
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO COASTAL PLANNING.

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

PART I

1
2 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that sea level rise is
3 the preeminent challenge and a pivotal issue for the State. The
4 legislature in 2017 created the Hawaii climate change mitigation
5 and adaptation commission through Act 32, Session Laws of Hawaii
6 2017, and tasked the commission to focus on sea level rise and
7 develop a report identifying vulnerabilities and recommending
8 adaptations. The commission published its Hawaii Sea Level Rise
9 Vulnerability and Adaptation Report in December 2017. The
10 report found that warming of the global atmosphere and ocean is
11 leading to sea level rise and studies of sea level rise predict
12 between 3.2 feet and six feet of sea level rise by 2100 under
13 the high-end Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change scenario.
14 Under these conditions, Hawaii will face increased hurricane
15 risk and coastal flooding and erosion hazards from high waves
16 and storms.



1 The legislature further finds that the commission's report
2 recommended the following adaptation strategies:

- 3 (1) Ensuring that development does not take place in areas
- 4 subject to coastal hazards associated with sea level
- 5 rise; and
- 6 (2) Requiring that new development is built to be more
- 7 resilient to sea level rise.

8 Planning for sea level rise is necessary to protect coastal
9 structures, infrastructure, and environments.

10 The purpose of this part is to require the incorporation of
11 sea level rise projections in all new state plans and updates to
12 existing state plans generated under the Hawaii State Planning
13 Act pursuant to chapter 226, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 226, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
16 and to read as follows:

17 "§226- Sea level rise; plans. The State shall
18 incorporate evaluations, predictions, and recommendations
19 pertaining to sea level rise projections in the preparation of
20 new plans and updates to existing plans. All new plans and
21 updates shall incorporate findings of the most recent version of



1 the sea level rise vulnerability and adaptation report prepared
2 by the Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation
3 commission pursuant to section 225P-3(n)."

4 SECTION 3. Chapter 269, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
6 and to read as follows:

7 "§269- Sea level rise; plans. The commission shall
8 incorporate evaluations, predictions, and recommendations
9 pertaining to sea level rise projections in the preparation of
10 new plans and updates to existing plans. All new plans and
11 updates shall incorporate findings of the most recent version of
12 the sea level rise vulnerability and adaptation report prepared
13 by the Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation
14 commission pursuant to section 225P-3(n)."

15 PART II

16 SECTION 4. The legislature finds that it is appropriate to
17 implement sound practices that reduce negative impacts of large
18 scale construction projects so that the State may protect the
19 environment, ensure the supply of clean water, and preserve the
20 ecosystem and the quality of the natural environment.



1 The legislature notes that the Ala Wai watershed, located
2 in the city and county of Honolulu, encompasses approximately
3 nineteen square miles, or 12,064 acres, and extends from the
4 ridge of the Koolau mountains to the nearshore waters of Mamala
5 bay, and includes Makiki, Manoa, and Palolo Streams, which drain
6 into the Ala Wai canal. The canal is owned and maintained by
7 the State, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers has
8 coordinated with the State and city and county of Honolulu since
9 2001 to develop a plan to mitigate flooding in the Ala Wai
10 watershed if a major, once-in-a-century storm occurs.

11 The purpose of this part is to mitigate the negative
12 impacts of watershed and coastal flooding by appropriating
13 moneys for the facilitation of stakeholder communications and
14 public engagement related to environmental protection, clean
15 waters, ecosystem preservation and restoration, and community
16 and cultural considerations of the Ala Wai watershed and
17 surrounding areas.

18 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
20 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the
21 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year



1 2020-2021 for the mitigation of the negative impacts of
2 watershed and coastal flooding through the facilitation of
3 stakeholder communications and public engagement related to
4 environmental protection, clean waters, ecosystem preservation
5 and restoration, and community and cultural considerations of
6 the Ala Wai watershed and surrounding areas.

7 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the office of
8 planning for the purposes of this part.

9 PART III

10 SECTION 6. New statutory material is underscored.

11 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2035.



Report Title:

Hawaii State Planning Act; Sea Level Rise; PUC; Ala Wai
Watershed; Appropriation

Description:

Requires incorporation of sea level rise projections in all new plans and updates to existing state plans generated under the Hawaii State Planning Act and the plans of the Public Utilities Commission. Appropriates funds for the facilitation of stakeholder communications and public engagement related to environmental protection, clean waters, ecosystem preservation and restoration, and community and cultural consideration of the Ala Wai watershed and surrounding areas. Effective 7/1/2035.
(SD2)

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