
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, transportation; and
20 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 of the last coastal states that has yet to
6 adopt 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 of this Act is to address
17 the impact of sea level rise on Hawaii and to support ongoing
18 climate change adaptation efforts of the State through the
19 following actions:

20 (1) Establish an interagency sea level rise vulnerability
21 and adaptation committee, attached to the department
22 of land and natural resources for administrative



1 purposes, to develop a sea level rise vulnerability
2 and adaptation report for Hawaii through the year
3 2050;

4 (2) Authorize the office of planning to coordinate the
5 development of a statewide climate adaptation plan and
6 to use the sea level rise vulnerability and adaptation
7 report as a framework for addressing other climate
8 threats and climate change adaptation priorities
9 identified in Act 286, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012;
10 and

11 (3) Allocate funding and create positions to carry out
12 these purposes.

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

16 **"CHAPTER**
17 **INTERAGENCY SEA LEVEL RISE VULNERABILITY AND ADAPTATION**
18 **COMMITTEE**

19 **§ -1 Definitions.** As used in this chapter:

20 "Chairperson" means the chairperson of the board of land
21 and natural resources.



1 "Committee" means the interagency sea level rise
2 vulnerability and adaptation committee.

3 **§ -2 Interagency sea level rise vulnerability and**
4 **adaptation committee; general functions, duties, and powers.**

5 (a) There is established an interagency sea level rise
6 vulnerability and adaptation committee that shall be placed
7 within the department of land and natural resources for
8 administrative purposes only.

9 (b) Coordination of the committee shall be headed by the
10 chairperson, or the chairperson's designee.

11 (c) The committee shall develop a sea level rise
12 vulnerability report that contains the following:

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



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

3 The report shall be made publicly available no later than
4 December 31, 2017, and shall be updated every five years.

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

6 (1) The chairs of the standing committees of the
7 legislature with subject matter jurisdiction
8 encompassing environmental protection and land use;

9 (2) The chairperson of the board of land and natural
10 resources or the chairperson's designee;

11 (3) The director of business, economic development, and
12 tourism or the director's designee;

13 (4) The director of the office of planning or the
14 director's designee;

15 (5) The chairperson of the board of directors of the
16 Hawaii tourism authority or the chairperson's
17 designee;

18 (6) The chairperson of the board of agriculture or the
19 chairperson's designee;

20 (7) The chief executive officer of the office of Hawaiian
21 affairs or the officer's designee;



1 (8) The chairperson of the Hawaiian homes commission or
2 the chairperson's designee;

3 (9) The director of transportation or the director's
4 designee;

5 (10) The director of health or the director's designee;

6 (11) The adjutant general or the adjutant general's
7 designee;

8 (12) The chairperson of the board of education or the
9 chairperson's designee;

10 (13) Directors of each of the county planning department,
11 or the directors' designees; and

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

13 (e) In addition to the members listed in subsection (d),
14 the chairperson may designate members of the public, experts in
15 the field, and county, state, or federal officials necessary for
16 the formulation of the report.

17 (f) In the formulation of the report, the committee shall:

18 (1) Solicit public views and concerns; and

19 (2) Coordinate with the various county, state, and federal
20 agencies involved in ongoing climate change adaptation
21 planning initiatives.



1 (g) The committee shall reevaluate the sea level rise
2 vulnerability and adaptation report every five years."

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

5 "(b) The office of planning shall gather, analyze, and
6 provide information to the governor to assist in the overall
7 analysis and formulation of state policies and strategies to
8 provide central direction and cohesion in the allocation of
9 resources and effectuation of state activities and programs and
10 effectively address current or emerging issues and
11 opportunities. More specifically, the office shall engage in
12 the following activities:

13 (1) State comprehensive planning and program coordination.
14 Formulating and articulating comprehensive statewide
15 goals, objectives, policies, and priorities, and
16 coordinating their implementation through the
17 statewide planning system established in part II of
18 chapter 226;

19 (2) Strategic planning. Identifying and analyzing
20 significant issues, problems, and opportunities
21 confronting the State, and formulating strategies and



1 alternative courses of action in response to
2 identified problems and opportunities by:

3 (A) Providing in-depth policy research, analysis, and
4 recommendations on existing or potential areas of
5 critical state concern;

6 (B) Examining and evaluating the effectiveness of
7 state programs in implementing state policies and
8 priorities;

9 (C) Monitoring through surveys, environmental
10 scanning, and other techniques--current social,
11 economic, and physical conditions and trends; and

12 (D) Developing, in collaboration with affected public
13 or private agencies and organizations,
14 implementation plans and schedules and, where
15 appropriate, assisting in the mobilization of
16 resources to meet identified needs;

17 (3) Planning coordination and cooperation. Facilitating
18 coordinated and cooperative planning and policy
19 development and implementation activities among state
20 agencies and between the state, county, and federal
21 governments, by:



