
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 that the population and
7 environment adapt to them.

8 The Hawaii climate adaptation initiative was established in
9 2014 with the purpose of protecting the State's economy, health,
10 environment, and way of life by considering how to best adapt to
11 and mitigate the impacts of climate change. In December 2017,
12 the Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission,
13 pursuant to section 225P-3(n) of the Hawaii Revised Statutes,
14 produced the first Hawaii sea level rise vulnerability and
15 adaptation report. The report identified areas that are
16 susceptible to sea level rise impacts and urged immediate
17 preparation for a 3.2-foot increase in sea level by 2060. The



1 report also made a number of recommendations to state and county
2 agencies based on emerging good practices, designed to
3 strengthen Hawaii's overall readiness to face sea level rise and
4 climate change.

5 The purpose of this Act is to increase funding and direct
6 the Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission
7 to address impacted areas, to:

- 8 (1) Further address the impacts of sea level rise;
- 9 (2) Identify critical public infrastructure in impacted
10 areas;
- 11 (3) Create a plan for mitigation and adaptation to sea
12 level rise, and
- 13 (4) Provide policy direction to the legislature about how
14 to move forward with concrete strategies.

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

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



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



1 (b) The Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation
2 commission shall submit a report of its findings and
3 recommendations to the legislature not later than twenty days
4 prior to the convening of the regular session of 2022.

5 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for
8 the purpose of funding the Hawaii climate change mitigation and
9 adaptation commission to conduct its activities as required by
10 section 2 of this Act.

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

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

18 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
19 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: _____

RCW

JAN 23 2020



H.B. NO. 2659

Report Title:

Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission; Sea Level Rise; Department of Land and Natural Resources; Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Coordinator; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for the climate change mitigation and adaptation commission and coordinator.

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