
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE STATE AND THE COUNTIES TO IMPLEMENT THE
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE HAWAII SEA LEVEL RISE VULNERABILITY
AND ADAPTATION REPORT.

1 WHEREAS, climate change and sea level rise are not only
2 real phenomena, but are also two of the most preeminent
3 challenges of the twenty-first century and are pivotal issues
4 for the State; and
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6 WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has
7 projected up to 3.2 feet of global sea level rise by the end of
8 this century under the "business as usual" greenhouse gas
9 emissions scenario; and
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11 WHEREAS, recognizing that shorelines are one of the State's
12 most dynamic and important cultural and economic resources, the
13 Legislature in 2017 created the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation
14 and Adaptation Commission (Commission) and tasked the
15 commission, as a first step, to focus on sea level rise and
16 develop a report identifying vulnerabilities and recommending
17 adaptations; and
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19 WHEREAS, the Commission submitted the Hawaii Sea Level Rise
20 Vulnerability and Adaptation Report in December 2017, which
21 identified, at tax map key detail, areas that are susceptible to
22 sea level rise impacts based on the 3.2 feet of sea level rise
23 projected by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; and
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25 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and
26 Adaptation Report also made a number of recommendations to state
27 and county agencies based on emerging good practices to
28 strengthen Hawaii's overall readiness to confront sea level
29 rise; and
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31 WHEREAS, specifically, the Hawaii Sea Level Rise
32 Vulnerability and Adaptation Report recommended that each state



1 or county department or agency review their existing policies
2 and regulatory frameworks in light of expected sea level rise,
3 including each department or agency's planned future capital
4 improvement projects; and
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6 WHEREAS, the Commission also recommended that state and
7 county departments and agencies review approval processes for
8 new developments in areas susceptible to sea level rise; update
9 design standards to limit urban growth and increase flood
10 resiliency; develop guidance to help developers cope with
11 climate change; encourage the purchase of flood insurance;
12 incorporate sea level rise into hazard mitigation planning;
13 develop pre-disaster recovery frameworks; prioritize the
14 preservation of coral reefs; inventory and assess the
15 vulnerability of critical infrastructure; develop a financing
16 strategy to deal with the expected costs of sea level rise; and
17 explore potential public-private partnerships as a way to
18 preserve coastal resources; and
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20 WHEREAS, to protect and preserve beaches, one of the
21 State's most important cultural and economic resources, the
22 State was requested to develop and administer a "willing seller"
23 program to move development away from important beaches
24 endangered by sea level rise and erosion; and
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26 WHEREAS, the Commission further recommended that the
27 counties integrate projected sea level rise into flood
28 standards, flood maps, and building codes; and conduct market
29 studies and detailed redevelopment strategies for areas
30 identified as priority areas for smart redevelopment as part of
31 a managed retreat strategy; and
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33 WHEREAS, the Office of Planning was requested to integrate
34 sea level rise adaptation guidelines into state planning,
35 prioritize development outside of areas vulnerable to sea level
36 rise, and inventory lands outside of these vulnerable areas that
37 could be used for smart redevelopment as part of a managed
38 retreat strategy; and
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40 WHEREAS, the Commission recommended that the Land Use
41 Commission develop a policy addressing managed retreat from
42 areas threatened by sea level rise onto other lands, including



1 lands that may currently be zoned for agriculture or
2 conservation; and
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4 WHEREAS, the Office of Environmental Quality Control was
5 requested to develop and issue guidance explaining how sea level
6 rise and climate change should be addressed within environmental
7 assessments and environmental impact statements; and
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9 WHEREAS, the State Historic Preservation Division, in
10 consultation with other agencies and private organizations, was
11 requested to inventory traditional and customary native Hawaiian
12 cultural resources and practices that would be adversely
13 impacted by sea level rise, and develop adaptation processes and
14 protocols to mitigate these impacts; and
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16 WHEREAS, the Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands was
17 requested to conduct a statewide assessment of beaches that are
18 important for recreational uses, cultural practices, and
19 wildlife habitats, and identify which beaches could benefit from
20 special adaptation measures, including the preservation of
21 undeveloped lands, managed retreat, and prohibition of coastal
22 armoring; and
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24 WHEREAS, the Commission recommended that the Department of
25 Hawaiian Home Lands, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and the Aha
26 Moku Councils work with native Hawaiian communities to develop
27 an adaptation plan to preserve access to coastal lands and
28 waters impacted by sea level rise; and
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30 WHEREAS, the Department of Health was requested to conduct
31 a sea level rise mitigation review to identify sites or
32 geographic areas with the highest probabilities of large or
33 catastrophic failures or releases, including releases of
34 hazardous material or waste, associated with increased coastal
35 flooding due to sea level rise; and
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37 WHEREAS, the Department of Health was also requested to
38 review its existing environmental regulations, guidance
39 documents, and practices to ensure that its practices take into
40 account the effects of rising sea levels; and
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1 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and
2 Adaptation Commission also recommended that its own role be
3 expanded to include expanded coordination of sea level rise
4 adaptation; community engagement; and the development of up-to-
5 date information that state and county agencies may use to make
6 policy decisions; and
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8 WHEREAS, the Mayor of the County of Maui recently signed a
9 proclamation accepting the Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and
10 Adaptation Report, becoming the first county in the State to
11 formally accept the findings of the report; and
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13 WHEREAS, the proclamation acknowledged that climate change
14 is real and directed Maui County departments to "use the report
15 in their plans, programs and capital improvement decisions, to
16 mitigate impacts to infrastructure and critical facilities
17 triggered by sea level rise;" and
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19 WHEREAS, the Mayor of the County of Maui also called on the
20 Maui County Planning Department to propose rule changes to the
21 Maui, Molokai, and Lanai Planning Commissions to include sea
22 level rise in their shoreline setback calculations; and
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24 WHEREAS, mitigating the effects of climate change and sea
25 level rise will require a managed approach involving all state
26 and county agencies to do their part to ensure the resiliency of
27 our islands; and
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29 WHEREAS, the Legislature believes that other public
30 entities of the State should be encouraged to follow the County
31 of Maui's lead; now, therefore,
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33 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
34 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
35 of 2018, the Senate concurring, that the State, the counties,
36 and each of their agencies is requested to implement the
37 recommendations of the Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and
38 Adaptation Report; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Planning, Land
41 Use Commission, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Office
42 of Hawaiian Affairs, Department of Health, and Hawaii Climate



1 Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission are each requested
2 to effectuate the specific actions requested by the Hawaii Sea
3 Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of the Governor is
6 requested to submit a report on the progress of executive
7 agencies in implementing the recommendations of the Hawaii Sea
8 Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report, including any
9 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty
10 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2019; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
13 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; the Mayor
14 of each county; the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the
15 Office of Hawaiian Affairs; the Chairperson of the Board of Land
16 and Natural Resources; the Director of Business, Economic
17 Development, and Tourism; the Director of Health; the Director
18 of the Office of Planning; and the Co-Chairpersons of the Hawaii
19 Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission.
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OFFERED BY: 

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