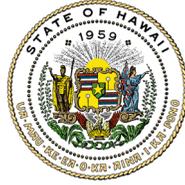


**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



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

**JAMES DS. BARROS**  
ADMINISTRATOR OF  
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KAHU HO'OMALU PŪULIA

STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I  
**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**  
**KA 'OIHANA PILI KAUA**  
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
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STATE OF HAWAI'I  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 111,  
RELATING TO HURRICANE RESISTANT CRITERIA

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON  
**PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS AND**  
**GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

BY

JAMES DS. BARROS  
ADMINISTRATOR  
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

JANUARY 31, 2025

Aloha Chairs Elefante and McKelvey, Vice-Chairs Wakai and Gabbard, and Members of both Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a testimony to **SUPPORT** Senate Bill 111.

The Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency endorses initiatives aimed at the designing and constructing of all new state buildings – to improve the state's preparedness against hurricane winds.

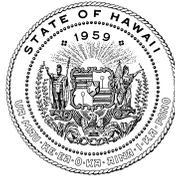
HIEMA's mitigation projects reflect our commitment to making concerted efforts and proactive investments in the safety and resilience of our communities.

HIEMA supports this measure, with the understanding that its passage will not negatively impact the priorities outlined in the Executive Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a testimony in support of Senate Bill 111.

James Barros: [james.barros@hawaii.gov](mailto:james.barros@hawaii.gov); 808-733-4300

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KEITH A. REGAN  
COMPTROLLER  
KA LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ  
  
MEOH-LENG SILLIMAN  
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

**STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWE LAULĀ**  
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY  
OF  
KEITH A. REGAN, COMPTROLLER  
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES  
TO THE COMMITTEES ON

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**  
**GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

JANUARY 31, 2025, 3:00 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 225 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

S.B. 111

RELATING TO HURRICANE RESISTANT CRITERIA

Chairs Elefante and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Wakai and Gabbard, and Members of the Committees, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on S.B. 111.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) offers **comments** on this measure, which requires all public buildings, including public school buildings, constructed after January 1, 2026, to be designed to withstand category five hurricanes and be used as shelters in the event of an emergency.

We note that public buildings currently under design will be constructed using funds appropriated in prior years. Those projects in design may not have been appropriated sufficient funds to satisfy the structural requirements for category five hurricane resistance and will require appropriation of additional design and construction

funds to satisfy the related design criteria.

In addition, there are some types of public buildings for which the cost of designing and constructing to category five hurricane resistance requirements may not be appropriate (such as small storage facilities, vehicle carports, and similar incidental facilities) as those buildings are not intended to be used as emergency shelters.

Therefore, the department suggests that the measure be amended to require that all public buildings intended to serve as shelters during and after a category five hurricane for which construction is anticipated to commence on or after July 1, 2026, shall be designed and constructed to withstand category five hurricanes and be used as shelters in the event of an emergency. The change in date is intended to provide the responsible agencies with the opportunity to request any additional funding required during the 2026 legislative session.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.