
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PLANNING.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that disaster recovery
2 efforts need to be carried out quickly and efficiently to ensure
3 that damaged infrastructure and interrupted services are
4 restored as soon as possible. Prudent pre-disaster planning, as
5 well as post-disaster responses that seek to make the State less
6 vulnerable regarding future disasters, can expedite responses
7 that anticipate future needs. For example, if a road is
8 destroyed by an ocean wave surge caused by a hurricane, it may
9 be best to build the replacement road further inland, where it
10 is less vulnerable. These types of scenarios should be
11 evaluated before an actual disaster occurs.

12 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require:

13 (1) The State and counties to incorporate predictions of
14 sea level rise and other climate change hazards and
15 mitigation opportunities into applicable plans,
16 strategies, and mapping, in order to increase the



1 State's resiliency and ability to properly respond to
2 natural disasters; and

3 (2) The public utilities commission, and any public
4 utility regulated by the public utilities commission,
5 to consider in its actions the findings in the *Hawaii*
6 *Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report* by
7 the Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation
8 commission and seek to avoid critical infrastructure
9 projects in areas of higher risk, in order to reduce
10 risks to taxpayers and the general public.

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

14 **"§226- Climate change hazards and mitigation planning;**
15 **required. The State and each county shall incorporate**
16 **evaluations, predictions, and recommendations pertaining to**
17 **climate change hazards and mitigation into their respective**
18 **multi-hazard mitigation plans. Those plans, at a minimum, shall**
19 **incorporate findings of the "Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability**
20 **and Adaptation Report" prepared by the Hawaii climate change**
21 **mitigation and adaptation commission."**



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

4 "§269- Sea level rise vulnerability; infrastructure
5 sites. (a) Notwithstanding any provision in this chapter to
6 the contrary, the public utilities commission shall:

7 (1) Consider in its actions the findings in the "Hawaii
8 Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report";
9 and

10 (2) Seek to avoid critical infrastructure projects in
11 areas of higher risk to reduce risk to taxpayers and
12 the general public.

13 (b) Any public utility regulated by the public utilities
14 commission shall incorporate the findings of the "Hawaii Sea
15 Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report" into the
16 utility's capital investment planning processes in any relevant
17 applications and regular reports that may be filed with the
18 public utilities commission.

19 (c) As used in this section, "Hawaii Sea Level Rise
20 Vulnerability and Adaptation Report" means the "Hawaii Sea Level



1 Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report" prepared by the Hawaii
2 climate change mitigation and adaptation commission."

3 SECTION 4. In devising pre-disaster planning and post-
4 disaster recovery strategies, the State and each county shall
5 develop and establish comprehensive frameworks, state functional
6 plans, county general plans, and community development plans
7 addressing sea level rise adaptation strategies.

8 SECTION 5. Each county is encouraged to participate in the
9 community rating system developed by the National Flood
10 Insurance Program.

11 SECTION 6. New statutory material is underscored.

12 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Disasters; Planning; Recovery; Climate Change; Sea Level Rise;
Infrastructure Sites; Counties; PUC

Description:

Requires the State and counties to incorporate predictions of sea level rise and other climate change hazards and mitigation opportunities into applicable plans, strategies, and mapping. Requires the Public Utilities Commission, and any public utility regulated by the Public Utilities Commission, to consider the findings in the Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report. Encourages each county to participate in the community rating system developed by the National Flood Insurance Program. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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