
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY TO IDENTIFY AND ASSESS EMERGENCY SHELTERS CAPABLE OF WITHSTANDING HURRICANE CONDITIONS AND TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO IMPROVE THE STATE'S HURRICANE SHELTER CAPACITY.

1 WHEREAS, the State is vulnerable to hurricanes and tropical
2 storms that threaten the safety and well-being of residents and
3 visitors; and

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5 WHEREAS, climate change and warming ocean temperatures may
6 increase the intensity of storms affecting the Hawaiian Islands;
7 and

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9 WHEREAS, emergency shelters in Hawaii are located in
10 facilities such as schools, community centers, and other public
11 buildings that may not have been designed to withstand
12 hurricane-force winds; and

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14 WHEREAS, identifying which shelters are structurally
15 capable of protecting residents during hurricanes will improve
16 disaster preparedness and public awareness; and

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18 WHEREAS, a publicly available inventory of shelters and
19 their storm-resilience capabilities will help residents make
20 informed decisions during emergency evacuations; now, therefore,

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22 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
23 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
24 of 2026, that the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency is
25 requested to identify and assess emergency shelters capable of
26 withstanding hurricane conditions and to develop a plan to
27 improve the State's hurricane shelter capacity; and

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Emergency Management
30 Agency is requested to:

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- 1 (1) Identify all emergency shelters in the State that are
2 designated for use during disasters;
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- 4 (2) Assess the structural capability of each shelter to
5 withstand hurricane conditions, including whether the
6 shelter can safely withstand at least Category 1
7 hurricane-force winds;
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- 9 (3) Compile and publish a list of shelters, including
10 their locations and hurricane resilience capability,
11 to be made available to the public; and
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- 13 (4) Develop recommendations for improving hurricane
14 shelter capacity in the State, including potential
15 retrofits or upgrades to existing shelters; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Emergency Management
18 Agency is requested to submit a report of its findings and
19 recommendations to the Legislature no later than twenty days
20 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2027; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
23 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Director of the
24 Hawaii Emergency Management Agency.

