

JAN 18 2012

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE.

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. Climate change will have detrimental effects on
11 some of Hawaii's largest industries, including tourism,
12 agriculture, recreational and commercial fishing, and forestry
13 as well as Hawaii's fragile and unique natural resources.
14 Accordingly, the State needs to be prepared to understand and
15 respond to the effects of climate change. While the legislature
16 has taken actions to assess climate change in the past through
17 the creation of the climate change task force pursuant to Act
18 20, Session Laws of Hawaii 2009, additional strategies need to



1 be further investigated and implemented and more time is needed
2 for the climate change task force to conduct such an assessment.
3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish the climate
4 change task force to continue to investigate and address the
5 impact climate change has on the State of Hawaii.

6 SECTION 2. (a) The climate change task force is
7 established within the office of planning, for administrative
8 purposes only. The task force shall have the following
9 objectives:

10 (1) Scope the current and potential impacts of global
11 warming and climate change on the people, natural
12 resources, and the economy of the State, including
13 impacts on:

14 (A) The visitor industry;

15 (B) Intrastate and interstate air and sea
16 transportation of cargo and persons;

17 (C) Existing buildings and the public utilities
18 infrastructure;

19 (D) The health of the people of the State;

20 (E) Native plants, animals, and ecosystems; and

21 (F) Ground and surface water resources;



- 1 (2) Scope the potential impacts of rising ocean levels as
2 a result of climate change on the people, natural
3 resources, and the economy of the State, including
4 impacts on:
- 5 (A) The visitor industry;
 - 6 (B) Shoreline erosion;
 - 7 (C) Intrastate and interstate air and sea
8 transportation of cargo and persons;
 - 9 (D) Existing buildings and the public utilities
10 infrastructure;
 - 11 (E) The health of the people of the State; and
 - 12 (F) Native plants, animals, and ecosystems;
- 13 (3) Estimate the costs to the State of the adverse effects
14 associated with climate change and rising sea levels;
15 and
- 16 (4) Make recommendations to the legislature and the
17 governor on measures that would address or mitigate
18 the near- and long-term effects of climate change.
19 Such measures may include:
- 20 (A) Protecting against shoreline erosion;
 - 21 (B) Maintaining the visitor industry;



- 1 (C) Relocating or armoring the transportation
- 2 infrastructure, such as airports, highways, and
- 3 ports;
- 4 (D) Implementing restrictions on construction in
- 5 areas at risk for sea level rise and inundation;
- 6 (E) Improving or hardening the public utilities
- 7 infrastructure, including communication lines,
- 8 power generation systems, water supply systems,
- 9 and wastewater treatment and disposal systems;
- 10 (F) Preparing for health emergencies and impacts to
- 11 established emergency management systems; and
- 12 (G) Preserving the health, biodiversity, and
- 13 resilience of terrestrial, freshwater, and marine
- 14 ecosystems.

15 (b) The climate change task force shall comprise the
16 following:

- 17 (1) The director of the office of planning, or the
- 18 director's designee, who shall act as chairperson;
- 19 (2) The deputy director of the department of health's
- 20 environmental health administration, or the deputy
- 21 director's designee;



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

21 Members of the task force shall be exempt from section
22 26-34, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and serve without compensation,



1 but shall be reimbursed for expenses necessary for the
2 performance of their duties, including travel expenses.

3 (c) The task force shall:

4 (1) Submit a preliminary report of its findings and
5 recommendations, including any proposed legislation,
6 to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to
7 the convening of the regular session of 2013; and

8 (2) Submit a final report of its findings and
9 recommendations, including any proposed legislation,
10 to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to
11 the convening of the regular session of 2014.

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

14 (e) The task force shall cease to exist on June 30, 2014.

15 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$50,000 or so much
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 for the
18 purposes of this Act.

19 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of
20 planning for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2012.

2

INTRODUCED BY: Cleane K. Mchikwa
Gilbert K. Kala



S.B. NO. 2021

Report Title:

Climate Change Task Force; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the climate change task force to assess the impacts of global warming and climate change trends in the State and appropriates funds for the task force.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

