
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 stronger
4 and more frequent storms. Even with decisive actions to reduce
5 greenhouse gas emissions, many of the impacts of climate change
6 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 way of life 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 and designed to strengthen Hawaii's overall
2 readiness to address 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 proceed with fully-
12 developed 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:

- 16 (1) Consider and make specific recommendations on sea
17 level rise policies that have been implemented in
18 other states and nations that may be applicable in
19 Hawaii;
- 20 (2) Bring resources to the various agencies and
21 departments in the form of best practices;



1 (3) Provide to the applicable state agencies and
2 departments guidance and a coordinating structure and
3 timeframe within which to work;

4 (4) Work with partners to operationalize sea level rise
5 exposure areas into county planning and permitting,
6 and provide a status update in the commission's annual
7 report to the governor and legislature pursuant to
8 section 225P-3(k), Hawaii Revised Statutes; and

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

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

19 (c) The Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation
20 commission shall submit a report of its findings and
21 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the



1 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
2 the regular session of 2022.

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

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

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

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

18 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

County of Maui Package; Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission; 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. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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