
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 the mid
16 to latter part of the century. The report also made a number of
17 recommendations to state and county agencies, based on emerging



1 best practices, designed to strengthen Hawaii's overall
2 readiness to face sea level rise and 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 consider and make specific
16 recommendations on sea level rise policies that have been
17 implemented in other states and nations that may be applicable
18 in Hawaii and shall:

- 19 (1) Bring resources to the various agencies and
20 departments in the form of best practices, formulate



1 guidance, and provide a coordinating structure and
2 timeframe within which to work;

3 (2) Work with partners to operationalize sea level rise
4 exposure areas into county planning and permitting,
5 and provide a status update in its annual report to
6 the legislature; and

7 (3) Work to enhance, uniformize, and support the work of
8 the state and county agencies in their development of
9 sea level rise adaptation plans utilizing the sea
10 level rise vulnerability and adaptation report.

11 (b) The Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation
12 commission shall submit a proposal for a state supplemental
13 flood insurance program for properties within the State subject
14 to climate change impacts to the legislature no later than
15 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of
16 2021.

17 (c) The Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation
18 commission shall submit a report of its findings and
19 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
20 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
21 the regular session of 2022.



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 to
4 support the Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation
5 commission in carrying out its activities, as required by
6 section 2 of this Act.

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

9 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
11 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 to
12 fund the climate change mitigation and adaptation coordinator
13 position established by Act 32, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017.

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

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



Report Title:

County of Maui Package; Sea Level Rise; Climate Change;
Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
Commission to consider and make specific recommendations on sea
level rise policies. Appropriates funds. (SD1)

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

