HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

No. 26-110

RESOLUTION

URGING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU AND THE STATE OF HAWAI'I ADMINISTRATIONS TO INCORPORATE LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE COMMUNITY-INITIATED DISASTER RESPONSE EFFORTS TO THE RECENT KONA LOW STORMS INTO FUTURE DISASTER RESPONSE PLANS.

WHEREAS, Kona Low storms are low-pressure weather systems that occur during Hawai'i's winter season due to reverse typical trade wind patterns and can bring heavy rain, flash flooding, strong winds, and thunderstorms; and

WHEREAS, consecutive Kona Low storms that struck Hawai'i in March and April 2026 brought historic rainfall totals of five to 10 inches, with some areas experiencing over 30 inches of rainfall, resulting in dangerous flash flooding and devastating wind gusts between 60 and 75 miles per hour, with some gusts reaching over 100 miles per hour; and

WHEREAS, on O'ahu, the Kona Low storms resulted in 236 individuals requiring emergency assistance to escape floodwaters, thousands of North Shore residents receiving evacuation orders, over 100,000 households losing electricity, and 2,700 tons of mixed waste debris; and

WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu ("City") also reported that at least 1,074 private properties sustained damage or were rendered temporarily inaccessible, including 22 homes that are considered destroyed and an additional 257 homes that will require extensive repairs to ensure safe habitation; and

WHEREAS, community members played critical emergency response roles during the Kona Low storms by rescuing kūpuna, homeless individuals, and vulnerable neighbors from dangerous flooding; and

WHEREAS, the grassroot efforts of community leaders also amplified and enhanced the communication of critical emergency information between community members and government officials; and

WHEREAS, the recent Kona Low storms, 2024 floods on Kauai, and 2023 Maui wildfires are clear and powerful illustrations of the current and growing threats Hawai'i faces from increasing instances of natural disasters; and

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WHEREAS, the rising numbers of devastating natural disasters Hawai'i has experienced is an indisputable indicator that disaster preparedness and planning must continue to be a top priority of government at all levels; and

WHEREAS, the Honolulu Youth Commission noted in its Resolution 026-007 that, as evidenced by the critical role Hawai'i's local communities played during recent natural disaster events, including the Kona Low storms, public engagement in disaster preparedness improves trust, strengthens coordination, and ensures that government response and recovery efforts reflect the real needs of impacted communities; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that incorporating lessons learned from community-led response and recovery efforts during, and in the wake of, the Kona Low storms into official public disaster preparedness and response planning will improve the City and State of Hawai'i's response during future disaster events; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it urges the City and County of Honolulu and the State of Hawai'i administrations to incorporate lessons learned from the community-initiated disaster response efforts to the recent Kona Low storms into future disaster response plans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the incorporation of lessons learned from the disaster response to the Kona Low storms should include review of community-led response efforts; community-wide public meetings and listening sessions; and meetings with key community leaders, grassroots organizations, and other stakeholders; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this review of community-led response efforts and community feedback should be integrated into official post-disaster reports; and

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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Director of the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency, the Mayor, the Managing Director, and the Director of Emergency Management.

INTRODUCED BY:

Tony Weber B/R

Youth Commission

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

MAY 12 2026

Honolulu, Hawai'i

Councilmembers

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

CERTIFICATE

RESOLUTION 26-110

Introduced:	05/12/26	By:	TOMMY WATERS - BY REQUEST	Committee:	INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORTATION & TECHNOLOGY (ITT)

Title: URGING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU AND THE STATE OF HAWAI'I ADMINISTRATIONS TO INCORPORATE LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE COMMUNITY-INITIATED DISASTER RESPONSE EFFORTS TO THE RECENT KONA LOW STORMS INTO FUTURE DISASTER RESPONSE PLANS.

Voting Legend: * = Aye w/Reservations

05/12/26	INTRO	Introduced.
05/20/26	ITT	Reported out for adoption. CR-143(26) 4 AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, OKIMOTO, TUPOLA 1 ABSENT: WEYER
06/03/26	CCL	Committee report and Resolution were adopted. 9 AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO, TULBA, TUPOLA, WATERS, WEYER

I hereby certify that the above is a true record of action by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu on this RESOLUTION.

CHADD KADOTA, ACTING CITY CLERK

TOMMY WATERS, CHAIR AND PRESIDING OFFICER