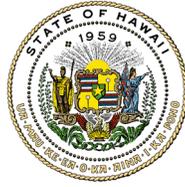


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



STEPHEN F. LOGAN
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL
KA 'AKUKANA KENELALA

JAMES DS. BARROS
ADMINISTRATOR OF
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
KAHU HO'OMALU PŪLIA

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
KA 'OIHANA PILI KAUA
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
4204 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4420

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 883,
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC SAFETY

BY

JAMES DS. BARROS
ADMINISTRATOR
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

JANUARY 29, 2025

Aloha Chair Bellati, Vice-Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a testimony to **OPPOSE** House Bill 883.

We **oppose** this legislation that mandates the Hawaii'i Emergency Management Agency to inventory all designated emergency shelters statewide. We understand the importance of having accurate and accessible information about emergency shelters. According to 127A-19, sheltering is a county mission. HIEMA will continue to coordinate with counties on the validation of their shelters. Mandating HIEMA to take on this responsibility could lead to unnecessary duplication of efforts and divert resources away from critical state-level initiatives.

We acknowledge the value of collaboration and coordination in emergency management. HIEMA plays a vital role in supporting county efforts with the retrofit program of shelters.

We urge the committee to consider the implications of this bill and to allow counties to maintain their critical role in shelter management while HIEMA supports them through coordination and resource sharing.

Thank you for considering our perspective on this important issue.

James Barros: james.barros@hawaii.gov; 808-733-4300

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 01/29/2025

Time: 09:00 AM

Location: 411 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Public Safety

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Bill Title: HB 0883 RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the Hawaii emergency management agency to inventory all designated emergency shelters and their ability to withstand a category one hurricane or higher. Requires Hawaii emergency management agency to publish a publicly available list of shelters and their respective hurricane ratings. Appropriates funds for a hurricane shelter retrofit program and director.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 883.

The Department agrees that Hawaii faces increasing risk of experiencing extreme weather events and only a few public buildings meet minimum requirements for hurricane shelters while demand for public evacuation shelter space is likely to exceed available inventory. The Department supports the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency in developing their program.

The Department would appreciate clarification of Section 4 (f) of the proposed bill as it references new language to Section 127A-19 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes by stating "and any public building constructed after January 2026 that meets the requirements of section 107-27(e)." There is no content in the Hawaii Revised Statutes for subsection (e).

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 883.



Hawai'i Climate Advisory Team

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Kim Coco Iwamoto, Vice Chair
House Committee on Public Safety

From: The Climate Advisory Team

RE: **HB883 - Relating to Emergency Management - In Support**
Wednesday, January 29, 9:00 a.m.; Conference Room 411 & Videoconference

Aloha Chair Au Belatti, Vice Chair Coco Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on HB883 relating to emergency management. We **support the intent** of this measure because community readiness is critically important during disasters like hurricanes, wildfires, floods, tsunamis, and earthquakes. The proposed bill would ensure that critical infrastructure is available to and prepared for residents in the event of a disaster.

We, the undersigned members of the Governor's Climate Advisory Team (CAT), support the intent of this bill. It aligns with the CAT's near-term recommendations to promote community resilience through pre-disaster coordination and fortifying Hawai'i's structures against wind damage, which we believe is critical to ensuring the health and safety of Hawai'i residents. For further information about the CAT's recommendations for community resilience, please refer to [Section 3.4 of our Policy Recommendations on Climate Disaster Resilience, Recovery and Funding](#).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before your committee **in support of the intent** of HB883.

With aloha,

The Climate Advisory Team

HB-883

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 8:06:56 AM

Testimony for PBS on 1/29/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anna Misako Hudson	Honolulu County Republican Party	Support	In Person

Comments:

I am in strong support of [HB883](#) because our state must take greater measures to be prepared for natural and manmade disasters. In identifying safe shelters, expanding shelter availability, and improving communication with residents, this is just the first step for keeping our communities safe.

