
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE.

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

1 SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the Hawaii Climate
2 Adaptation Initiative Act. The legislature finds that climate
3 change is the paramount challenge of this century, posing both
4 an urgent and long-term threat to the State's economy,
5 sustainability, security, and way of life.

6 The 2012 Pacific Islands Regional Climate Assessment found
7 that throughout the Pacific warmer and drier conditions will
8 decrease fresh water supplies. Rising sea levels, exacerbated
9 by storms, will increase coastal flooding and erosion, damaging
10 coastal ecosystems and infrastructure and affecting agriculture,
11 tourism, military bases, and other industries. Higher sea-
12 surface temperatures will increase coral bleaching, leading to
13 coral death and habitat loss. Increasing ocean acidification
14 will have negative consequences for the entire marine ecosystem.
15 In the long term, open-ocean fisheries will decline. Rising
16 temperatures, and in some areas reduced rainfall, will increase
17 the risk of extinctions. Threats to the traditional lifestyles
18 of indigenous communities may include destruction of coastal



1 artifacts and structures and reduced availability of traditional
2 food sources and subsistence fisheries, which will make it
3 difficult for Pacific Island communities to sustain their
4 connection with a defined place and their unique set of customs,
5 beliefs, and languages.

6 The legislature further finds that beach erosion, drought,
7 and rising temperature are already having measurable impacts on
8 Hawaii and are expected to accelerate in the years to come.
9 With beaches continuing to erode, rain continuing to diminish,
10 and sea levels projected to rise one foot by 2050 and three feet
11 by 2100, Hawaii is highly vulnerable.

12 In 2012, the legislature enacted Act 286, Session Laws of
13 Hawaii 2012, creating Climate Change Adaptation Priority
14 Guidelines encouraging collaboration to address climate change
15 and recognizing that it will impact the following: agriculture;
16 conservation lands; coastal and nearshore marine areas; natural
17 and cultural resources; education; energy; higher education;
18 health; historic preservation; water resources; the built
19 environment, such as housing, recreation, and transportation;
20 and the economy.

21 In 2013, Hawaii's landmark policies were included in the
22 international Majuro Declaration for Climate Leadership when



1 Hawaii signed on as the first sub-national government, after
2 which President Obama appointed Governor Abercrombie as one of
3 eight governors to the State, Local and Tribal Leaders Task
4 Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience.

5 Hawaii is one the last coastal states that has yet to adopt
6 a statewide climate adaptation plan, yet is among the most
7 vulnerable.

8 The legislature also finds that it is time to ensure that
9 Hawaii adapts to the effects of climate change before they grow
10 beyond our ability to prevent the worst impacts on our economy,
11 environment, and way of life.

12 The purpose of this Act is to address the effects of
13 climate change through 2050 to protect the State's economy,
14 health, environment, and way of life. Recognizing Hawaii's
15 unique geography as the only island State and its susceptibility
16 to sea-level rise, the initial focus on this Act is to address
17 the impact of sea level rise on Hawaii and to support ongoing
18 climate change adaption efforts of the State through the
19 following:

20 (1) Establishing an interagency climate adaptation
21 committee, attached administratively to the department
22 of land and natural resources, to develop a sea level



- 1 rise vulnerability and adaptation report for Hawaii
2 through the year 2050;
- 3 (2) Authorizing the office of planning to coordinate the
4 development of a statewide climate adaptation plan and
5 to use the sea level rise vulnerability and adaptation
6 report as a framework for addressing other climate
7 threats and climate change adaptation priorities
8 identified in Act 286, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012;
9 and
- 10 (3) Allocating funding and creating positions to carry out
11 these purposes.

12 SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by
13 adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read
14 as follows:

15 "CHAPTER

16 CLIMATE ADAPTATION

17 § -1 Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to
18 address the effects of climate change to protect the State's
19 economy, environment, health, and way of life.

20 § -2 Definitions. As used in this chapter:

21 "Committee" means the interagency climate adaptation
22 committee.



1 "Chairperson" means the chairperson of the board of land
2 and natural resources.

3 § -3 Interagency climate adaptation committee; general
4 functions, duties, and powers. (a) There is established an
5 interagency climate adaptation committee that shall be placed
6 within the department of land and natural resources for
7 administrative purposes only.

8 (b) Coordination of the committee shall be headed by the
9 chairperson of the board of land and natural resources, or the
10 chairperson's designee. The committee shall develop sea level
11 rise vulnerability and adaptation reports that shall include:

- 12 (1) Identification of the major areas of sea level rise
13 impacts affecting the State and counties through 2050;
- 14 (2) Identification of the impacts of expected sea level
15 rise based on the latest scientific research for each
16 area through 2050;
- 17 (3) Identification of the economic ramifications of sea
18 level rise;
- 19 (4) Identification of the applicable federal laws,
20 policies, or programs impacting areas affected by sea
21 level rise; and



1 (5) Recommendations for planning, management, and
2 adaptation for hazards associated with increasing sea
3 level rise.

