

JAN 23 2015

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that because state
2 construction projects in coastal areas are environmentally
3 precarious, it is essential to take the impacts of projected sea
4 level change into account during the planning stage in order to
5 protect current infrastructure investments over time.

6 The purpose of this Act is to make the impact of sea level
7 change a consideration in any environmental assessment or
8 environmental impact statement for a major infrastructure
9 improvement project or major construction project proposed in
10 any coastal lands.

11 SECTION 2. Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
12 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
13 and to read as follows:

14 "§343- Content of environmental assessments and
15 environmental impact statements; coastal lands. Whenever any
16 major infrastructure improvement project or major construction
17 project is proposed in any coastal lands, as defined in section



1 171-151, any necessary environmental assessment or environmental
 2 impact statement shall include an analysis of the environmental
 3 impact of projected sea level rise or fall over the anticipated
 4 lifespan of the project. The detailed analysis shall include a
 5 detailed scientifically-based methodology for evaluation of the
 6 project based on the best available information.

7 (b) For purposes of this section, the office shall keep
 8 current its guidance documents concerning ecological and
 9 environmental problems of coastal lands.

10 (c) As used in this section, "major" means any project
 11 having a projected completion cost exceeding \$ _____."

12 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
 13 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
 14 begun before its effective date.

15 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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INTRODUCED BY:

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S.B. NO. 500

Report Title:

Coastal Lands; Environmental Assessment; Environmental Impact Statements

Description:

Requires any environmental assessments and environmental impact statements for any major infrastructure improvement project or major construction project in any coastal lands to include an analysis of the environmental impact of projected sea level rise or fall over the anticipated lifespan of the project.

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