



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.

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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: HR161 – Requesting the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency to Assist in Organizing a Statewide Summit of Organizations Working on Community Resilience Hubs

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 strongly **supports the intent of HR161**, which requests the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency to assist in organizing a statewide summit of organizations working on community resilience hubs. As climate change drives more frequent and severe disasters, resilience hubs are a critical tool to protect lives and property before, during, and after emergencies, especially for disabled residents, kupuna, and others who rely on electricity, medications, communication supports, and in-home care to survive.

From an Independent Living perspective, community resilience hubs are most effective when disabled people are treated as partners and leaders in preparedness, not only as “vulnerable populations” to be served. We appreciate that HR161 recognizes the expertise of community-based organizations and asks HI-EMA to partner with Vibrant Hawaii and Community Engagement for Resilient Neighborhoods to coordinate with organizations across the State. As the summit is designed, we respectfully urge that cross-disability organizations, including Centers for Independent Living and other disability-led groups from all islands, be explicitly included



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in planning, facilitation, and follow-up. This will help ensure that resilience hubs are physically accessible, can support access and functional needs (including backup power, refrigeration for medications, accessible communications, and space for mobility devices, personal care attendants, and service animals), and reflect the lived experience of disabled residents in urban, rural, and neighbor-island communities.

AILH further supports the request that HI-EMA provide technical assistance and subject matter expertise and submit findings and recommendations on the establishment of community resilience hubs, including any proposed legislation, before the 2027 session. Embedding disability access and Independent Living principles into these recommendations from the outset will strengthen Hawaii's overall resilience and reduce loss of life in future disasters.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

Mahalo,

Roxanne Bolden
Executive Director

HR-161

Submitted on: 3/27/2026 12:52:17 AM
Testimony for PBS on 3/27/2026 10:00:00 AM

LATE

RECEIVED
Date & Time
Mar 27, 2026, 9:00 am

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Theresa Armbruster	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

OPPOSE HR161 & HCR171

No Need for these Resolutions. Communities already work together & help each other in times of need, especially disasters!

Significant challenges for ongoing funding

Government-directed & controlled Resilience Hub Plan will Not get much community support!! (we haven't forgotten all the lockdowns, mandates & tyrannical government control during Covid!!!)

When churches & communities help during disasters, 90% of the \$\$ & resources go directly to those in need, with only 10% overhead. But when government tries to "help" during disasters 90% of the \$\$ goes to administration & bureaucratic red tape, & only 10% goes to those in need!

Vote NO to HR161 & HCR171