



www.AlohaILHawaii.org

Mar 27, 2026

MISSION

Aloha Independent Living Hawaii (AILH) dedicated to providing independent living programs and services for persons with disabilities in Hawaii.

We work together with the community and consumers to improve the quality of life through individual choices and access to services.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Roxanne U. Bolden

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The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
House Committee on Public Safety
The Thirty-Third Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

SUBJECT: HR142 – 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

Chair and Members of the Committee:

Aloha Independent Living Hawaii (AILH) is a cross-disability, statewide organization that supports disabled residents to live in the community of their choice. AILH **supports the intent of HR142** to identify and assess emergency shelters capable of withstanding hurricane conditions and to improve Hawaii’s hurricane shelter capacity. The recent Kona Low storms and other climate-related events have shown that disabled people, including kupuna and residents with chronic health conditions, are often the first harmed and last served when shelters lack accessibility, power, and supports needed to stay safe in place.

As HI-EMA identifies and evaluates designated shelters, we respectfully urge that this work explicitly include accessibility and access and functional needs, not just structural safety. This should include assessing entrances, bathrooms, parking, communication access (ASL, captioning, plain-language information), and the ability to provide backup power, refrigeration for medications, and space for mobility devices, service animals, and personal care attendants. We also encourage HI-EMA to collaborate closely with cross-disability organizations, including Centers for Independent Living and other disability-led groups across all islands, when developing assessment



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tools and recommendations. Ensuring that hurricane shelters are both structurally safe and truly accessible will strengthen community resilience for everyone in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Roxanne Bolden
Executive Director

HR-142

Submitted on: 3/25/2026 3:33:20 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/27/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terri Yoshinaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.