

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



GOV. MSG. NO. 1247

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

June 25, 2026

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate,
and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on June 25, 2026, the following bill was signed into law:

H.B. NO. 2498, H.D. 2, S.D. 1,
C.D. 1

RELATING TO CARE HOMES.
ACT 146

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Green M.D." in a cursive style.

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawai'i

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CARE HOMES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that many licensed care
2 homes in central and leeward Oahu operate in aging facilities
3 and serve vulnerable populations, including kupuna, individuals
4 with disabilities, and medically fragile residents. These
5 facilities are particularly susceptible to damage from natural
6 disasters, climate-related hazards, and prolonged power outages.
7 Strengthening the physical infrastructure and disaster
8 resilience of these care homes is critical to safeguarding
9 resident health and safety, minimizing emergency response needs,
10 and supporting community stability and recovery.

11 The purpose of this Act is to establish the central and
12 leeward Oahu care home community resilience pilot program to
13 assist eligible licensed care home facilities within the 96797,
14 96792, and 96786 postal zip codes on the island of Oahu in
15 enhancing their resilience against natural disasters, climate-
16 related risks, and extended utility disruptions.



1 SECTION 2. (a) The Hawaii emergency management agency
2 shall establish the central and leeward Oahu care home community
3 resilience pilot program.

4 (b) The purpose of the pilot program shall be to assist
5 eligible licensed care home facilities within the 96797, 96792,
6 and 96786 postal zip codes on the island of Oahu to implement
7 structural and operational resilience improvements; provided
8 that eligible structural and operational resilience improvements
9 may include but are not limited to:

- 10 (1) Roof reinforcement, hurricane clips, and
11 wind-resistant materials;
- 12 (2) Impact-resistant windows, storm shutters, and
13 strengthened doors;
- 14 (3) Backup power systems and battery storage for essential
15 medical equipment;
- 16 (4) Air filtration or cooling enhancements for extreme
17 heat or wildfire smoke;
- 18 (5) Fire-resistant landscaping and defensible space; and
19 (6) Shelter-in-place or safe room modifications.
- 20 (c) The pilot program may provide, as funds permit:



1 (1) Grants, rebates, or contracted services for structure
2 hardening;

3 (2) Facility vulnerability assessments for wind, heat,
4 wildfire smoke, and power disruption risks;

5 (3) Technical assistance and training in preparedness and
6 continuity of operations; and

7 (4) Support for emergency power and cooling solutions for
8 medically fragile residents.

9 (d) The following care home facilities within the 96797,
10 96792, and 96786 postal zip codes on the island of Oahu shall be
11 eligible for the pilot program:

12 (1) Adult residential care homes;

13 (2) Expanded adult residential care homes;

14 (3) Community care foster family homes;

15 (4) Developmental disabilities domiciliary homes;

16 (5) Intermediate care facilities; and

17 (6) Any other licensed residential care home serving
18 vulnerable populations within the 96797, 96792, and
19 96786 postal zip codes on the island of Oahu.

20 (e) The pilot program shall prioritize assistance to care
21 home facilities that:



- 1 (1) Serve low-income residents, kupuna, or persons with
2 disabilities;
- 3 (2) House residents dependent on life-sustaining medical
4 equipment;
- 5 (3) Are located in high-risk hazard zones;
- 6 (4) Operate in structures more than twenty-five years old;
7 and
- 8 (5) Demonstrate financial need.
- 9 (f) Each care home facility shall adopt an evacuation plan
10 for its residents and employees.
- 11 (g) The Hawaii emergency management agency shall submit a
12 report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
13 convening of the regular session of 2027. The report shall
14 include:
- 15 (1) The number and types of care homes assisted;
- 16 (2) Completed assessments and improvements;
- 17 (3) Estimated reductions in disaster-related risks;
- 18 (4) Stakeholder feedback; and
- 19 (5) Recommendations for extending or expanding the pilot
20 program statewide, including proposed legislation.



1 (h) The Hawaii emergency management agency may adopt rules
2 pursuant to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to implement
3 this Act.

4 (i) As used in this Act:

5 "Kupuna" means an individual who is sixty years of age or
6 older or who has specific care needs.

7 "Pilot program" means the central and leeward Oahu care
8 home community resilience pilot program.

9 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much
11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for the
12 central and leeward Oahu care home community resilience pilot
13 program pursuant to this Act.

14 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii
15 emergency management agency for the purposes of this Act.

16 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026, and
17 shall be repealed on June 30, 2029.



H.B. NO. 2498
H.D. 2
S.D. 1
C.D. 1

APPROVED this 25th day of June, 2026



GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

HB No. 2498, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: May 6, 2026
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026.



Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker
House of Representatives




Brian L. Takeshita
Chief Clerk
House of Representatives


THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I

Date: May 6, 2026
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai‘i, Regular Session of 2026.



President of the Senate



Clerk of the Senate