
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 require adaptation.

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



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

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

10 SECTION 2. (a) Pursuant to section 225P-3, Hawaii Revised
11 Statutes, the Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation
12 commission shall:

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

19 (2) Identify priority areas throughout the State that will
20 be subject to high rates of coastal erosion and sea



- 1 level rise, including public infrastructure and
2 private properties;
- 3 (3) Design and propose sea level rise impact zone maps to
4 be adopted by the legislature and provide a guidepost
5 for future sea level rise adaptation policies;
- 6 (4) Work with state and county agencies to develop sea
7 level rise adaptation plans in accordance with the Sea
8 Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report; and
- 9 (5) Make specific recommendations to the legislature for
10 policies that may be adopted for managed retreat,
11 relocation of infrastructure, or mitigation measures
12 to minimize the impacts of sea level rise for public
13 infrastructure and private properties, including
14 information regarding how these recommendations may be
15 funded and consideration of sea level rise policies
16 implemented in other states and nations.
- 17 (b) The Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation
18 commission shall report the findings and recommendations
19 required by subsection (a) to the legislature no later than
20 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of
21 2022.



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1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 to support
4 the Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission
5 conduct its activities as required by section 2 of this Act.

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

8 SECTION 4. The appropriation made in section 3 of this Act
9 shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal biennium for which the
10 appropriation is made; provided that all moneys from the
11 appropriation unencumbered as of June 30, 2022, shall lapse as
12 of that date.

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

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INTRODUCED BY: Neole E. Lowen

JAN 16 2020



H.B. NO. 1856

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 2022 regular session. Appropriates funds for the commission's activities and extends the lapse date to June 30, 2022.

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