
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 climate adaptation
19 committee, attached administratively to the department
20 of land and natural resources, to develop a sea level
21 rise vulnerability and adaptation report for Hawaii
22 through the year 2050;



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

8 (3) Allocating funds and creating positions to carry out
 9 these purposes.

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

13 "CHAPTER

14 CLIMATE ADAPTATION

15 § -1 Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to
 16 address the effects of climate change to protect the State's
 17 economy, environment, health, and way of life.

18 § -2 Definitions. As used in this chapter:

19 "Committee" means the interagency climate adaptation
 20 committee.

21 § -3 Interagency climate adaptation committee; general
 22 functions, duties, and powers. (a) There is established an



1 interagency climate adaptation committee that shall be placed
2 within the department of land and natural resources for
3 administrative purposes only.

4 (b) Coordination of the committee shall be headed jointly
5 by the chairperson of the board of land and natural resources,
6 or the chairperson's designee, and the director of the office of
7 planning, or the director's designee. Among the various
8 potential impacts of climate change, the committee shall, as a
9 first step, focus on and develop sea level rise vulnerability
10 and adaptation reports that shall include:

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



1 The report shall be made publicly available no later than
2 December 31, 2017.

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

4 (1) The chairs of the standing committees of the
5 legislature with subject matter jurisdiction
6 encompassing environmental protection and land use;

7 (2) The chairperson of the board of land and natural
8 resources or the chairperson's designee, who shall be
9 the co-chair of the committee;

10 (3) The director of the office of planning or the
11 director's designee, who shall be the co-chair of the
12 committee;

13 (4) The director of business, economic development, and
14 tourism or the director's designee;

15 (5) The chairperson of the board of directors of the
16 Hawaii tourism authority or the chairperson's
17 designee;

18 (6) The chairperson of the board of agriculture or the
19 chairperson's designee;

20 (7) The chief executive officer of the office of Hawaiian
21 affairs or the officer's designee;



- 1 (8) The chairperson of the Hawaiian homes commission or
2 the chairperson's designee;
- 3 (9) The director of transportation or the director's
4 designee;
- 5 (10) The director of health or the director's designee;
- 6 (11) The adjutant general or the adjutant general's
7 designee;
- 8 (12) The chairperson of the board of education or the
9 chairperson's designee;
- 10 (13) The directors of each of the county planning
11 departments, or the directors' designees; and
- 12 (14) The manager of the coastal zone management program.
- 13 (e) In addition to the members listed in subsection (d),
14 the chairs of the committee may request the participation or
15 input of members of the public; experts in the field; and
16 county, state, or federal officials necessary for the
17 formulation of the report.
- 18 (f) In developing the report, the committee shall:
- 19 (1) Solicit public views and concerns; and
- 20 (2) Coordinate with the various county, state, and federal
21 agencies involved in ongoing climate change adaptation
22 planning initiatives.



1 (g) The committee shall reevaluate and update the sea
2 level rise vulnerability and adaptation report every five years.

3 (h) The members of the committee shall serve without pay
4 but shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses,
5 including travel expenses, incurred in carrying out their
6 duties."

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

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

17 (1) State comprehensive planning and program coordination.
18 Formulating and articulating comprehensive statewide
19 goals, objectives, policies, and priorities, and
20 coordinating their implementation through the
21 statewide planning system established in part II of
22 chapter 226;



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



1 agencies and between the state, county, and federal
2 governments, by:

3 (A) Reviewing, assessing, and coordinating, as
4 necessary, major plans, programs, projects, and
5 regulatory activities existing or proposed by
6 state and county agencies;

7 (B) Formulating mechanisms to simplify, streamline,
8 or coordinate interagency development and
9 regulatory processes; and

10 (C) Recognizing the presence of federal defense and
11 security forces and agencies in the State as
12 important state concerns;

13 (4) Statewide planning and geographic information system.

14 Collecting, integrating, analyzing, maintaining, and
15 disseminating various forms of data and information,
16 including geospatial data and information, to further
17 effective state planning, policy analysis and
18 development, and delivery of government services by:

19 (A) Collecting, assembling, organizing, evaluating,
20 and classifying existing geospatial and non-
21 geospatial data and performing necessary basic
22 research, conversions, and integration to provide



1 a common database for governmental planning and
2 geospatial analyses by state agencies;

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



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

11 (C) Maintaining a centralized depository of state and
12 national planning references;

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

21 (6) Coastal and ocean policy management. Carrying out the
22 lead agency responsibilities for the Hawaii coastal



1 zone management program, as specified in chapter 205A.

2 Also, developing and maintaining an ocean and coastal
3 resources information, planning, and management system

4 further developing and coordinating implementation of
5 the ocean resources management plan, and formulating

6 ocean policies with respect to the exclusive economic
7 zone, coral reefs, and national marine sanctuaries;

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

17 (B) Provide planning and policy guidance and
18 assistance to state and county agencies regarding
19 climate change; and

20 (C) Publish its findings, recommendations, and
21 progress reports on actions taken no later than



1 December 31, 2017, and its annual report to the
2 governor and the legislature thereafter."

3 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$108,874 or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to provide
6 the office of planning with staffing, including one full-time
7 equivalent (FTE) position, and resources to carry out the
8 purposes of this Act.

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

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

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

19 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$400,000 or so much
21 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the
22 department of land and natural resources to assist the



1 interagency climate adaptation committee in researching and
2 developing a coordinated, multidisciplinary sea level rise
3 vulnerability and adaptation report pursuant to this Act.

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

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

8 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
9 provided that sections 4 through 6 shall take effect on July 1,
10 2014.



Report Title:

Majority Package; Climate Change Adaptation Planning;
Interagency Climate Adaptation Committee; Appropriation

Description:

Addresses climate change adaptation by establishing the interagency climate 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. (HB1714 CD1)

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