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# 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  
2 Freshwater Security 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 temperatures, and in some  
9 areas, reduced rainfall, will reduce both surface flows and  
10 groundwater recharge where it is most needed. These changes  
11 will also threaten traditional lifestyles of indigenous  
12 communities due to reduced stream flows, loss of traditional and  
13 customary gathering practices, increased flooding, increased  
14 runoff and soil erosion, destruction of stream life, and reduced  
15 availability of traditional food sources and subsistence  
16 fisheries. These impacts will be particularly hard on  
17 indigenous communities that need fresh water resources to



1 sustain their connection with a defined place and their unique  
2 set of customs, beliefs, and practices.

3 The legislature further finds that drought and rising  
4 temperatures already have measurable impacts on Hawaii and are  
5 expected to accelerate in the next thirty-five years. Hawaii's  
6 water resources are particularly vulnerable.

7 Act 286, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, created climate  
8 change adaptation priority guidelines encouraging collaboration  
9 to address climate change. It recognized that climate change  
10 will impact agriculture, conservation lands, coastal and near  
11 shore marine areas, natural and cultural resources, education,  
12 energy, health, historic preservation, water resources, the  
13 economy, and the built environment such as housing, recreation,  
14 and transportation.

15 In 2013, Hawaii's landmark policies were included in the  
16 International Majuro Declaration for Climate Leadership.  
17 Hawaii was the first sub-national government to sign the  
18 declaration. Subsequently, President Obama named Hawaii as one  
19 of eight states to the State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Task  
20 Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience.



1 Hawaii has not adopted a statewide climate adaptation plan;  
2 however, it is among the most vulnerable because of its  
3 distinctive location and susceptibility to climate change.

4 The legislature also finds that it is time to ensure that  
5 Hawaii adapts before the effects of climate change increase  
6 beyond the State's ability to prevent the worst impacts on  
7 Hawaii's economy, environment, and way of life.

8 The purpose of this Act is to address the effects of  
9 climate change through 2050 to protect the State's fresh ground  
10 and surface water resources, forests and reefs, economy, health,  
11 environment, traditional Hawaiian practices, and way of life.  
12 Recognizing Hawaii's unique geography as the only island state  
13 and its susceptibility to climate change, this Act addresses the  
14 impact of climate change on Hawaii and supports ongoing climate  
15 change adaptation efforts.

16 SECTION 2. Chapter 174C, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
17 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
18 and to read as follows:

19 "§174C- Climate adaptation and resilience planning;  
20 fees. (a) The commission shall:



- 1        (1) Conduct climate adaptation and resilience planning  
2        with other agencies and organizations by preparing  
3        plans, studies, and reports to develop, monitor, and  
4        evaluate strategic climate adaptation plans;
- 5        (2) Participate in public-private partnerships to engage  
6        public and private parties in projects to address  
7        potential climate change impacts in Hawaii through  
8        2050; and
- 9        (3) Provide planning, actionable policy guidance, and  
10       assistance to state and county agencies regarding  
11       climate change and water resources.
- 12       (b) No later than December 31, 2017, the commission shall  
13       publish its findings, recommendations, and progress reports on  
14       actions taken and shall include this information in its annual  
15       report to the governor and the legislature each year thereafter.
- 16       (c) In administering its responsibilities, the commission  
17       shall assess fees pursuant to 174C-61 on non-state entities and  
18       individuals to monitor and manage Hawaii's ground and surface  
19       water resources. Fees collected by the commission shall be  
20       deposited into the water resource management fund pursuant to  
21       174C-5.5."



# H.B. NO. 1502

1 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

2 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 29 2015



# H.B. NO.1502

**Report Title:**

Hawaii Fresh Water Security Act; Commission on Water Resource Management

**Description:**

Requires the Commission on Water Resources Management to conduct climate adaptation and resilience planning for Hawaii through 2050 to provide assistance to the State and counties. Directs the commission to assess fees to monitor and manage Hawaii's ground and surface water.

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

