
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 impacts 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 one- to three-foot
16 (approximately 0.3-1 meter) rise, or more, by the end of the
17 century. Rising sea levels, coupled with the resulting coastal



1 erosion, inundates the land with saltwater and leads to
2 contaminated fresh water 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 has observed a trend for
7 decreasing precipitation in the State, noting that projections
8 suggest a small decrease in precipitation during the wet season
9 and a small increase during the dry season.

10 Lastly, the legislature finds that pursuant to chapter
11 174C, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the State Water Code requires
12 that the commission on water resource management implement and
13 use comprehensive water resources planning in its protection and
14 management of the State's water resources. The State 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) A water resource protection plan prepared by the
5 commission on water resource management;

6 (2) A water quality plan prepared by the department of
7 health;

8 (3) A state water projects plan, currently prepared by the
9 engineering division of the department of land and
10 natural resources;

11 (4) An agricultural water use and development plan
12 prepared by the department of agriculture; and

13 (5) County water use and development plans prepared by
14 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 updates to the Hawaii water plan by addressing emerging
18 issues, such as climate change, and including any other useful
19 or necessary elements to ensure the long-term protection and
20 wise management of water resources.



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

5 (b) The tasks and elements of the statewide framework
6 update shall include at a minimum:

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 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 to the legislature its findings, recommendations,
8 progress reports on actions taken, and any proposed legislation,
9 no later than December 31, 2021.

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

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

16 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on December 31,
17 2050.



Report Title:

Hawaii Water Plan; Commission on Water Resource Management;
Appropriation

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. Effective 12/31/2050. (SD2)

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