
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the temperature of
2 Earth's surface has increased over the past century, and 2009
3 tied with several other recent years as the second warmest year
4 on record. In Hawaii, warming has contributed to increased air
5 temperature, decreased rainfall and streamflow, increased
6 rainfall intensity, acidification of the oceans, increased ocean
7 temperature, and sea level rise. Scientists predict that, as
8 the climate continues to change, Hawaii will experience more of
9 the consequences of altered weather patterns and higher sea
10 levels. This will impact Hawaii's land ecosystems, marine
11 ecology, and coastal communities.

12 The legislature also finds that the sea level has risen in
13 Hawaii at a rate of approximately .06 inches per decade over the
14 past century. Worldwide, the rate of sea level rise has doubled
15 since 1990. Long term sea level rise has contributed to, and
16 will continue to contribute to, ongoing coastal erosion, coastal
17 flooding, and drainage problems. The legislature further finds
18 that waves, currents, and human activities are the principal



1 cause of erosion, but sea level rise accelerates and expands
2 erosion, impacting beaches that were once stable and affecting
3 developed communities that rely on their beaches as a protective
4 buffer from the sea.

5 The legislature acknowledges research that finds that sea
6 levels may rise one foot over their current level by 2050. The
7 legislature believes that it is critical for the State and
8 counties to recognize this growing threat to the State's
9 communities and begin to incorporate an imminent rise in sea
10 level into plans for future development. Thirteen other states,
11 including California and Washington, have passed legislation to
12 require planners to take sea level rise into account when
13 planning for future development. In addition, the Center for
14 Island Climate Adaption and Policy at the University of Hawaii
15 has strongly recommended that Hawaii follow their example by
16 benchmarking future development to predicted sea level rise.

17 The purpose of this Act is to require the state office of
18 planning and the planning authority of each county to take into
19 account a predicted sea level rise of one foot above current
20 levels by 2050 when planning for development.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 46, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
2 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to
3 read as follows:

4 "§46- Sea level rise; planning. The governing body or
5 planning commission or department of each county shall take into
6 account a predicted sea level rise of one foot above current sea
7 level by 2050 when reviewing applications for building, zoning,
8 and other development permits and when developing future county
9 plans for building, zoning, permitting, and other development."

10 SECTION 3. Chapter 223, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
11 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
12 and to read as follows:

13 "§223- Sea level rise; planning. The office of
14 planning shall develop a strategic plan for directing statewide
15 growth that takes into account a predicted sea level rise of one
16 foot above current sea level by 2050."

17 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

18 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

19

INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 23 2012



H.B. NO. 2330

Report Title:

Climate Change; Sea Level Rise; Planning

Description:

Requires the state office of planning and county planning authorities to take into account a predicted sea level rise of 1 foot above current sea level by 2050 when permitting and planning for development.

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