
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SEA LEVEL RISE ADAPTATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that climate change and
2 sea level rise pose significant, dangerous, and imminent threats
3 to the State's social and economic well-being, public safety,
4 nature and environments, cultural resources, property,
5 infrastructure, and government functions. Chronic impacts of
6 sea level rise, including coastal erosion, high tide flooding,
7 and annual high wave flooding, are already impacting many low-
8 lying coastal areas and are predicted to increase in extent and
9 severity in the coming decades.

10 To successfully adapt to climate change and sea level rise,
11 state agencies having operational responsibilities over
12 facilities owned and managed by the State must plan, coordinate,
13 and act to assure Hawaii's sustainable and resilient future and
14 mitigate against societal or economic disruptions caused by
15 climate impacts. The legislature recognizes that the practice
16 of statewide sea level rise adaptation will require
17 comprehensive and long-term planning and that collectively,
18 state agencies having operational responsibilities over state

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1 facilities must work collaboratively over time through a
2 centralized coordinating agency to identify existing and planned
3 facilities that are vulnerable to sea level rise, flooding
4 impacts, and natural hazards.

5 In accordance with Act 178, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021,
6 the office of planning and sustainable development conducted an
7 inventory of state facilities vulnerable to sea level rise and
8 identified that over 275 facilities owned and managed by the
9 State are located within the sea level rise exposure area in the
10 3.2 feet sea level rise scenario, as projected by the 2017
11 *Hawaii sea level rise and adaptation report*, which was prepared
12 as required by Act 83, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014, as amended
13 by Act 32, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017. These vulnerable
14 facilities represent structures under the management of twenty
15 different state agencies. The 2021 report recommended that
16 site-specific vulnerability assessments be conducted on the
17 facilities identified in the exposure assessment in order to
18 fully understand the vulnerabilities, impacts, and adaptive
19 capacity and facilitate agencies' abilities to prioritize needs
20 for current and future sea level rise adaptation into capital
21 improvement requests.

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1 The purpose of this Act is to require the office of
2 planning and sustainable development to develop a standardized
3 process for assessing the vulnerability of state facilities to
4 sea level rise.

5 SECTION 2. The office of planning and sustainable
6 development, in consultation with state agencies with
7 operational responsibilities over facilities owned and managed
8 by the State, shall develop a standardized process for assessing
9 the vulnerability of facilities owned and managed by the State
10 to sea level rise in order to ensure that sea level rise
11 planning and adaptation implementation is carried out in a
12 consistent and comprehensive way across state agencies' capital
13 planning projects.

14 The development of a standardized vulnerability assessment
15 process shall include:

16 (1) A standardized procedure and template for assessing
17 and reporting facility vulnerability to sea level
18 rise; and

19 (2) Guidance for agencies with operational
20 responsibilities over facilities owned and managed by
21 the State on how to conduct the vulnerability
22 assessment.

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1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$400,000 or so much
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 to fund
4 the development of a standardized vulnerability assessment
5 process for facilities owned and managed by the State.

6 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the office of
7 planning and sustainable development for the purposes of this
8 Act.

9 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

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INTRODUCED BY: 

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BY REQUEST

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Report Title:

Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, Sea Level Rise Adaptation

Description:

Requires the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, in cooperation with each state agency having operational responsibilities over state facilities to: develop a standardized process to conduct vulnerability assessments for facilities at risk from sea level rise and guidance to agencies on how to conduct the vulnerability assessments for their facilities. Makes an appropriation.

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JUSTIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Business, Economic Development, and Tourism

TITLE: RELATING TO SEA LEVEL RISE ADAPTATION.

PURPOSE: To ensure that the State's planning for sea level rise adaptation is moving forward in a coordinated and focused effort by developing a standardized procedure for assessing the vulnerability of facilities owned and managed by the State to the impacts of sea level rise.

MEANS: Require the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development to develop a standardize sea level rise vulnerability assessment process for facilities owned and managed by the State. Appropriate \$400,000 to the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development for the purposes of this bill.

JUSTIFICATION: The development of a standardized procedure for assessing the vulnerability of facilities owned and managed by the state to sea level rise will ensure a coordinated statewide effort to build climate resiliency and will allow the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development to continue meeting the charges of Act 178, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021. The use of a standardized approach to assessing vulnerability ensures that sea level rise planning and adaptation implementation is carried out in a consistent and comprehensive way across state agencies' capital planning projects.

Impact on the public: No direct impact to the public. Successful implementation of vulnerability assessments will build resiliency and mitigate against societal or economic disruptions caused by climate impacts.

Impact on the department and other agencies:
Improved planning to prepare and incorporate sea level rise adaptation into facilities planning and operations. Support agencies' abilities to prioritize needs for current and future sea level rise adaptation into capital improvement requests. Agencies with facilities management responsibilities will be consulted with during the development of a standardized vulnerability assessment process.

GENERAL FUND: \$400,000.

OTHER FUNDS: None.

PPBS PROGRAM
DESIGNATION: BED-144 PL.

OTHER AFFECTED
AGENCIES: Departments of Accounting and General Services, Defense, Education, Health, Human Services, Land and Natural Resources, Public Safety, Transportation, Hawaiian Home Lands, Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, Hawaii State Judiciary, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, University of Hawaii.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023.