Administrator of the
7 Kauai Emergency Management Agency.

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