
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE.

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

1 SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the Hawaii Climate
2 Adaptation Initiative Act. The legislature finds that climate
3 change is the paramount challenge of this century, posing both
4 an urgent and long-term threat to the State's economy,
5 sustainability, security, and way of life.

6 The 2012 Pacific Islands Regional Climate Assessment found
7 that throughout the Pacific, warmer and drier conditions will
8 decrease fresh water supplies. Rising sea levels, exacerbated
9 by storms, will increase coastal flooding and erosion, damaging
10 coastal ecosystems and infrastructure and affecting agriculture,
11 tourism, military bases, and other industries. Higher sea-
12 surface temperatures will increase coral bleaching, leading to
13 coral death and habitat loss. Increasing ocean acidification
14 will have negative consequences for the entire marine ecosystem.
15 In the long term, open-ocean fisheries will decline. Rising
16 temperatures, and in some areas reduced rainfall, will increase
17 the risk of extinctions. Threats to the traditional lifestyles
18 of indigenous communities may include destruction of coastal



1 artifacts and structures and reduced availability of traditional
2 food sources and subsistence fisheries, which will make it
3 difficult for Pacific Island communities to sustain their
4 connection with a defined place and their unique set of customs,
5 beliefs, and languages.

6 The legislature further finds that beach erosion, drought,
7 and rising temperature are already having measurable impacts on
8 Hawaii and are expected to accelerate in the years to come.
9 With beaches continuing to erode, rain continuing to diminish,
10 and sea levels projected to rise one foot by 2050 and three feet
11 by 2100, Hawaii is highly vulnerable.

12 Act 286, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, created climate
13 change adaptation priority guidelines encouraging collaboration
14 to address climate change and recognizing that it will impact
15 the following: agriculture; conservation lands; coastal and
16 nearshore marine areas; natural and cultural resources;
17 education; energy; higher education; health; historic
18 preservation; water resources; the built environment, such as
19 housing, recreation, transportation; and the economy.

20 In 2013, Hawaii's landmark policies were included in the
21 international Majuro Declaration for Climate Leadership when
22 Hawaii signed on as the first sub-national government, after



1 which President Obama appointed Governor Abercrombie as one of
2 eight governors to the State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Task
3 Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience.

4 Hawaii is one of the few coastal states that has not
5 adopted a statewide climate adaptation plan, yet is among the
6 most vulnerable.

7 The legislature also finds that it is time to ensure that
8 Hawaii adapts to the effects of climate change before the
9 effects grow beyond the State's ability to prevent the worst
10 impacts on Hawaii's economy, environment, and way of life.

11 The purpose of this Act is to address the effects of
12 climate change through 2050 to protect the State's economy,
13 health, environment, and way of life. Recognizing Hawaii's
14 unique geography as the only island state and its susceptibility
15 to sea level rise, the initial focus of this Act is to address
16 the impact of sea level rise on Hawaii and to support ongoing
17 climate change adaptation efforts of the State by:

18 (1) Establishing an interagency sea level rise
19 vulnerability and adaptation committee, attached to
20 the department of land and natural resources for
21 administrative purposes, to develop a sea level rise



1 vulnerability and adaptation report for Hawaii through
2 the year 2050;

3 (2) Authorizing the office of planning to coordinate the
4 development of a statewide climate adaptation plan and
5 to use the sea level rise vulnerability and adaptation
6 report as a framework for addressing other climate
7 threats and climate change adaptation priorities
8 identified in Act 286, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012;
9 and

10 (3) Allocating funds and creating positions to carry out
11 these purposes.

12 SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by
13 adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read
14 as follows:

15 "CHAPTER

16 INTERAGENCY SEA LEVEL RISE VULNERABILITY AND ADAPTATION

17 COMMITTEE

18 § -1 Definitions. As used in this chapter:

19 "Committee" means the interagency sea level rise
20 vulnerability and adaptation committee.

21 § -2 Interagency sea level rise vulnerability and
22 adaptation committee; general functions, duties, and powers.



1 (a) There is established an interagency sea level rise
2 vulnerability and adaptation committee that shall be placed
3 within the department of land and natural resources for
4 administrative purposes only.

5 (b) Coordination of the committee shall be headed by the
6 chairperson of the committee, or the chairperson's designee.

7 (c) The committee shall develop a sea level rise
8 vulnerability and adaptation report that contains the following:

- 9 (1) Identification of the major areas of sea level rise
10 impacts affecting the State and counties through 2050;
- 11 (2) Identification of expected sea level rise impacts
12 based on the latest scientific research for each area
13 through 2050;
- 14 (3) Identification of the economic ramifications of sea
15 level rise;
- 16 (4) Identification of applicable federal laws, policies,
17 or programs that impact affected areas; and
- 18 (5) Recommendations for management and adaptation planning
19 for hazards associated with increasing sea level rise.

