



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 03/24/2014

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: HCR 56/HR 38 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION WITH ASSISTANCE FROM THE COUNTY OF MAUI TO IDENTIFY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FACILITIES THAT CAN BE USED AS EMERGENCY SHELTERS DURING A NATURAL DISASTER ON MOLOKAI.

**Purpose of
Resolution:**

Department's Position:

The Department of Education supports the intent of this resolution but feels it is unnecessary since schools have already been identified as shelters: Molokai High, Kilohana Elementary, Kaunakakai Elementary and Kualapuu Charter schools.



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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March 24, 2014

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

House Concurrent Resolution 56/House Resolution 38 – Requesting the Department of Education with Assistance From the County of Maui to Identify Department of Education Facilities that can be Used as Emergency Shelters During a Natural Disaster on Molokai

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) provides comments on House Concurrent Resolution 56/House Resolution 38 – Requesting the Department of Education with Assistance From the County of Maui to Identify Department of Education Facilities that can be Used as Emergency Shelters During a Natural Disaster on Molokai.

In 2005, DCAB co-convened an Interagency Working Group for the Emergency Preparedness of People with Disabilities and Special Health Needs with State Civil Defense and the Department of Health. Since that time, DCAB and the Working Group developed an “Interagency Action Plan for the Emergency Preparedness of People with Disabilities and Special Health Needs” to ensure that emergency management efforts and plans statewide included people with disabilities and other access and functional needs. A major effort involved the retrofitting of public school buildings by providing technical assistance to ensure accessibility of the facilities per the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG). In 2013, DCAB trained state and county staff to review sites selected as emergency shelters, such as public schools, in order to retrofit the shelter and include accessibility features so individuals using the emergency shelter will have access to the site. This resolution meets several of the objectives already set in the “2009 Interagency Action Plan for the Emergency Preparedness for Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs.” That plan is currently being revised with the assistance of all stakeholders in the emergency management community, including individuals with disabilities and other access and functional needs.

State Civil Defense recently compiled a list of schools to be used as emergency shelters in each county. There are three schools already identified on Molokai as public emergency shelters: Kaunakakai Elementary, Kualapuu Elementary, and Molokai High School. The individuals trained by DCAB in 2013 along with the Molokai Emergency Action Committee can conduct site surveys to assess these three sites to document which elements are accessible and which elements need to be improved and report back to the Legislature with that information.

Since this collaborative effort is already underway with DCAB’s assistance, we request that our agency be added to the list of agencies receiving a certified copy of the resolution transmitted.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

BARBARA FISCHLOWITZ-LEONG
Chairperson

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director