RES26-161
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 312

*ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY (EES)

***ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY (EES) Meeting**

Meeting Date: Jul 14, 2026 @ 01:00 PM

Support: 3

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Roxanne Bolden	systemsadvocacy@alohailhawaii.org	96782
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Aloha Independent Living Hawaii	Support	Jul 13, 2026 @ 10:26 AM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Natalie Graham-Wood	ngrahamwood@hotmail.com	96712
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 13, 2026 @ 05:13 PM

Testimony:

I support Resolution 26-161. My name is Natalie Graham-Wood and I reside at Sunset Beach, Oahu.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
G Herskowitz	eusgfo@gmail.com	96791
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jul 14, 2026 @ 07:21 AM

Testimony:

In Waialua and Mokuleia we have limited evacuation routes in an emergency as demonstrated by the 2025 tsunami warning when we were not able to evacuate the tsunami area in the time from the warning sounding to the danger arrived. During the Kona low storms, no emergency services were available for evacuation or shelter. In both events, the community lacked safe and reliable places to shelter during these emergencies. The community needs reliable resilience hubs that are located within reach during an emergency and that are safe to provide resources throughout an emergency event. Please support this measure.

www.AlohaILHawaii.org

MISSION

Aloha Independent Living Hawaii (AILH) dedicated to providing independent living programs and services for persons with disabilities in Hawaii.

We work together with the community and consumers to improve the quality of life through individual choices and access to services.

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Roxanne U. Bolden

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Testimony of Aloha Independent Living Hawaiʻi

Resolution 26-161 — Requesting the City Administration to Develop Minimum Standards for Resilience Hubs

Committee on Energy, Environment & Sustainability

Tuesday, July 14, 2026, 1:00 p.m.

Position: Support with a request

Aloha Chair Weyer, Vice Chair Dos Santos-Tam, and members. Aloha Independent Living Hawaiʻi (AILH) is the federally designated statewide Center for Independent Living, serving people with disabilities of all ages on every island. We support Resolution 26-161 and ask that one thing be added explicitly: an accessibility floor. The resolution's minimum standards rightly address structural resilience, backup power, medication refrigeration, and medical support — but accessibility appears nowhere in the list, and more than one in five adults in Hawaiʻi (22.5%) report at least one disability. When standards are written without disability access, access does not happen later — retrofits are the most expensive way to fail.

We ask that the minimum standards developed under this resolution also require: ADA-accessible entrances, routes, restrooms, and sheltering space; microgrid capacity sized to include medical devices such as ventilators, oxygen concentrators, and power wheelchairs, with accessible charging; communication access, including ASL interpretation arrangements and plain-language and large-print materials; accommodation of service animals; and a quiet space for people with sensory disabilities. We further ask that the siting criteria's "social vulnerability" factor expressly include concentrations of electricity-dependent residents — the federal HHS emPOWER Map provides this data by ZIP code, free and updated monthly — and that Resilience Hub Operator certification include training on disability accommodation.

This need is concrete. Oʻahu has no public shelter confirmed to withstand more than a Category 1 hurricane, and since Hawaiian Electric's Public

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Safety Power Shutoff program began in 2024, the state Department of Health has advised residents who depend on powered medical devices to prepare to “temporarily relocate” during outages. A resilience hub is exactly where they should be able to go — but only if it can power a ventilator, admit a service animal, and communicate with every resident. The City’s Action 15 Project under the Ola: O‘ahu Resilience Strategy engaged over 3,000 residents and produced dedicated “Vulnerable Neighbors” next steps; this resolution is where that commitment becomes enforceable. We ask that disabled residents and disability organizations be included in developing the standards, and we offer AILH’s assistance.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,



Roxanne Bolden

Executive Director