
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that climate change is
2 becoming the existential issue of our age. Global warming is
3 expected to cause sea levels to rise one foot by 2050 and three
4 feet by 2100. These rising sea levels will flood billions of
5 dollars in property and displace millions of people, homes, and
6 businesses along the coast. Global increased heat and humidity
7 will also greatly increase the risk of anyone spending time
8 outdoors to life-threatening heat stroke, which will harm
9 tourism, construction, and countless other industries. Major
10 agricultural regions in the United States Southeast and Corn
11 Belt may lose their farming industries as higher temperatures
12 and water stress take a toll on crops. Endangered and
13 threatened species, already suffering from declining population
14 numbers, may not be able to survive rising temperatures,
15 decreased moisture, and increased competition from other
16 species. Currently in Hawaii, scientists have documented the
17 decline of the Haleakala silversword, a plant subspecies found



1 only on the high volcanic slopes of Maui. Climate change has
2 created an environment that is too warm and dry for seedlings to
3 survive and the population is now less than half of what it was
4 a few decades ago.

5 The purpose of this Act is to address global warming by
6 requiring a climate change analysis to be included in
7 environmental assessments and environmental impact statements.

8 SECTION 2. Section 343-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
9 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

10 "(a) After consultation with the affected agencies, the
11 council shall adopt, amend, or repeal necessary rules for the
12 purposes of this chapter in accordance with chapter 91
13 including, but not limited to, rules that shall:

14 (1) Prescribe the procedures whereby a group of proposed
15 actions may be treated by a single environmental
16 assessment or statement;

17 (2) Establish procedures whereby specific types of
18 actions, because they will probably have minimal or no
19 significant effects on the environment, are declared
20 exempt from the preparation of an environmental
21 assessment;



- 1 (3) Prescribe procedures for the preparation of an
2 environmental assessment;
- 3 (4) Prescribe the contents of an environmental assessment;
- 4 (5) Prescribe procedures for informing the public of
5 determinations that a statement is either required or
6 not required, for informing the public of the
7 availability of draft environmental impact statements
8 for review and comments, and for informing the public
9 of the acceptance or nonacceptance of the final
10 environmental statement;
- 11 (6) Prescribe the contents of an environmental impact
12 statement;
- 13 (7) Prescribe procedures for the submission, distribution,
14 review, acceptance or nonacceptance, and withdrawal of
15 an environmental impact statement;
- 16 (8) Establish criteria to determine whether an
17 environmental impact statement is acceptable or not;
18 [and]
- 19 (9) Prescribe procedures to appeal the nonacceptance of an
20 environmental impact statement to the environmental
21 council[-]; and



H.B. NO. 5

1 (10) Prescribe that all environmental assessments and
 2 statements shall include a climate change analysis and
 3 establish criteria for the analysis."

4 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
 5 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
 6 begun before its effective date.

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

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

10

INTRODUCED BY: *Guthrie Thiel*
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JAN 21 2015



H.B. NO. 5

Report Title:

Environmental Impact Statement; Environmental Assessment;
Climate Change Analysis

Description:

Requires the environmental council to adopt rules that require all environmental impact statements and environmental assessments include climate change analysis.

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