4 (c) The committee shall submit the reports required
5 pursuant to subsection (b) to the legislature as follows:

6 (1) An interim report, including recommendations for the
7 shifting of climate adaptation priorities and any
8 necessary staffing or resources, which shall be
9 reported to the legislature no later than November 30,
10 2015;

11 (2) A final report, which shall be made publicly available
12 no later than November 30, 2016; and

13 (3) Regular updates to the final report, including any
14 recommendations for shifting climate adaptation
15 priorities and any necessary staffing or resources,
16 which shall be made publicly available no later than
17 November 30, 2021, and every five years thereafter
18 until November 30, 2050.

19 (d) The committee shall include the following members:

20 (1) The chairs of the standing committees of the
21 legislature with subject matter encompassing
22 environmental protection and land use;



- 1 (2) The chairperson of the board of land and natural
2 resources or the chairperson's designee;
- 3 (3) The director of business, economic development, and
4 tourism or the director's designee;
- 5 (4) The director of the office of planning or the
6 director's designee;
- 7 (5) The chairperson of the board of directors of the
8 Hawaii tourism authority or the chairperson's
9 designee;
- 10 (6) The chairperson of the board of agriculture or the
11 chairperson's designee;
- 12 (7) The chief executive officer of the office of Hawaiian
13 affairs or the officer's designee;
- 14 (8) The chairperson of the Hawaiian homes commission or
15 the chairperson's designee;
- 16 (9) The director of transportation or the director's
17 designee;
- 18 (10) The director of health or the director's designee;
- 19 (11) The adjutant general or the adjutant general's
20 designee;
- 21 (12) The chairperson of the board of education or the
22 chairperson's designee;



1 (13) Directors of each of the county planning departments,
2 or their designee; and

3 (14) The manager of the coastal zone management program.

4 (e) In addition to the members listed in subsection (d),
5 the chairperson may designate and request members of the public;
6 experts in the field; and county, state, or federal officials
7 necessary for the formulation of the report.

8 (f) In the formulation of the report, pursuant to
9 subsection (b), the committee shall solicit public views and
10 concerns.

11 (g) In the formulation of the report, pursuant to
12 subsection (b), the committee shall coordinate with the various
13 county, state, and federal agencies involved in ongoing climate
14 change adaptation planning initiatives."

15 SECTION 3. Section 225M-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
16 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

17 "(b) The office of planning shall gather, analyze, and
18 provide information to the governor to assist in the overall
19 analysis and formulation of state policies and strategies to
20 provide central direction and cohesion in the allocation of
21 resources and effectuation of state activities and programs and
22 effectively address current or emerging issues and



1 opportunities. More specifically, the office shall engage in
2 the following activities:

3 (1) State comprehensive planning and program coordination.
4 Formulating and articulating comprehensive statewide
5 goals, objectives, policies, and priorities, and
6 coordinating their implementation through the
7 statewide planning system established in part II of
8 chapter 226;

9 (2) Strategic planning. Identifying and analyzing
10 significant issues, problems, and opportunities
11 confronting the State, and formulating strategies and
12 alternative courses of action in response to
13 identified problems and opportunities by:

14 (A) Providing in-depth policy research, analysis, and
15 recommendations on existing or potential areas of
16 critical state concern;

17 (B) Examining and evaluating the effectiveness of
18 state programs in implementing state policies and
19 priorities;

20 (C) Monitoring through surveys, environmental
21 scanning, and other techniques--current social,
22 economic, and physical conditions and trends; and



- 1 (D) Developing, in collaboration with affected public
2 or private agencies and organizations,
3 implementation plans and schedules and, where
4 appropriate, assisting in the mobilization of
5 resources to meet identified needs;
- 6 (3) Planning coordination and cooperation. Facilitating
7 coordinated and cooperative planning and policy
8 development and implementation activities among state
9 agencies and between the state, county, and federal
10 governments, by:
- 11 (A) Reviewing, assessing, and coordinating, as
12 necessary, major plans, programs, projects, and
13 regulatory activities existing or proposed by
14 state and county agencies;
- 15 (B) Formulating mechanisms to simplify, streamline,
16 or coordinate interagency development and
17 regulatory processes; and
- 18 (C) Recognizing the presence of federal defense and
19 security forces and agencies in the State as
20 important state concerns;
- 21 (4) Statewide planning and geographic information system.
22 Collecting, integrating, analyzing, maintaining, and



1 disseminating various forms of data and information,
2 including geospatial data and information, to further
3 effective state planning, policy analysis and
4 development, and delivery of government services by:

5 (A) Collecting, assembling, organizing, evaluating,
6 and classifying existing geospatial and non-
7 geospatial data and performing necessary basic
8 research, conversions, and integration to provide
9 a common database for governmental planning and
10 geospatial analyses by state agencies;

