
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 fresh water
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-
16 1 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 fresh water
2 that is unable to recharge.

3 In addition, when precipitation decreases on islands, fresh
4 water 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 including 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 among 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, 2050.



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. (HB1121 HD1)

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