A bill like HB883 could definitely make a significant difference in how the state and county respond to crisis and provide greater peace of mind for residents who will know where to go and what to expect especially when they are displaced.

In other states, municipal government utilize and share resources with their neighboring cities. In Honolulu City and County our options are limited, therefore there is even a greater need to be doubly prepared. As we seen from the Lahiana incident, emergency measures must be better coordinated and disaster preparedness activated and expedited at a moments notice.

I thank the committee for hearing this bill and urge its passage by considering the profound impact a better funded and managed emergency shelter program can have especially for the benefit of our most vulnerable citizens.

HB-883

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 12:53:50 AM

Testimony for PBS on 1/29/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judi Chang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill.

HB-883

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 3:26:35 PM

Testimony for PBS on 1/29/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Wiencek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

For the past several years, Hawaii has been buffeted by various crises both local and global in scale. From devastating natural disasters (volcanic eruptions, flooding, wildfires) to global pandemics, our emergency management, disaster resiliency, and general preparedness has been sorely tested.

Now is the time for our state and county governments for to make the necessary preparations. I urge the Committee to **SUPPORT** this bill!

HB-883

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 2:20:35 PM

Testimony for PBS on 1/29/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT this Bill. I urge all members of the Committee to **VOTE YES** on this Bill.

HB-883

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 3:17:38 PM

Testimony for PBS on 1/29/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

"I am in strong support of [HB883](#) because it will require our state to better prepare for disasters. Failure to prepare is preparing to fail, and we must do all we can to make sure we are ready for the next severe weather event.

Shelters not only benefit the individuals they serve, but also contribute to the overall health and safety of our community. It is important to me and my family to have a publicly accessible list of shelters and information about the category hurricane they can withstand. It is also crucial we continue to expand our shelter supply and further fortify those we already have.

I thank the committee for hearing this bill and urge its passage by considering the profound impact a better funded and managed emergency shelter program can have on the lives of our most vulnerable citizens."

HB-883

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 6:51:23 PM

Testimony for PBS on 1/29/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Silberstein	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"I am in strong support of [HB883](#) because it will require our state to better prepare for disasters. Failure to prepare is preparing to fail, and we must do all we can to make sure we are ready for the next severe weather event.

Shelters not only benefit the individuals they serve, but also contribute to the overall health and safety of our community. It is important to me and my family to have a publicly accessible list of shelters and information about the category hurricane they can withstand. It is also crucial we continue to expand our shelter supply and further fortify those we already have.

I thank the committee for hearing this bill and urge its passage by considering the profound impact a better funded and managed emergency shelter program can have on the lives of our most vulnerable citizens."

HB-883

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 6:52:21 PM

Testimony for PBS on 1/29/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Terry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support [HB883](#) because it will require our state to better prepare for disasters. Failure to prepare is preparing to fail, and we must do all we can to ensure we are ready for the next severe weather event.

Shelters benefit the individuals they serve and contribute to our community's overall health and safety. It is important to me and my family to have a publicly accessible list of shelters and information about the category of hurricanes they can withstand. It is also crucial that we continue to expand our shelter supply and further fortify those we already have.

I thank the committee for hearing this bill and urge its passage by considering the profound impact a better-funded and managed emergency shelter program can have on the lives of our most vulnerable citizens.

Thank you,

HB-883

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 7:16:14 PM

Testimony for PBS on 1/29/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kehaunani Andrade	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"I am in strong support of [HB883](#) because it will require our state to better prepare for disasters. Failure to prepare is preparing to fail, and we must do all we can to make sure we are ready for the next severe weather event.

Shelters not only benefit the individuals they serve, but also contribute to the overall health and safety of our community. It is important to me and my family to have a publicly accessible list of shelters and information about the category hurricane they can withstand. It is also crucial we continue to expand our shelter supply and further fortify those we already have.

I thank the committee for hearing this bill and urge its passage by considering the profound impact a better funded and managed emergency shelter program can have on the lives of our most vulnerable citizens."

