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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SEA LEVEL RISE.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii is already  
2 experiencing the impacts of climate change, including rising sea  
3 levels, extreme tides, accelerated coastal erosion, and  
4 stronger, more frequent storms. Even with decisive actions to  
5 reduce greenhouse gas emissions, many of the impacts of climate  
6 change are inescapable, and must be adapted to.

7           The Hawaii Climate Adaptation Initiative was established in  
8 2014 with the purpose of protecting the State's economy, health,  
9 environment, and way of life by considering how to best adapt to  
10 and mitigate for the impacts of climate change. In December  
11 2017, the Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation  
12 commission produced the first Hawaii sea level rise  
13 vulnerability and adaptation report. The report identified areas  
14 that are susceptible to sea level rise impacts and urged  
15 immediate preparation for a 3.2-foot increase in sea level by  
16 2060. The report also made a number of recommendations to state  
17 and county agencies based on emerging good practices, designed



1 to strengthen Hawaii's overall readiness to face sea level rise  
2 and climate change.

3 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to support and direct  
4 the Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission  
5 to further progress towards addressing the impacts of sea level  
6 rise, to identify critical public infrastructure in impacted  
7 areas, and to provide policy direction to the legislature about  
8 how to move forward with concrete strategies for mitigation and  
9 adaptation to sea level rise.

10 SECTION 2. (a) The Hawaii climate change mitigation and  
11 adaptation commission shall:

12 (1) Conduct a thorough inventory of critical public  
13 infrastructure, existing or planned, both man-made and  
14 natural, and determine if the infrastructure is in or  
15 near an area that is vulnerable to the impacts of sea  
16 level rise, and analyze predicted impacts of sea level  
17 rise to identified vulnerable infrastructure;

18 (2) Identify priority areas throughout the State that will  
19 be subject to high rates of coastal erosion and sea  
20 level rise, including public infrastructure and  
21 private properties;



- 1 (3) Design and propose sea level rise impact zone maps to
- 2 be adopted by the legislature and provide a guidepost
- 3 for future sea level rise adaptation policies;
- 4 (4) Work with state and county agencies to develop sea
- 5 level rise adaptation plans in accordance with the Sea
- 6 Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report; and
- 7 (5) Make specific recommendations to the legislature for
- 8 policies that may be adopted for managed retreat,
- 9 relocation of infrastructure, or mitigation measures
- 10 to minimize the impacts of sea level rise for public
- 11 infrastructure and private properties, including
- 12 information regarding how these recommendations may be
- 13 funded and consideration of sea level rise policies
- 14 implemented in other states and nations.

15 (b) The Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation  
 16 commission shall report its findings and recommendations as  
 17 required pursuant to this Act to the legislature no later than  
 18 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of  
 19 2021.

20 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
 21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much

1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 to support  
2 the Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission  
3 to conduct its activities as required by section 2 of this Act.

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

6 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
8 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the  
9 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
10 2020-2021 to fund the climate change mitigation and adaptation  
11 coordinator position established by Act 32, Session Laws of  
12 Hawaii 2017.

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

15 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2100.



**Report Title:**

Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission; Sea Level Rise; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission to conduct certain activities to address the impacts of sea level rise and report to the Legislature before the 2021 Regular Session. Appropriates funds. (HB461 HD1)

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