20 The report shall be made publicly available no later than
21 December 31, 2017.

22 (d) The committee shall include the following members:



- 1 (1) The chairs of the standing committees of the
2 legislature with subject matter jurisdiction
3 encompassing environmental protection and land use;
- 4 (2) The chairperson of the board of land and natural
5 resources or the chairperson's designee, who shall be
6 the chairperson of the committee;
- 7 (3) The director of business, economic development, and
8 tourism or the director's designee;
- 9 (4) The director of the office of planning or the
10 director's designee;
- 11 (5) The chairperson of the board of directors of the
12 Hawaii tourism authority or the chairperson's
13 designee;
- 14 (6) The chairperson of the board of agriculture or the
15 chairperson's designee;
- 16 (7) The chief executive officer of the office of Hawaiian
17 affairs or the officer's designee;
- 18 (8) The chairperson of the Hawaiian homes commission or
19 the chairperson's designee;
- 20 (9) The director of transportation or the director's
21 designee;
- 22 (10) The director of health or the director's designee;



- 1 (11) The adjutant general or the adjutant general's
- 2 designee;
- 3 (12) The chairperson of the board of education or the
- 4 chairperson's designee;
- 5 (13) The directors of each of the county planning
- 6 departments, or the directors' designees; and
- 7 (14) The manager of the coastal zone management program.
- 8 (e) In addition to the members listed in subsection (d),
- 9 the chairperson of the committee may request the participation
- 10 or input of members of the public; experts in the field; and
- 11 county, state, or federal officials necessary for the
- 12 formulation of the report.
- 13 (f) In developing the report, the committee shall:
- 14 (1) Solicit public views and concerns; and
- 15 (2) Coordinate with the various county, state, and federal
- 16 agencies involved in ongoing climate change adaptation
- 17 planning initiatives.
- 18 (g) The committee shall reevaluate and update the sea
- 19 level rise vulnerability and adaptation report every five years.
- 20 (h) The members of the committee shall serve without pay
- 21 but shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses,



1 including travel expenses, incurred in carrying out their
2 duties."

3 SECTION 3. Section 225M-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

5 "(b) The office of planning shall gather, analyze, and
6 provide information to the governor to assist in the overall
7 analysis and formulation of state policies and strategies to
8 provide central direction and cohesion in the allocation of
9 resources and effectuation of state activities and programs and
10 effectively address current or emerging issues and
11 opportunities. More specifically, the office shall engage in
12 the following activities:

- 13 (1) State comprehensive planning and program coordination.
14 Formulating and articulating comprehensive statewide
15 goals, objectives, policies, and priorities, and
16 coordinating their implementation through the
17 statewide planning system established in part II of
18 chapter 226;
- 19 (2) Strategic planning. Identifying and analyzing
20 significant issues, problems, and opportunities
21 confronting the State, and formulating strategies and



- 1 alternative courses of action in response to
2 identified problems and opportunities by:
- 3 (A) Providing in-depth policy research, analysis, and
4 recommendations on existing or potential areas of
5 critical state concern;
 - 6 (B) Examining and evaluating the effectiveness of
7 state programs in implementing state policies and
8 priorities;
 - 9 (C) Monitoring through surveys, environmental
10 scanning, and other techniques--current social,
11 economic, and physical conditions and trends; and
 - 12 (D) Developing, in collaboration with affected public
13 or private agencies and organizations,
14 implementation plans and schedules and, where
15 appropriate, assisting in the mobilization of
16 resources to meet identified needs;
- 17 (3) Planning coordination and cooperation. Facilitating
18 coordinated and cooperative planning and policy
19 development and implementation activities among state
20 agencies and between the state, county, and federal
21 governments, by:



- 1 (A) Reviewing, assessing, and coordinating, as
2 necessary, major plans, programs, projects, and
3 regulatory activities existing or proposed by
4 state and county agencies;
- 5 (B) Formulating mechanisms to simplify, streamline,
6 or coordinate interagency development and
7 regulatory processes; and
- 8 (C) Recognizing the presence of federal defense and
9 security forces and agencies in the State as
10 important state concerns;
- 11 (4) Statewide planning and geographic information system.
12 Collecting, integrating, analyzing, maintaining, and
13 disseminating various forms of data and information,
14 including geospatial data and information, to further
15 effective state planning, policy analysis and
16 development, and delivery of government services by:
- 17 (A) Collecting, assembling, organizing, evaluating,
18 and classifying existing geospatial and non-
19 geospatial data and performing necessary basic
20 research, conversions, and integration to provide
21 a common database for governmental planning and
22 geospatial analyses by state agencies;



