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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PLANNING.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that disaster recovery  
2 efforts need to be carried out quickly and efficiently to ensure  
3 that damaged infrastructure and interrupted services are  
4 restored as soon as possible. Prudent pre-disaster planning, as  
5 well as post-disaster responses that seek to make the State less  
6 vulnerable regarding future disasters, can expedite responses  
7 that anticipate future needs. For example, if a road is  
8 destroyed by an ocean wave surge caused by a hurricane, it may  
9 be best to build the replacement road further inland, where it  
10 is less vulnerable. These types of scenarios should be  
11 evaluated before an actual disaster occurs.

12           Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require:

13           (1) The State and counties to incorporate predictions of  
14           sea level rise and other climate change hazards and  
15           mitigation opportunities into applicable plans,  
16           strategies, and mapping, in order to increase the



1 State's resiliency and ability to properly respond to  
2 natural disasters; and

3 (2) The public utilities commission to consider in its  
4 actions the findings in the *Hawaii Sea Level Rise*  
5 *Vulnerability and Adaptation Report* by the Hawaii  
6 climate change mitigation and adaptation commission  
7 and seek to avoid critical electrical infrastructure  
8 projects in areas of higher risk, in order to reduce  
9 risks to taxpayers and the general public.

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

13 "§226- Climate change hazards and mitigation planning;  
14 required. The State and each county shall incorporate  
15 evaluations, predictions, and recommendations pertaining to  
16 climate change hazards and mitigation into their respective  
17 multi-hazard mitigation plans. Those plans, at a minimum, shall  
18 incorporate findings of the "Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability  
19 and Adaptation Report" prepared by the Hawaii climate change  
20 mitigation and adaptation commission."



1 SECTION 3. Chapter 269, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§269- Sea level rise vulnerability; infrastructure  
5 sites. Notwithstanding any provision in this chapter to the  
6 contrary, the public utilities commission shall consider the  
7 findings in the "Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and  
8 Adaptation Report" prepared by the Hawaii climate change  
9 mitigation and adaptation commission and shall seek to avoid  
10 critical electrical infrastructure projects in areas of higher  
11 risk to reduce risk to taxpayers and the general public."

12 SECTION 4. In devising pre-disaster planning and post-  
13 disaster recovery strategies, the State and each county shall  
14 develop and establish comprehensive frameworks, state functional  
15 plans, county general plans, and community development plans  
16 addressing sea level rise adaptation strategies.

17 SECTION 5. Beginning on the effective date of this Act,  
18 all floodplain mapping supported by state or county funding  
19 shall include information from the "Hawaii Sea Level Rise  
20 Vulnerability and Adaptation Report" prepared by the Hawaii  
21 climate change mitigation and adaptation commission that



1 anticipates sea level rise and floodplains in terms of special  
2 flood hazard areas, as defined by the Federal Emergency  
3 Management Agency.

4 SECTION 6. Each county shall participate in the community  
5 rating system developed by the National Flood Insurance Program.

6 SECTION 7. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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**Report Title:**

Disasters; Planning; Recovery; Climate Change; Sea Level Rise;  
Infrastructure Sites; Public Utilities Commission

**Description:**

Requires the State and counties to incorporate predictions of sea level rise and other climate change hazards and mitigation opportunities into applicable plans, strategies, and mapping. Requires the public utilities commission to consider the findings in the Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report. Requires each county to participate in the community rating system developed by the National Flood Insurance Program. (SD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