- 1 (A) Reviewing, assessing, and coordinating, as
2 necessary, major plans, programs, projects, and
3 regulatory activities existing or proposed by
4 state and county agencies;
- 5 (B) Formulating mechanisms to simplify, streamline,
6 or coordinate interagency development and
7 regulatory processes; and
- 8 (C) Recognizing the presence of federal defense and
9 security forces and agencies in the State as
10 important state concerns;
- 11 (4) Statewide planning and geographic information system.
12 Collecting, integrating, analyzing, maintaining, and
13 disseminating various forms of data and information,
14 including geospatial data and information, to further
15 effective state planning, policy analysis and
16 development, and delivery of government services by:
- 17 (A) Collecting, assembling, organizing, evaluating,
18 and classifying existing geospatial and non-
19 geospatial data and performing necessary basic
20 research, conversions, and integration to provide
21 a common database for governmental planning and
22 geospatial analyses by state agencies;



1 (B) Planning, coordinating, and maintaining a
2 comprehensive, shared statewide planning and
3 geographic information system and associated
4 geospatial database. The office shall be the
5 lead agency responsible for coordinating the
6 maintenance of the multi-agency, statewide
7 planning and geographic information system and
8 coordinating, collecting, integrating, and
9 disseminating geospatial data sets that are used
10 to support a variety of state agency applications
11 and other spatial data analyses to enhance
12 decision-making. The office shall promote and
13 encourage free and open data sharing among and
14 between all government agencies. To ensure the
15 maintenance of a comprehensive, accurate, up-to-
16 date geospatial data resource that can be drawn
17 upon for decision-making related to essential
18 public policy issues such as land use planning,
19 resource management, homeland security, and the
20 overall health, safety, and well-being of
21 Hawaii's citizens, and to avoid redundant data
22 development efforts, state agencies shall provide



1 to the shared system either their respective
2 geospatial databases or, at a minimum, especially
3 in cases of secure or confidential data sets that
4 cannot be shared or must be restricted, metadata
5 describing existing geospatial data. In cases
6 where agencies provide restricted data, the
7 office of planning shall ensure the security of
8 that data; and

9 (C) Maintaining a centralized depository of state and
10 national planning references;

11 (5) Land use planning. Developing and presenting the
12 position of the State in all boundary change petitions
13 and proceedings before the land use commission,
14 assisting state agencies in the development and
15 submittal of petitions for land use district boundary
16 amendments, and conducting periodic reviews of the
17 classification and districting of all lands in the
18 State, as specified in chapter 205;

19 (6) Coastal and ocean policy management. Carrying out the
20 lead agency responsibilities for the Hawaii coastal
21 zone management program, as specified in chapter 205A.
22 Also, developing and maintaining an ocean and coastal



1 resources information, planning, and management system
2 further developing and coordinating implementation of
3 the ocean resources management plan, and formulating
4 ocean policies with respect to the exclusive economic
5 zone, coral reefs, and national marine sanctuaries;

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

8 (A) The capability of various regions within the
9 State to support projected increases in both
10 resident populations and visitors;

11 (B) The potential physical, social, economic, and
12 environmental impact on these regions resulting
13 from increases in both resident populations and
14 visitors;

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

17 (D) The appropriate guidance and management of
18 selected regions and areas of statewide critical
19 concern.

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



1 (8) Regional, national, and international planning.
 2 Participating in and ensuring that state plans,
 3 policies, and objectives are consistent, to the extent
 4 practicable, with regional, national, and
 5 international planning efforts[-]; and

6 (9) Climate adaptation planning. Conducting plans and
 7 studies and preparing reports as follows:

8 (A) Develop, monitor, and evaluate strategic climate
 9 adaptation plans and actionable policy
 10 recommendations for the State and counties
 11 addressing expected statewide climate change
 12 impacts identified under Act 286, Session Laws of
 13 Hawaii 2012, through the year 2050;

14 (B) Provide planning and policy guidance and
 15 assistance to state and county agencies regarding
 16 climate change; and

17 (C) Publish its findings, recommendations, and
 18 progress reports on actions taken no later than
 19 December 31, 2017, and its annual report to the
 20 governor and the legislature thereafter."

21 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
 22 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$58,874 or so much



1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to provide
2 the office of planning with staffing, including one full-time
3 equivalent (FTE) position, and resources to carry out the
4 purposes of this Act.

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

7 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$58,874 or so much
9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to provide
10 the department of land and natural resources with staffing,
11 including one full-time equivalent (FTE) position, and resources
12 to carry out the purposes of this Act.

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

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

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



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

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

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

9 SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

10



Report Title:

Majority Package; Climate Change Adaptation Planning;
Interagency Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation
Committee; Appropriation.

Description:

Addresses climate change adaptation by establishing the interagency sea level rise vulnerability and adaptation committee under the department of land and natural resources to create a sea level rise vulnerability and adaptation report that addresses sea level rise impacts statewide to 2050. Tasks the office of planning with establishing and implementing strategic climate adaptation plans and policy recommendations using the sea level rise vulnerability and adaptation report as a framework for addressing other statewide climate impacts identified under Act 286, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012. Appropriates funds for staffing and resources. (SD1)

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