

MAR 12 2026

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING CERTAIN STATE BUILDINGS DESIGNED ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 2027, AND INTENDED TO SERVE A SECONDARY PURPOSE AS AN EMERGENCY SHELTER TO BE DESIGNED TO WITHSTAND CATEGORY 5 HURRICANES AND BE USED AS SHELTERS IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY.

1 WHEREAS, with warmer ocean temperatures caused by climate
2 change, the development zone for hurricanes in the eastern and
3 central Pacific has moved northward, significantly increasing
4 the potential for stronger storms and hurricanes crossing the
5 Pacific Ocean to hit or directly affect the State; and
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7 WHEREAS, the State had previously been protected by
8 surrounding cooler waters and wind shear, which mitigated the
9 threat of hurricanes; however, ocean temperatures around the
10 State have grown warmer, reducing the number of days during
11 which the State experiences trade winds from two hundred
12 ninety-one in 1973 to two hundred ten in 2009, thereby
13 diminishing the protection provided by wind shear; and
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15 WHEREAS, warmer seas have also increased the intensity of
16 hurricanes globally and the prevalence of Category 5 hurricanes,
17 which sometimes achieve wind speeds of over two hundred miles
18 per hour and cause extensive damage to buildings and residential
19 structures; and
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21 WHEREAS, notably, when the most recent Category 5
22 hurricane, Hurricane Melissa, made landfall in Jamaica in
23 October 2025, over one hundred thousand structures were severely
24 damaged by the storm; and
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26 WHEREAS, the number of adequate shelters in the State is
27 limited, as demonstrated by a 2022 report from the City and
28 County of Honolulu that the county had sufficient shelter
29 capacity for only one hundred thousand people, due to a lack of



1 shelters that meet the appropriate criteria in the event of a
2 hurricane; and

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4 WHEREAS, this lack of shelter space in the State, combined
5 with the high risk of damage to residential structures, leaves
6 the public vulnerable to hurricanes and other severe storms,
7 potentially leaving many residents without shelter in the event
8 that a hurricane of Category 3 intensity or greater were to
9 directly impact the State; now, therefore,

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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
12 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the
13 House of Representatives concurring, that all state buildings
14 designed on or after July 1, 2027, and intended to serve a
15 secondary purpose as an emergency shelter are requested to be
16 designed to withstand Category 5 hurricanes and be used as
17 shelters in the event of an emergency; provided that the state
18 buildings are fully enclosed and would serve as large capacity
19 shelters; provided further that state buildings do not include
20 correctional facilities, covered playgrounds, or sheds; and

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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Accounting
23 and General Services is requested to:

- 24
25 (1) Act as the lead agency for the purposes of enforcing
26 this requirement in consultation with the Hawaii
27 Emergency Management Agency; and
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29 (2) Adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised
30 Statutes, to carry out these requirements; and

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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
33 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor;
34 Comptroller; Administrator of Hawaii Emergency Management
35 Agency; Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity;
36 Attorney General; Director of Finance; Director of Business,
37 Economic Development, and Tourism; Director of Commerce and
38 Consumer Affairs; Adjutant General; Chairperson of the Board of
39 Education; Superintendent of Education; Chairperson of the
40 Hawaiian Homes Commission; Director of Health; Director of Human
41 Resources Development; Director of Human Services; Director of
42 Labor and Industrial Relations; Chairperson of the Board of Land



S.C.R. NO. 62

1 and Natural Resources; Director of Law Enforcement; Director of
2 Corrections and Rehabilitation; Director of Taxation; and
3 Director of Transportation; and President of the University of
4 Hawaii System.

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OFFERED BY: Carol Johnson

