

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1887

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 03 , 2025

RE: H.R. No. 159

H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2025  
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Public Safety, to which was referred H.R.  
No. 159 entitled:

"HOUSE RESOLUTION URGING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU,  
COUNTY OF MAUI, COUNTY OF HAWAII, AND COUNTY OF KAUAI TO  
CREATE AND MAINTAIN A COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF HURRICANE REFUGES  
AND SHELTERS ELECTRONICALLY ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to ensure up-to-date  
information about hurricane refuges and shelters is available to  
the public electronically, on a government-run website, with the  
following minimum criteria: facility name, address, relevant site-  
specific instructions; category of hurricane the shelter or refuge  
area can sustain; capacity limit; pet-friendliness designation;  
and special needs accommodation designation.

Your Committee received testimony from the Department of  
Education providing comments, and testimony in support from the  
State Council on Developmental Disabilities, the Hawaii Climate  
Change Health Working Group, and three individuals.

Your Committee recognizes Hawaii's rising risk of  
experiencing extreme weather events, the importance of  
electronically accessible information so that the public can seek  
refuge at a moment's notice, and the current lack of a

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comprehensive list of hurricane refuges and shelters throughout the entire state. Your committee also finds that though an electronically accessible listing of all emergency refuges and shelters is critical, there needs to be a disclaimer explaining that not all locations will necessarily be opened during a particular emergency because the designating of emergency refuges and shelters are determined and announced at the time an emergency is declared.

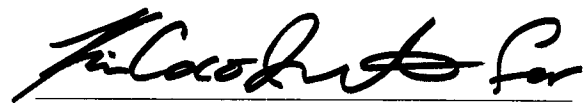
Your committee also concurs with the appropriateness of changing the outdated term "special needs" to "access and functional needs" as recommended by the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Your committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Requesting the counties include disclaimers to the electronically accessible list of refuges and shelters that makes it clear that not all locations will necessarily be opened because the designating of emergency refuges and shelters will be determined and announced at the time an emergency is declared; and
- (2) Replacing all "special needs" language with "access and functional needs".

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Public Safety that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of H.R. No. 159, as amended herein, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as H.R. No. 159, H.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Public Safety,



DELLA AU BELATTI, Chair



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Bill/Resolution No.: <b>HR 159</b>	Committee Referral: <b>PBS</b>	Date: <b>3/28/2025</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
PBS Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. BELATTI, Della Au (C)	✓			
2. IWAMOTO, Kim Coco (VC)	✓			
3. HASHEM, Mark J.	✓			
4. ICHIYAMA, Linda	✓			
5. LAMOSAO, Rachele F.	✓			
6. MORIKAWA, Dee	✓			
7. POEPOE, Mahina	✓			
8. WOODSON, Justin H.				✓
9. SHIMIZU, Garner M.	✓			
10. SOUZA, Kanani	✓			
TOTAL (10)	9	0	0	1
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: <u><i>Della A Belatti</i></u>				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee      Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office      Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				