1 (B) Planning, coordinating, and maintaining a
2 comprehensive, shared statewide planning and
3 geographic information system and associated
4 geospatial database. The office shall be the
5 lead agency responsible for coordinating the
6 maintenance of the multi-agency, statewide
7 planning and geographic information system and
8 coordinating, collecting, integrating, and
9 disseminating geospatial data sets that are used
10 to support a variety of state agency applications
11 and other spatial data analyses to enhance
12 decision-making. The office shall promote and
13 encourage free and open data sharing among and
14 between all government agencies. To ensure the
15 maintenance of a comprehensive, accurate, up-to-
16 date geospatial data resource that can be drawn
17 upon for decision-making related to essential
18 public policy issues such as land use planning,
19 resource management, homeland security, and the
20 overall health, safety, and well-being of
21 Hawaii's citizens, and to avoid redundant data
22 development efforts, state agencies shall provide



1 to the shared system either their respective
2 geospatial databases or, at a minimum, especially
3 in cases of secure or confidential data sets that
4 cannot be shared or must be restricted, metadata
5 describing existing geospatial data. In cases
6 where agencies provide restricted data, the
7 office of planning shall ensure the security of
8 that data; and

9 (C) Maintaining a centralized depository of state and
10 national planning references;

11 (5) Land use planning. Developing and presenting the
12 position of the State in all boundary change petitions
13 and proceedings before the land use commission,
14 assisting state agencies in the development and
15 submittal of petitions for land use district boundary
16 amendments, and conducting periodic reviews of the
17 classification and districting of all lands in the
18 State, as specified in chapter 205;

19 (6) Coastal and ocean policy management. Carrying out the
20 lead agency responsibilities for the Hawaii coastal
21 zone management program, as specified in chapter 205A.

22 Also, developing and maintaining an ocean and coastal



1 resources information, planning, and management system
2 further developing and coordinating implementation of
3 the ocean resources management plan, and formulating
4 ocean policies with respect to the exclusive economic
5 zone, coral reefs, and national marine sanctuaries;

6 (7) Regional planning and studies. Conducting plans and
7 studies to determine:

8 (A) The capability of various regions within the
9 State to support projected increases in both
10 resident populations and visitors;

11 (B) The potential physical, social, economic, and
12 environmental impact on these regions resulting
13 from increases in both resident populations and
14 visitors;

15 (C) The maximum annual visitor carrying capacity for
16 the State by region, county, and island; and

17 (D) The appropriate guidance and management of
18 selected regions and areas of statewide critical
19 concern.

20 The studies in subparagraphs (A) to (C) shall be
21 conducted at appropriate intervals, but not less than
22 once every five years; [~~and~~]



1 (8) Regional, national, and international planning.
2 Participating in and ensuring that state plans,
3 policies, and objectives are consistent, to the extent
4 practicable, with regional, national, and
5 international planning efforts[-]; and

6 (9) Climate adaptation planning. Conducting plans and
7 studies and preparing reports as follows:

8 (A) Develop, monitor, and evaluate strategic climate
9 adaptation plans and actionable policy
10 recommendations for the State and counties
11 addressing expected statewide climate change
12 impacts identified under Act 286, Session Laws of
13 Hawaii 2012, through the year 2050;

14 (B) Provide planning and policy guidance and
15 assistance to state and county agencies regarding
16 climate change; and

17 (C) Publish its findings, recommendations, and
18 progress reports on actions taken no later than
19 December 31, 2017, and its annual report to the
20 governor and the legislature thereafter."

21 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
22 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$108,874 or so much



1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to provide
2 the office of planning with staffing, including one full-time
3 equivalent (FTE) position, and resources to carry out the
4 purposes of this Act.

5 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of
6 planning for the purposes of this Act.

7 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$58,874 or so much
9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to provide
10 the department of land and natural resources with staffing,
11 including one full-time equivalent (FTE) position, and resources
12 to carry out the purposes of this Act.

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

15 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$400,000 or so much
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the
18 department of land and natural resources to assist the
19 interagency sea level rise vulnerability and adaptation
20 committee in researching and developing a coordinated,
21 multidisciplinary sea level rise vulnerability and adaptation
22 report pursuant to this Act.



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

3 SECTION 7. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
4 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
6 provided that sections 4 through 6 shall take effect on July 1,
7 2014.



Report Title:

Majority Package; Climate Change Adaptation Planning;
Interagency Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation
Committee; Appropriation

Description:

Addresses climate change adaptation by establishing the interagency sea level rise vulnerability and adaptation committee under the DLNR to develop a sea level rise vulnerability and adaptation report that addresses sea level rise impacts statewide to 2050. Tasks the office of planning with establishing and implementing strategic climate adaptation plans and policy recommendations using the sea level rise vulnerability and adaptation report as a framework for addressing other statewide climate impacts identified under Act 286, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012. Appropriates funds for staffing and resources. (SD2)

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