11 (B) Planning, coordinating, and maintaining a
12 comprehensive, shared statewide planning and
13 geographic information system and associated
14 geospatial database. The office shall be the
15 lead agency responsible for coordinating the
16 maintenance of the multi-agency, statewide
17 planning and geographic information system and
18 coordinating, collecting, integrating, and
19 disseminating geospatial data sets that are used
20 to support a variety of state agency applications
21 and other spatial data analyses to enhance
22 decision-making. The office shall promote and



1 encourage free and open data sharing among and
2 between all government agencies. To ensure the
3 maintenance of a comprehensive, accurate, up-to-
4 date geospatial data resource that can be drawn
5 upon for decision-making related to essential
6 public policy issues such as land use planning,
7 resource management, homeland security, and the
8 overall health, safety, and well-being of
9 Hawaii's citizens, and to avoid redundant data
10 development efforts, state agencies shall provide
11 to the shared system either their respective
12 geospatial databases or, at a minimum, especially
13 in cases of secure or confidential data sets that
14 cannot be shared or must be restricted, metadata
15 describing existing geospatial data. In cases
16 where agencies provide restricted data, the
17 office of planning shall ensure the security of
18 that data; and

19 (C) Maintaining a centralized depository of state and
20 national planning references;

21 (5) Land use planning. Developing and presenting the
22 position of the State in all boundary change petitions



1 and proceedings before the land use commission,
2 assisting state agencies in the development and
3 submittal of petitions for land use district boundary
4 amendments, and conducting periodic reviews of the
5 classification and districting of all lands in the
6 State, as specified in chapter 205;

7 (6) Coastal and ocean policy management. Carrying out the
8 lead agency responsibilities for the Hawaii coastal
9 zone management program, as specified in chapter 205A.
10 Also, developing and maintaining an ocean and coastal
11 resources information, planning, and management system
12 further developing and coordinating implementation of
13 the ocean resources management plan, and formulating
14 ocean policies with respect to the exclusive economic
15 zone, coral reefs, and national marine sanctuaries;

16 (7) Regional planning and studies. Conducting plans and
17 studies to determine:

18 (A) The capability of various regions within the
19 State to support projected increases in both
20 resident populations and visitors;

21 (B) The potential physical, social, economic, and
22 environmental impact on these regions resulting



1 from increases in both resident populations and
2 visitors;

3 (C) The maximum annual visitor carrying capacity for
4 the State by region, county, and island; and

5 (D) The appropriate guidance and management of
6 selected regions and areas of statewide critical
7 concern.

8 The studies in subparagraphs (A) to (C) shall be
9 conducted at appropriate intervals, but not less than
10 once every five years; ~~and~~

11 (8) Regional, national, and international planning.
12 Participating in and ensuring that state plans,
13 policies, and objectives are consistent, to the extent
14 practicable, with regional, national, and
15 international planning efforts[-]; and

16 (9) Climate adaptation planning. Conducting plans and
17 studies, and preparing reports as follows:

18 (A) Develop, monitor, and evaluate strategic climate
19 adaptation plans and actionable policy
20 recommendations for the State and counties
21 addressing expected statewide climate change



1 impacts identified under Act 286, Session Laws of
2 Hawaii 2012, through the year 2050;

3 (B) Provide planning, policy guidance, and assistance
4 to state and county agencies regarding climate
5 change; and

6 (C) Publish its findings, recommendations, and
7 progress reports on actions taken no later than
8 November 30, 2017, and in its annual report to
9 the governor and the legislature thereafter."

10 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$57,720 and
12 associated overhead of \$1,154, or so much thereof as may be
13 necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to provide the office of
14 planning with staffing including one full-time equivalent (1.0
15 FTE) position, and resources to carry out the mission of the
16 office and assist state and county agencies with scientific
17 evaluation, research, planning, and policy guidance relative to
18 strategic climate change adaptation plans for the State of
19 Hawaii.

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



1 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$57,720 and
3 associated overhead of \$1,154, or so much thereof as may be
4 necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to provide the department of
5 land and natural resources with staffing including one full-time
6 equivalent (1.0 FTE) position, and resources to carry out the
7 purposes of this Act.

8 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
9 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

10 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$400,000 or so much
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to enable
13 the department of land and natural resources to research and
14 develop a coordinated, multidisciplinary sea level rise
15 vulnerability and adaptation report pursuant to this Act.

16 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
17 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

18 SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the general
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$50,000 or so much
20 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the
21 office of planning to carry out its duties pursuant to this Act.



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

3 SECTION 8. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
4 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
6 provided that sections 4, 5, 6, and 7 shall take effect on July
7 1, 2014.



Report Title:

Majority Package; Climate Change Adaptation Planning;
Interagency Climate Adaptation Committee; Appropriation

Description:

Addresses climate change adaptation by tasking the Interagency Climate Adaptation Committee under the Department of Land and Natural Resources with creating sea level rise vulnerability and adaptation reports. Tasks the Office of Planning with establishing and implementing strategic climate adaptation plans and policy recommendations based on the report. Appropriates funds for staffing and resources. (HB1714 HD1)

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

