

MAR 07 2025

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# SENATE 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  
8

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  
22

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  
27

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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32 WHEREAS, the State has lost two days of trade winds each  
33 year for fifty years, resulting in wind-shear protection for



1 less than half of the days of the year and leaving the State  
2 more vulnerable to approaching hurricanes during the other half  
3 of the year; and

4  
5 WHEREAS, the State is not allowed to call its places of  
6 refuge "hurricane shelters" because they do not reach the  
7 necessary standards, and few of the State's refuge areas are  
8 capable of withstanding even a category two hurricane; and

9  
10 WHEREAS, the State currently only has thirty-two refuge  
11 areas that are capable of holding a total of only one hundred  
12 thousand people, despite the Honolulu Department of Emergency  
13 Management anticipating that even in the case of a category one  
14 hurricane approximately two hundred thousand people will seek  
15 shelter; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, the State has no shelters that can withstand a  
18 category three, four, or five hurricane, and in the event that a  
19 hurricane of this magnitude strikes the State there is no place  
20 for anyone to go; and

21  
22 WHEREAS, there are approximately one hundred eighty-seven  
23 thousand wooden homes in the State, most of which will be  
24 damaged or destroyed in a category one hurricane; and

25  
26 WHEREAS, the State is home to more than two hundred fifty  
27 thousand active and retired military personnel and their  
28 families, most of whom have no safe place to go during a  
29 hurricane; and

30  
31 WHEREAS, many of those two hundred fifty thousand active  
32 and retired military personnel and their families live in the  
33 one hundred eighty-seven thousand wooden homes in the State,  
34 which could be strengthened to withstand major hurricanes; and

35  
36 WHEREAS, it is the obligation of each branch of the United  
37 States military to protect their active and retired personnel  
38 and their families; and

39  
40 WHEREAS, if each branch of the United States military in  
41 the State were to provide shelters that would survive winds of  
42 over two hundred miles-per-hour for all two hundred fifty



1 thousand active and retired personnel and their families, it  
2 would relieve the State of providing shelters for one fifth of  
3 the State's residents; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, if each branch of the United States military in  
6 the State were to fund the fortifying of all homes owned by  
7 active and retired military personnel, it would greatly relieve  
8 the State when it begins to provide grants or tax breaks to  
9 citizens fortifying their homes against hurricanes; now,  
10 therefore,  
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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third  
13 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025,  
14 that each branch of the United States military in the State is  
15 requested to provide shelters that can withstand hurricanes with  
16 winds of over two hundred miles-per-hour for all of their active  
17 and retired personnel and families living in the State; and  
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each branch of the United  
20 States military in the State is requested to fund the  
21 fortification of all homes owned by active and retired military  
22 personnel whose homes are deemed able to withstand major  
23 hurricanes if strengthened; and  
24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
26 Resolution be transmitted to the Chief of Staff of the United  
27 States Army, Chief of Naval Operations of the United States  
28 Navy, Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force, Commandant  
29 of the United States Marine Corps, and Commandant of the United  
30 States Coast Guard.  
31  
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OFFERED BY: Mike Hubbard

