
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING ALL HIGH-OCCUPANCY STATE AND COUNTY BUILDINGS, THE DESIGN OF WHICH COMMENCES ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 2025, TO BE DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTED TO WITHSTAND CATEGORY FIVE HURRICANES AND TO SERVE AS SHELTERS IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii is vulnerable to catastrophic natural
2 disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, volcanic
3 eruptions, and high winds that can devastate communities; and
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5 WHEREAS, global warming is increasing the frequency of
6 these natural disasters, including hurricanes, in the State; and
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8 WHEREAS, warming seas have moved the formation area for
9 Pacific hurricanes northward over time, causing hurricanes
10 pathing westward across the Pacific Ocean to also move
11 northward, placing Hawaii more directly in the paths of
12 hurricanes; and
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14 WHEREAS, historically, Hawaii's two defenses against
15 hurricanes have been cooler seas that slow and weaken hurricanes
16 and strong trade winds that tear hurricanes apart, but Hawaii's
17 seas are now warmer and trade winds occur on less than half of
18 the days in a year; and
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20 WHEREAS, without these defenses, there is nothing to slow
21 down or stop hurricanes from directly hitting Hawaii for a
22 majority of the year; and
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24 WHEREAS, global warming causes stronger hurricanes, and the
25 number of category four and five hurricanes worldwide has
26 doubled in the last thirty years and is expected to continue to
27 grow; and
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1 WHEREAS, category five super hurricanes with winds of one
2 hundred seventy miles per hour and greater, which historically
3 occur once every eight years worldwide, are projected to occur
4 annually by the end of the century; now, therefore,
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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
7 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the
8 House of Representatives concurring, that all high-occupancy
9 state and county buildings, the design of which commences on or
10 after July 1, 2025, to be designed and constructed to withstand
11 category five hurricanes as determined by wind zone maps; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these high-occupancy state and
14 county buildings are requested to be used as shelters in the
15 event of an emergency; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, for purposes of this measure,
18 "high-occupancy state and county buildings" refers to state- and
19 county-owned public high occupancy buildings that are subject to
20 section 430 of the Hawaii State Building Code pursuant to
21 section 430.2 of the Hawaii State Building Code, approved by the
22 State Building Code Council on April 20, 2021; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
25 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor,
26 Comptroller, Chair of the State Building Code Council, Planning
27 Director for the Planning Department of the County of Hawaii,
28 Director of the Planning Department for the County of Maui,
29 Planning Director for the Planning Department of the County of
30 Kauai, and Director of the Department of Planning and Permitting
31 of the City and County of Honolulu.

