RES25-202
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 397

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Aug 6, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 2

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Jacob Wiencek	jacob.m.wiencek@pm.me	96815
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 1, 2025 @ 05:14 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Councilmembers,

Honolulu is on the FRONTLINES of man-driven climate change. We face not just sea-level rise (and the attendant flooding risk) but also increased temperatures. As the Earth warms, working-class people whose employment is largely outside (e.g., construction, landscape) are at increased vulnerability to heat related health and safety harms. Establishing cooling centers around the city will greatly help our overall climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts.

I strongly urge the Council to SUPPORT this resolution.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Kristine Pagano	dcab@doh.hawaii.gov	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Disability and Communication Access Board	Support	Aug 5, 2025 @ 03:02 PM

DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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August 6, 2025

The Honorable Matt Weyer
Chairperson
and Members of the
Committee on Housing, Sustainability, and Health
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street
Room 100
Honolulu, HI 96813

Regarding: Resolution 25-202 – Requesting the City Administration and the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission to investigate the feasibility of establishing cooling centers in the City and County of Honolulu.

Dear Chair Weyer and Members of the Committee on Energy, Environment and Sustainability:

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) strongly supports Resolution 25-202 which calls on the City Administration and the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission to investigate the feasibility of establishing cooling centers throughout the City and County of Honolulu.

As climate extreme heat events produce conditions can have life-threatening effects on our most vulnerable residents, including kupuna and persons with disabilities. Individuals with certain disabilities may be more susceptible to heat-related illness due to preexisting medical conditions, mobility limitations, or the need for power-dependent medical equipment.

DCAB encourages the Council to ensure that accessibility and inclusion are central considerations in the planning and implementation of cooling centers. Any cooling center initiative should include:

- Physical accessibility features, including accessible entrances, restrooms, signage, and shelter design;
- Effective communication strategies for individuals with sensory, cognitive, and communication disabilities;
- Contingency plans for individuals who depend on powered medical devices, such as access to backup power or alternative relief options during grid strain or outages.

DCAB supports this resolution as a necessary step to operationalize climate adaptation through a lens of equity and access. We urge the Council to ensure that accessibility standards and community-based input from the disability community are integrated throughout the planning and feasibility process for cooling centers.

Thank you for considering our position on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Kirby Pagano

for
KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director