

## SAFE ROOM EXEMPTION CRITERIA

In addition to FEMA Guidelines, Architect Stamped Plans, Plot Plan and Building Permit, an owner must have a Residence on the property and the Safe Room must adhere to the following criteria, before a "Safe Room Exemption" can be filed.

1. Must be a permitted building
2. Must have Independent Foundation
3. Must have Independent 4" Slab Ceiling
4. Must have Ventilation (by solar fan or PVC pipes)
5. Must have Heavy Steel Gauge Door that swings in

The Building certified Architect must stamp the Exemption Form; the County Engineering department must certify that the safe room is NOT located in flood zone, storm surge or other area susceptible to flooding; and the Zone Appraiser must inspect and verify before the exemption can be granted.

Form to be completed, stamped and signed-off for submission to RPA department by **September 30th** of any year, to benefit from a \$40,000 exemption the following year, into perpetuity.

**COUNTY OF KAUAI**  
**DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE**  
**REAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT DIVISION**  
4444 Rice Street, Ste. 454  
Lihue, HI 96766  
Ph. (808) 241-4224

**CLAIM FOR SAFE ROOM EXEMPTION**  
(Chapter 5A-11.27, K.C.C. 1987)

Tax Key

Zone	Section	Plat	Parcel	CPR

Safe room exemption is hereby claimed from Real Property Tax by:

Claimant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Print or Type

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Claimant: \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: No exemption shall be granted unless an acceptable certification from an architect or structural engineer licensed to practice in the State of Hawai'i stating that the completed safe room meets the minimum FEMA and Building Code specifications for a safe room is submitted with this claim.**

Claim received by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(For Assessor)

**(To be completed by the Department of Public Works/Engineering)**  
I hereby certify that the above-mentioned building is not located in a flood zone, storm surge, or other area susceptible to flooding.  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Architect's or Structural Engineer's letterhead)

SUBJECT: CERTIFICATION OF CONSTRUCTION  
Claim for Safe Room Exemption (Chapter 5A-11.27, K.C.C. 1987)

The safe room for the subject property was inspected on \_\_\_\_\_  
and was found to conform with the requirements of County Ordinance Number 752  
including, but not limited to the following:

1. Load Criteria - Designed and constructed for wind loads not less than 250 miles per hour, in accordance with the ASCE Standard Number 7-98.
2. Missile Impact Criteria - Designed and constructed for missile impact with a system tested, approved, and recommended by FEMA (see FEMA 361 "Design and Construction Guidance for Community Shelters", July 2000 Edition, as amended).
3. The Safe Room was designed and constructed pursuant to standards at a minimum in compliance with FEMA 320 "Taking Shelter From the Storm: Building a Safe Room Inside Your House", August 1999 Edition, as amended, and FEMA 361 "Design and Construction Guidance for Community Shelters", July 2000 Edition, as amended.

The Safe Room was installed by \_\_\_\_\_

State Contractor License Number \_\_\_\_\_, and under  
Building Permit Number \_\_\_\_\_.

Very truly yours,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Licensed Architect or Structural Engineer

\_\_\_\_\_  
License Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Professional Seal or Stamp