HB-883

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 7:37:10 PM

Testimony for PBS on 1/29/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am in strong support of [HB883](#) because it will require our state to better prepare for disasters. Failure to prepare is preparing to fail, and we must do all we can to make sure we are ready for the next severe weather or other disastrous event.

Shelters not only benefit the individuals they serve, but also contribute to the overall health and safety of our community. It is important to residents and visitors to have a publicly accessible list of shelters and information about the category hurricane they can withstand. It is also crucial we continue to expand our shelter supply and further fortify those we already have.

I thank the committee for hearing this bill and urge its passage by considering the profound impact a better funded and managed emergency shelter program can have on the lives of our most vulnerable citizens

HB-883

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:07:05 PM

Testimony for PBS on 1/29/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deborah Guanzon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of [HB883](#) because it will require our state to better prepare for disasters. Failure to prepare is preparing to fail, and we must do all we can to make sure we are ready for the next severe weather event.

Shelters not only benefit the individuals they serve, but also contribute to the overall health and safety of our community. It is important to me and my family to have a publicly accessible list of shelters and information about the category hurricane they can withstand. It is also crucial we continue to expand our shelter supply and further fortify those we already have.

I thank the committee for hearing this bill and urge its passage by considering the profound impact a better funded and managed emergency shelter program can have on the lives of our most vulnerable citizens.

Thank you for accepting my testimony. Sincerely, Deborah Guanzon

HB-883

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:57:51 PM

Testimony for PBS on 1/29/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiare Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in strong support of [HB883](#) because it will require our state to better prepare for disasters. Failure to prepare is preparing to fail, and we must do all we can to make sure we are ready for the next severe weather event.

Shelters not only benefit the individuals they serve, but also contribute to the overall health and safety of our community. It is important to me and my family to have a publicly accessible list of shelters and information about the category hurricane they can withstand. It is also crucial we continue to expand our shelter supply and further fortify those we already have.

I thank the committee for hearing this bill and urge its passage by considering the profound impact a better funded and managed emergency shelter program can have on the lives of our most vulnerable citizens.

Mahalo,

Tiare Smith

Email: Lahela79@yahoo.com

HB-883

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:02:16 PM

Testimony for PBS on 1/29/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Boyd Ready	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, lawmakers,

It's regrettable that such a law (put a list of shelters up) is necessary. Emergency management has generated about as much rhetoric lately as agriculture has all along, and results in both areas languish in limbo for decades.

We attended an emergency drill full of earnest officials and citizens at a local high school. The instructions were to dry run a retreat to shelter with all you need: blankets, medicine, food, extra water, radio, flashlight, cash, and contact #s. We arrived and I brought it all, and were celebrated and photographed as heroic. Fittingly, not a single one of the other 40 or so people had brought anything. And of course there are no cots, pre-stocked supplies, or emergency generator/refrigeration equipment.

Subsequently that high school was taken off the list of shelters and the nearest ones were designated much farther away. And the list was not something anyone could find. Even Neighborhood Board members have a hard time finding out where's the hardened shelters. And the ones picked seem remote and nonsensical.

Yes, pass a bill. But how about ELECTING the emergency management leaders, for State and Counties? This is a democracy, isn't it?

I'm for the bill and thank you for doing something about it.

Mahalo,

Boyd Ready

Haleiwa

HB-883

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:18:16 PM

Testimony for PBS on 1/29/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noelle Lam	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"I am in strong support of [HB883](#) because it will require our state to better prepare for disasters. Failure to prepare is preparing to fail, and we must do all we can to make sure we are ready for the next severe weather event.

Shelters not only benefit the individuals they serve, but also contribute to the overall health and safety of our community. It is important to me and my family to have a publicly accessible list of shelters and information about the category hurricane they can withstand. It is also crucial we continue to expand our shelter supply and further fortify those we already have.

