

MAR 07 2025

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING EACH BRANCH OF THE UNITED STATES MILITARY IN THE STATE TO PROVIDE SHELTERS THAT CAN WITHSTAND HURRICANES WITH WINDS OF OVER TWO HUNDRED MILES-PER-HOUR FOR ALL OF THEIR ACTIVE AND RETIRED PERSONNEL AND FAMILIES LIVING IN THE STATE.

1           WHEREAS, seas further north have begun to warm due to  
2 climate change, causing the spawning area for hurricanes near  
3 Mexico to expand north; and

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5           WHEREAS, these new, warmer northern seas have caused  
6 hurricanes that previously would have missed the State to travel  
7 toward the State; and

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9           WHEREAS, warmer seas increase the prevalence, strength, and  
10 breadth of category three, four, and five hurricanes; and

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12           WHEREAS, warmer seas caused by climate change have given  
13 rise to "super" category five hurricanes, which are hurricanes  
14 with winds exceeding two hundred miles-per-hour; and

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16           WHEREAS, research estimates that, with existing ocean  
17 temperatures, the world will experience one super category five  
18 hurricane every eight years, but by 2080 the world is projected  
19 to see one super category five hurricane every year, with the  
20 northern Pacific Ocean expected to experience the most super  
21 category five hurricanes; and

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23           WHEREAS, the State was previously protected by cooler  
24 surrounding seas, which would cause hurricanes to dissipate as  
25 they approached, but rising global ocean temperatures have  
26 caused these protective seas to dissipate; and

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28           WHEREAS, historically, trade winds approaching the State at  
29 lower levels and strong winds in the opposite direction at  
30 higher levels would tear approaching hurricanes apart; and



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WHEREAS, the State has lost two days of trade winds each year for fifty years, resulting in wind-shear protection for less than half of the days of the year and leaving the State more vulnerable to approaching hurricanes during the other half of the year; and

WHEREAS, the State is not allowed to call its places of refuge "hurricane shelters" because they do not reach the necessary standards, and few of the State's refuge areas are capable of withstanding even a category two hurricane; and

WHEREAS, the State currently only has thirty-two refuge areas that are capable of holding a total of only one hundred thousand people, despite the Honolulu Department of Emergency Management anticipating that even in the case of a category one hurricane approximately two hundred thousand people will seek shelter; and

WHEREAS, the State has no shelters that can withstand a category three, four, or five hurricane, and in the event that a hurricane of this magnitude strikes the State there is no place for anyone to go; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately one hundred eighty-seven thousand wooden homes in the State, most of which will be damaged or destroyed in a category one hurricane; and

WHEREAS, the State is home to more than two hundred fifty thousand active and retired military personnel and their families, most of whom have no safe place to go during a hurricane; and

WHEREAS, many of those two hundred fifty thousand active and retired military personnel and their families live in the one hundred eighty-seven thousand wooden homes in the State, which could be strengthened to withstand major hurricanes; and

WHEREAS, it is the obligation of each branch of the United States military to protect their active and retired personnel and their families; and



1           WHEREAS, if each branch of the United States military in  
2 the State were to provide shelters that would survive winds of  
3 over two hundred miles-per-hour for all two hundred fifty  
4 thousand active and retired personnel and their families, it  
5 would relieve the State of providing shelters for one fifth of  
6 the State's residents; and

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8           WHEREAS, if each branch of the United States military in  
9 the State were to fund the fortifying of all homes owned by  
10 active and retired military personnel, it would greatly relieve  
11 the State when it begins to provide grants or tax breaks to  
12 citizens fortifying their homes against hurricanes; now,  
13 therefore,

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15           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third  
16 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, the  
17 House of Representatives concurring, that each branch of the  
18 United States military in the State is requested to provide  
19 shelters that can withstand hurricanes with winds of over two  
20 hundred miles-per-hour for all of their active and retired  
21 personnel and families living in the State; and

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23           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each branch of the United  
24 States military in the State is requested to fund the  
25 fortification of all homes owned by active and retired military  
26 personnel whose homes are deemed able to withstand major  
27 hurricanes if strengthened; and

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29           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
30 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chief of Staff of  
31 the United States Army, Chief of Naval Operations of the United  
32 States Navy, Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force,  
33 Commandant of the United States Marine Corps, and Commandant of  
34 the United States Coast Guard.

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OFFERED BY: 

