
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;



- 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.



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.



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

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H.B. NO. 2266

Report Title:

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.

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