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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO WATER SECURITY.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State is  
2 especially vulnerable to the impact of climate change.  
3 According to the 2014 report entitled "Climate Change Impacts in  
4 Hawai'i: A summary of climate change and its impacts to Hawaii's  
5 ecosystems and communities" by the University of Hawaii sea  
6 grant college program, rainfall in the State declined over the  
7 last thirty years while global sea levels rose over the last  
8 century.

9           The legislature further finds that the State's freshwater  
10 supply is threatened by the intrusion of saltwater and the  
11 change in rainfall frequency and intensity. Both threats are  
12 the result of climate change.

13           It is projected that sea levels will continue to rise at an  
14 accelerated rate. The 2014 University of Hawaii sea grant  
15 college program report projected "a 1-3 foot (approximately 0.3-1  
16 meter) rise, or more, by the end of the century." Rising sea  
17 levels, coupled with the resulting coastal erosion, inundates



1 the land with saltwater, and leads to contaminated freshwater  
2 that is unable to recharge.

3 In addition, when precipitation decreases on islands,  
4 freshwater becomes less available as ground and surface water  
5 supplies are less likely to be recharged. The United States  
6 Environmental Protection Agency observed "a trend for decreasing  
7 precipitation" in the State and noted that "projections suggest  
8 a small decrease in precipitation during the wet season and a  
9 small increase during the dry season."

10 Lastly, the legislature finds that the state water code  
11 under chapter 174C, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires that the  
12 commission on water resource management implement and use  
13 comprehensive water resources planning in its protection and  
14 management of the State's water resources. The water code  
15 requires updates to the Hawaii water plan to guide the  
16 commission on water resource management in executing its general  
17 powers, duties, and responsibilities in assuring economic  
18 development, good municipal services, agricultural stability,  
19 and environmental protection.



1           The Hawaii water plan serves as a continuing long-range  
2 guide for water resource protection and management, and consists  
3 of five major components:

- 4           (1) The water resource protection plan, which is prepared  
5           by the commission on water resource management;
- 6           (2) The water quality plan, which is prepared by the  
7           department of health;
- 8           (3) The state water projects plan, which is prepared by  
9           the engineering division of the department of land and  
10          natural resources;
- 11          (4) The agricultural water use and development plan, which  
12          is prepared by the department of agriculture; and
- 13          (5) The county water use and development plans, which are  
14          prepared by each of the four counties.

15          The purpose of this Act is to direct the commission on  
16 water resource management to provide additional guidance for  
17 future Hawaii water plan updates by addressing emerging issues,  
18 such as climate change, and include any other useful or  
19 necessary elements to ensure the long-term protection and wise  
20 management of water resources.



1           SECTION 2. (a) The commission on water resource  
2 management shall conduct an update of the statewide framework  
3 for updating the Hawaii water plan to provide additional  
4 guidance for updating the Hawaii water plan.

5           (b) The tasks and elements of the statewide framework  
6 update shall include but not be limited to:

7           (1) Facilitated interagency meetings with all agencies  
8                 responsible for updating a component plan to identify  
9                 information gaps that need to be filled to better  
10                integrate the components and coordinate water source  
11                developments between state, county, and private  
12                entities;

13           (2) Consultation with federal, state, and county agencies  
14                 having an interest in water resource science,  
15                 protection, management, development, or use;

16           (3) Inclusion of emerging issues in the county water use  
17                 development plans, such as climate change, watershed  
18                 protection, protection of public trust uses, and  
19                 drought planning;

20           (4) Comprehensive review and revision, as needed, of  
21                 existing planning elements for each component plan;



1 (5) Extension of the planning horizon from twenty years to  
2 a longer time period; and

3 (6) Any other useful or necessary elements that are  
4 identified through the interagency meetings and  
5 consultation processes.

6 (c) The commission on water resource management shall  
7 submit its findings, recommendations, and progress reports on  
8 actions taken to the legislature no later than December 31,  
9 2020.

10 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the  
13 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
14 2020-2021 to carry out the purposes of this Act.

15 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
16 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

17 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

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INTRODUCED BY:

Tim Willson

[Signature]

Alan Todd  
Doug Carnat



# H.B. NO. 1121

**Report Title:**

Hawaii Water Plan; Commission on Water Resource Management

**Description:**

Requires the Commission on Water Resource Management to conduct an update of the statewide framework for the Hawaii water plan to provide guidance for Hawaii's future water plan. Makes an appropriation.

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

