



From: [Ellen Watson](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: [pehi](#)
Subject: HB1868
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Testimony in Support of HB 1868 Relating to Emergency Shelters

To: Senate Ways and Means Committee
Chair Ige, Vice-Chair Kidani and Members of The Committee

From: Ellen Watson
Manoa Disaster Preparedness Team
Committee Chair; 1st Responders, Businesses & Other Govt. Agencies/Entities

Dear Committee,

Chair Ige, Thank you for allowing HB 1868 to be heard before your committee. I testify in support of the measure. Our schools are central community landmarks and house buildings that if appropriately retrofitted to withstand the natural elements (climatic elements experienced during a Natural Disaster) can serve as emergency shelters. It is important to have focal point locations to which the community members, in particular the elderly, ill or impaired individuals, children, and others that may not be able to shelter in place as easily as some other folks.

A first step in this important process lies in your hands, the Legislature who may appropriate funds to enable designated schools to be retrofitted with construction and engineering controls. For example: hurricane roof tie-downs, storage areas for water/food supplies, and any/all additional retro-fit measures that is deemed necessary to create "safe" shelters in the service of our communities.

Thank you for your consideration,
Ellen Watson