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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that climate change  
2 affects human health and well-being. The major public health  
3 organizations, including the United States Centers for Disease  
4 Control and Prevention, World Health Organization, and  
5 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, have reported that  
6 climate change is a critical public health problem.

7           Steps can be taken to lessen climate change and reduce its  
8 impacts on human health and the health of future generations.  
9 Some of these steps can yield benefits for human health,  
10 environment, economy, and society at the same time.  
11 Additionally, the federal government has called for efforts to  
12 support adaptation and mitigation of climate change to create  
13 healthier, more sustainable communities.

14           The legislature has authorized numerous mitigation  
15 activities, nearly all of which are focused on infrastructure  
16 changes to reduce carbon emissions or infrastructure resilience  
17 to sea level rise and severe weather events. However, Hawaii



1 will still feel the impacts of global climate change even if the  
2 State meets all of its United Nations Paris Agreement goals, due  
3 to the fact that large political economic entities, such as the  
4 United States, China, and European Union, continue to produce  
5 greenhouse gases at a scale and pace that runs the risk of run-  
6 away climate change.

7 The legislature further finds that while investments in  
8 mitigation relating to infrastructure are sound, there has been  
9 insufficient activity focusing on adaptation, specifically for  
10 human health. Climate change makes many existing diseases and  
11 conditions worse and may also help introduce new pests and  
12 pathogens into new regions or communities. As the planet warms,  
13 oceans expand and the sea level rises, floods and droughts  
14 become more frequent and intense, and heat waves and hurricanes  
15 become more severe. The most vulnerable people, such as  
16 children, the elderly, the poor, and those with underlying  
17 health conditions, are at increased risk for health effects from  
18 climate change, all of which will begin to further stress the  
19 health care infrastructure, financial systems, and delivery  
20 systems.



1           The purpose of this Act is to establish and appropriate  
2 funds for a climate change and human health adaptation  
3 coordinator within the department of health.

4           SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department  
5 of health a full-time climate change and human health adaptation  
6 coordinator to:

7           (1) Determine future actions guiding the coordination and  
8 implementation of adaptation goals, principles, and  
9 policies relating to climate change impacts on human  
10 health; and

11          (2) Define and implement state goals, objectives,  
12 policies, and priority guidelines relating to climate  
13 change effects on human health using sections 226-3 to  
14 226-27 and 226-103 to 226-109 and chapter 225P, Hawaii  
15 Revised Statutes, as guiding principles.

16          (b) The climate change and human health adaptation  
17 coordinator shall facilitate the establishment of plans and  
18 policies to adapt to climate change-related human health  
19 adaptation issues, including but not limited to:

20          (1) Temperature-related death and illness;

21          (2) Air quality impacts;



1           (3) Extreme weather events;  
2           (4) Vector-borne diseases;  
3           (5) Water-related illness;  
4           (6) Food safety, nutrition, and distribution; and  
5           (7) Mental health and well-being.

6           (c) The climate change and human health adaptation  
7 coordinator shall coordinate with the office of planning and  
8 other relevant state, county, and private entities to update the  
9 Hawaii 2050 sustainability plan regarding climate change and  
10 human health adaptation.

11           (d) The climate change and human health adaptation  
12 coordinator shall be equivalent to a program specialist VI and  
13 shall be selected by the director of health or the director's  
14 designee.

15           SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$165,000 or so much  
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the  
18 establishment of one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) permanent  
19 climate change and human health adaptation coordinator position  
20 and other operating expenses.



1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
2 health for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

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# H.B. NO. 2718

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JAN 23 2020



# H.B. NO. 2718

**Report Title:**

Climate Change and Human Health Adaptation Coordinator;  
Department of Health; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes and appropriates funds for a climate change and human health adaptation coordinator within the department of health.

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