
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO COASTAL PLANNING.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that sea level rise is
2 the preeminent challenge and a pivotal issue for the State. The
3 legislature in 2017 created the Hawaii climate change mitigation
4 and adaptation commission through Act 32, Session Laws of Hawaii
5 2017, and tasked the commission to focus on sea level rise and
6 develop a report identifying vulnerabilities and recommending
7 adaptations. The commission submitted the Hawaii Sea Level Rise
8 Vulnerability and Adaptation Report in December 2017. The
9 report found that warming of the global atmosphere and ocean is
10 leading to sea level rise and studies of sea level rise predict
11 between 3.2 feet and six feet of sea level rise by 2100 under
12 the high-end Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change scenario.
13 Under these conditions, Hawaii will face increased hurricane
14 risk and coastal flooding and erosion hazards from high waves
15 and storms.

16 The legislature further finds that the commission's report
17 recommended the following adaptation strategies:



1 (1) Ensuring that development does not take place in areas
2 subject to coastal hazards associated with sea level
3 rise; and

4 (2) Requiring that new development is built to be more
5 resilient to sea level rise.

6 Planning for sea level rise is necessary to protect coastal
7 structures, infrastructure, and environments.

8 The purpose of this Act is to require the incorporation of
9 sea level rise projections in all new state plans and updates to
10 existing state plans generated under the Hawaii State Planning
11 Act pursuant to chapter 226, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

12 SECTION 2. Chapter 226, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
13 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
14 and to read as follows:

15 "§226- Sea level rise; plans. The State shall
16 incorporate evaluations, predictions, and recommendations
17 pertaining to sea level rise projections in the preparation of
18 new plans and updates to existing plans. All new plans and
19 updates shall incorporate findings of the Hawaii Sea Level Rise
20 Vulnerability and Adaptation Report prepared by the Hawaii
21 climate change mitigation and adaptation commission."



- 1 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.
- 2 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.



Report Title:

Hawaii State Planning Act; Sea Level Rise

Description:

Requires incorporation of sea level rise projections in all new plans and updates to existing state plans generated under the Hawaii State Planning Act. (SD1)

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