I thank the committee for hearing this bill and urge its passage by considering the profound impact a better funded and managed emergency shelter program can have on the lives of our most vulnerable citizens."

HB-883

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 1:58:11 AM

Testimony for PBS on 1/29/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Monica J Medina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of HB883 because our state needs to be fully prepared for disasters.

I have lived in Hawaii through multiple natural disasters, so I know how vital this is.

After the Maui fires, we all know how imperative it is that we are ready for the next severe weather event or other natural disaster.

It is important to me and my family to have a list of safe shelters available because our house, like many others in Hawaii, is old and made of wood.

Hawaii needs more shelters, and with the hurricanes getting stronger and stronger, we need stronger shelters, too.

Thank you to the committee for hearing this bill. I hope you do the right thing to protect our ohana.

HB-883

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 4:42:41 AM

Testimony for PBS on 1/29/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alice Abellanida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. We need better preparedness for emergencies.

HB-883

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 6:40:45 AM

Testimony for PBS on 1/29/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marilyn Moniz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support so the younger generation has opportunity to buy their own homes through this financial vehicle.

HB-883

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 8:01:22 AM

Testimony for PBS on 1/29/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donna P. Van Osdol	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill would require HI-EMA to (1) create a publicly accessible list of storm shelters statewide;(2) create a position of program director for shelter retrofit , and (3) fund the program to fortify current shelters.

As we have seen on the mainland, severe disasters such as fires and hurricanes are more frequent. W are even now seeing Category 5 hurricanes becoming the norm. Therefore, shelters able to withstand those tyles of catastrophic events and allow for huge numbers of people to live in for an extended period of time are crucial for Hawaii's residents.

For the reasons mentioned, HB883 should be supported by every legislator!

Thank you for allowing me to testify in favor of this Bill

Donna Van Osdol

HB-883

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 8:24:38 AM

Testimony for PBS on 1/29/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Smart	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB 883.

HB-883

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:00:59 AM

Testimony for PBS on 1/29/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hawaii Self Advocacy Advisory Council	Hawaii Self-Advocacy Advisory council	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Hawaii Self-Advocacy Advisory council supports HB 883. For people with disabilities, it is important to know where emergency shelters are located in order to be able to plan for an evacuation from their homes.

HB-883

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:04:30 AM

Testimony for PBS on 1/29/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr Marion Ceruti	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support [HB883](#) because it will require our state to prepare more efficiently for disasters. Failure to prepare is preparing to fail, and we must do all we can to make sure we are ready for the next severe weather event.

Shelters not only benefit the individuals they serve, but also, they contribute to the overall health and safety of our community. Knowing where the shelters are located is important to me and my husband. We need a publicly accessible list of shelters and information about the category hurricane they can withstand. We also must continue to expand our shelter supply and fortify the shelters that we already have.

Mahalo nui loa to the committee for hearing this bill and for urging its passage by considering the profound impact a better funded and managed emergency shelter program can have on the lives of our most vulnerable citizens.

HB-883

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:55:26 AM

Testimony for PBS on 1/29/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
SUSAN MORRIS	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"I am in strong support of [HB883](#) because it will require our state to better prepare for disasters. Failure to prepare is preparing to fail, and we must do all we can to make sure we are ready for the next severe weather event.

Shelters not only benefit the individuals they serve, but also contribute to the overall health and safety of our community. It is important to me and my family to have a publicly accessible list of shelters and information about the category hurricane they can withstand. It is also crucial we continue to expand our shelter supply and further fortify those we already have.

I thank the committee for hearing this bill and urge its passage by considering the profound impact a better funded and managed emergency shelter program can have on the lives of our most vulnerable citizens."

HB-883

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 12:09:11 AM

Testimony for PBS on 1/29/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adriel Lam	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Not only should the public be informed about emergency shelters but funds should be used to support and increase the capacity of dual-use government, commercial and private structures for emergency purposes.

Aloha,

Adriel Lam

Kaneohe, HI