
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 require that the population and
7 environment adapt to them.

8 The Hawaii climate adaptation initiative was established in
9 2014 with the purpose of protecting the State's economy, health,
10 environment, and way of life by considering how to best adapt to
11 and mitigate the impacts of climate change. In December 2017,
12 the Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission,
13 pursuant to section 225P-3(n) of the Hawaii Revised Statutes,
14 produced the first Hawaii sea level rise vulnerability and
15 adaptation report. The report identified areas that are
16 susceptible to sea level rise impacts and urged immediate
17 preparation for a 3.2-foot increase in sea level by the mid to



1 latter part of the century. The report also made a number of
2 recommendations to state and county agencies based on emerging
3 good practices, designed to strengthen Hawaii's overall
4 readiness to face sea level rise and climate change.

5 The purpose of this Act is to increase funding and direct
6 the Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission
7 to address impacted areas, to:

- 8 (1) Further address the impacts of sea level rise;
- 9 (2) Identify critical public infrastructure in impacted
10 areas;
- 11 (3) Create a plan for mitigation and adaptation to sea
12 level rise, and
- 13 (4) Provide policy direction to the legislature about how
14 to move forward with concrete strategies.

15 SECTION 2. (a) The Hawaii climate change mitigation and
16 adaptation commission shall:

- 17 (1) Bring resources to the various agencies and
18 departments in the form of best practices, formulate
19 guidance, and provide a coordinating structure and
20 timeframe within which to work;



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

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

9 (b) The Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation
10 commission shall submit a report of its findings and
11 recommendations to the legislature no later than twenty days
12 prior to the convening of the regular session of 2022.

13 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
15 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for
16 the purpose of funding the Hawaii climate change mitigation and
17 adaptation commission to conduct its activities as required by
18 section 2 of this Act.

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



1 SECTION 4. 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 fund the climate change mitigation and adaptation coordinator
5 position established by Act 32 Session Laws of Hawaii 2017.

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

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



Report Title:

Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission; Sea Level Rise; Department of Land and Natural Resources; Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Coordinator; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for the climate change mitigation and adaptation commission and coordinator. (SD1)

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