



House Committee on Public Safety

Testimony on HCR164 / HR159

Relating to Public Access to Hurricane Refuges and Shelters

March 28th, 2025

9:00 AM

Room 325

The Climate Change and Health Working Group (CCHWG) is a cross-sector collaborative interested in strengthening climate and health resiliency in Hawai'i. CCHWG supports this resolution urging Hawai'i's counties to improve public access to life-saving information through a comprehensive, electronic list of hurricane shelters and refuges.

Testimony of the Hawai'i Climate Change and Health Working Group

In Support of HCR164 / HR159

Relating to Public Access to Hurricane Refuges and Shelters

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the House Committee on Public Safety:

The Climate Change and Health Working Group supports HCR 164 / HR 159 and its intent to ensure that residents of Hawai'i have timely access to accurate and comprehensive information on hurricane shelters and refuges across the state.

As a collaborative dedicated to protecting public health in the face of climate change, we recognize the urgent need to improve disaster readiness. Increasingly severe and frequent storms present a growing threat to Hawai'i's communities, especially those already experiencing health and housing vulnerabilities.

Currently, no county offers a centralized, easily accessible online platform detailing critical information such as shelter locations, structural capacity, pet policies, and accessibility features for those with special needs. This lack of transparency undermines public preparedness and poses serious risks to health and safety during extreme weather events.

A centralized, electronically accessible list will empower individuals and families to make informed decisions before and during emergencies. It will also support health equity by ensuring that all residents—regardless of ability, age, or income—can locate suitable shelter options.

Furthermore, coordination with the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency to create a statewide list will enhance interagency communication and consistency, while amplifying community trust and preparedness.

For these reasons, the Climate Change and Health Working Group urges the Legislature to adopt this resolution as a critical step toward public safety and climate resilience.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure. The climate crisis is a health crisis.

Sincerely,

The Climate Change & Health Working Group

HR-159

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 10:44:42 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cindy R Ajimine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly **SUPPORT** this bill for the SAFETY of all our people & preparedness for not just hurricane but other applicable disasters. A no-brainer that should've already been done & education be given & info made accessible online & in emergency communications. Mahalo!!!

HR-159

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 11:39:12 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terri Yoshinaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

HR-159

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 1:39:10 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Louella Vidinha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm in full support of this bill for much needed shelters quickly in time of disaster.

Louella Vidinha