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# SENATE 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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29 WHEREAS, category five super hurricanes with winds of one  
30 hundred seventy miles per hour and greater, which historically



1 occur once every eight years worldwide, are projected to occur  
2 annually by the end of the century; now, therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
5 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024,  
6 that all high-occupancy state and county buildings, the design  
7 of which commences on or after July 1, 2025, to be designed and  
8 constructed to withstand category five hurricanes as determined  
9 by wind zone maps; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these high-occupancy state and  
12 county buildings are requested to be used as shelters in the  
13 event of an emergency; and

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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, for purposes of this measure,  
16 "high-occupancy state and county buildings" refers to state- and  
17 county-owned public high occupancy buildings that are subject to  
18 section 430 of the Hawaii State Building Code pursuant to  
19 section 430.2 of the Hawaii State Building Code, approved by the  
20 State Building Code Council on April 20, 2021; and

21  
22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
23 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Comptroller, Chair of  
24 the State Building Code Council, Planning Director for the  
25 Planning Department of the County of Hawaii, Director of the  
26 Planning Department for the County of Maui, Planning Director  
27 for the Planning Department of the County of Kauai, and Director  
28 of the Department of Planning and Permitting of the City and  
29 County of Honolulu.

