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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO GLOBAL WARMING.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that global warming poses  
2 a serious threat to the economic well-being, public health,  
3 natural resources, and environment of Hawaii. The potential  
4 adverse effects of climate change include a rise in sea levels,  
5 resulting in the displacement of businesses and residences and  
6 the inundation of Hawaii's freshwater aquifers, damage to marine  
7 ecosystems and the natural environment, extended drought and  
8 loss of soil moisture, an increase in the spread of infectious  
9 diseases, and an increase in the severity of storms and extreme  
10 weather events.

11           On February 2, 2007, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate  
12 Change, a body established by the United Nations, released its  
13 fourth assessment of the predicted impacts of global climate  
14 change. The panel predicted temperature rises of up to eleven-  
15 and-a-half degrees Fahrenheit by 2100 and a sea level rise of up  
16 to twenty-three inches, with an additional 7.8 inches possible



1 if current melting of the ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica  
2 continues.

3 Climate change will have detrimental effects on some of  
4 Hawaii's largest industries, including tourism, agriculture,  
5 recreational, commercial fishing, and forestry as well as  
6 Hawaii's fragile and unique natural resources. Accordingly, the  
7 State needs to be prepared to understand and respond to the  
8 effects of climate change. While the legislature has taken  
9 actions to address the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions  
10 through the passage of Act 234, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007,  
11 strategies to focus on adaptation need to be investigated and  
12 implemented.

13 SECTION 2. Climate change task force; objectives;  
14 membership. (a) The climate change task force is established  
15 within the office of planning, for administrative purposes only.  
16 The task force shall have the following objectives:

17 (1) Scoping the current and potential impacts of global  
18 warming and climate change on the people, natural  
19 resources, and the economy of the State, including  
20 impacts on:

21 (A) The visitor industry;



- 1 (B) Intrastate and interstate air and sea
- 2 transportation of cargo and persons;
- 3 (C) Existing buildings and the public utilities
- 4 infrastructure;
- 5 (D) The health of the people of the State; and
- 6 (E) Native plants, animals, and ecosystems;
- 7 (2) Scoping the potential impacts of rising ocean levels
- 8 as a result of climate change on the people, natural
- 9 resources, and the economy of the State, including
- 10 impacts on:
- 11 (A) The visitor industry;
- 12 (B) Shoreline erosion;
- 13 (C) Intrastate and interstate air and sea
- 14 transportation of cargo and persons;
- 15 (D) Existing buildings and the public utilities
- 16 infrastructure;
- 17 (E) The health of the people of the State; and
- 18 (F) Native plants, animals, and ecosystems;
- 19 (3) Estimate the costs to the State of the adverse effects
- 20 associated with climate change and rising sea levels;
- 21 and



- 1           (4) Make recommendations to the legislature and the  
2           governor on measures that would address or mitigate  
3           the near- and long-term effects of climate change.  
4           Such measures may include:
- 5           (A) Protecting against shoreline erosion;
  - 6           (B) Maintaining the visitor industry;
  - 7           (C) Relocating or armoring the transportation  
8           infrastructure, such as airports, highways, and  
9           ports;
  - 10          (D) Implementing restrictions on construction in  
11          areas at risk for sea level rise and inundation;
  - 12          (E) Improving or hardening the public utilities  
13          infrastructure, including communication lines,  
14          power generation systems, water supply systems,  
15          and wastewater treatment and disposal systems;
  - 16          (F) Preparing for health emergencies and impacts to  
17          established emergency management systems; and
  - 18          (G) Preserving the health, biodiversity, and  
19          resilience of terrestrial, freshwater, and marine  
20          ecosystems.
- 21          (b) The climate change task force shall comprise the  
22 following:



- 1       (1) The director of the office of planning or the
- 2             director's designee, who shall act as chairperson;
- 3       (2) The deputy director of the department of health's
- 4             environmental health administration or the deputy
- 5             director's designee;
- 6       (3) The director of transportation or the director's
- 7             designee;
- 8       (4) The chairperson of the board of land and natural
- 9             resources, or the chairperson's designee;
- 10       (5) The vice-director of civil defense of the department
- 11            of defense or the vice-director's designee;
- 12       (6) One member appointed by each of the mayors of Hawaii,
- 13            Honolulu, Kauai, and Maui counties;
- 14       (7) Three members appointed by the president of the
- 15            senate, of whom one shall be from an environmental
- 16            organization;
- 17       (8) Three members appointed by the speaker of the house of
- 18            representatives, of whom one shall be from an
- 19            environmental organization;
- 20       (9) The director of the Center for Island Climate
- 21            Adaptation and Policy at the University of Hawaii at
- 22            Manoa; and



1 (10) One member from the Joint Institute for Marine and  
2 Atmospheric Research to be appointed by its  
3 administrative board.

4 Members of the task force shall be exempt from section  
5 26-34, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and serve without compensation,  
6 but shall be reimbursed for expenses necessary for the  
7 performance of their duties, including travel expenses.

8 (c) The task force shall:

9 (1) Submit a preliminary report of its findings and  
10 recommendations, including any proposed legislation,  
11 to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to  
12 the convening of the regular session of 2010; and

13 (2) Submit a final report of its findings and  
14 recommendations, including any proposed legislation,  
15 to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to  
16 the convening of the regular session of 2011.

17 (d) The office of planning shall provide administrative  
18 and clerical support required by the task force.

19 (e) The task force shall cease to exist on June 30, 2011.

20 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the tourism  
21 special fund the sum of \$50,000 or so much thereof as may be  
22 necessary for fiscal year 2009-2010 and the same sum or so much



1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2010-2011 for the  
2 purposes of this Act.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the office of  
4 planning for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2009.



S.B. NO. 266  
S.D. 2  
H.D. 2  
C.D. 1

**Report Title:**

Climate Change Task Force

**Description:**

Establishes the climate change task force to assess the impacts of global warming and climate change trends in the State. (CD1)

