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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 addressed.

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



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

3 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds and to  
4 direct the Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation  
5 commission to:

- 6 (1) Address areas already impacted by sea level rise;
- 7 (2) Identify vulnerable critical public infrastructure;
- 8 (3) Create a plan for mitigating and adapting to sea level  
9 rise; and
- 10 (4) Provide policy direction to the legislature on how,  
11 and what funding is needed, to move forward with  
12 concrete strategies to address the impacts of climate  
13 change on the State.

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

- 16 (1) Conduct a thorough inventory of critical public  
17 infrastructure, existing or planned, both constructed  
18 and natural, to determine if the infrastructure is in  
19 or near an area that is vulnerable to the impacts of  
20 sea level rise and to analyze the predicted impacts of  
21 sea level rise on vulnerable infrastructure;



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- 1           (2) Identify priority areas throughout the State that will  
2           be subject to high rates of coastal erosion and sea  
3           level rise, including public infrastructure and  
4           private properties;
- 5           (3) Design and propose sea level rise impact zone maps to  
6           be adopted by the legislature and to provide a  
7           guidepost for future sea level rise adaptation  
8           policies;
- 9           (4) Work with state and county agencies to develop sea  
10          level rise adaptation plans in accordance with the sea  
11          level rise vulnerability and adaptation report;
- 12          (5) Recommend to the legislature specific policies that  
13          may be adopted for the managed retreat or relocation  
14          of infrastructure, or mitigation measures to minimize  
15          the impacts of sea level rise on public infrastructure  
16          and private properties, including information on how  
17          these recommendations may be funded; and
- 18          (6) Consider and make specific recommendations on sea  
19          level rise policies that have been implemented in  
20          other states and nations that may be applicable in  
21          Hawaii.



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1 (b) The Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation  
2 commission shall submit a report of its findings and  
3 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
4 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
5 the regular session of 2022.

6 SECTION 3. 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 2020-2021 to support  
9 the Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission  
10 in carrying out its activities, as required by section 2 of this  
11 Act.

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

14 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 to fund  
17 the climate change mitigation and adaptation coordinator  
18 position established by Act 32, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017.

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



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1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

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INTRODUCED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



By Request

JAN 16 2020



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**Report Title:**

County of Maui Package; Sea Level Rise; Climate Change;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Directs the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission to address areas already impacted by sea level rise, identify vulnerable critical public infrastructure, create a plan for mitigating and adapting to sea level rise, and provide policy direction to the legislature on funding and strategies to address the impacts of climate change on the State.  
Appropriates funds.

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

