

JAN 23 2015

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is  
2 overwhelming evidence that human activities are altering the  
3 earth's climate and that climate change will have significant  
4 local and global health impacts. Climate change and related  
5 health impacts transcend national borders and it is probable  
6 that climate change health impacts in other countries will  
7 affect the health of people throughout the United States,  
8 including Hawai'i. Famine, drought, extreme weather events, and  
9 regional conflicts, all likely consequences of climate change,  
10 increase the incidence of disease and contribute to various  
11 adverse health impacts, making it imperative to address climate  
12 change at the national and local level. Climate change will  
13 affect the health of people globally and in Hawai'i and it is  
14 imperative to mitigate the health-related impacts.

15           The legislature further finds that as a result of Hawai'i's  
16 unique geographic location and isolation, Hawai'i is particularly  
17 vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including



1 contamination or decrease in the water, food, and energy supply.  
2 Various potential health impacts of climate change include  
3 respiratory allergies, airway diseases, food-borne diseases,  
4 biotoxin exposure, heat-related illnesses, cancer,  
5 cardiovascular diseases, vector-borne diseases, and waterborne  
6 diseases. Yet, Hawai'i's health community lacks the knowledge  
7 and training required to prepare for and respond to various  
8 potential health impacts of climate change.

9 The purpose of this Act is to create a climate change and  
10 health working group to examine various potential health impacts  
11 of climate change and assist Hawai'i's health professionals in  
12 effectively and efficiently preparing for and responding to the  
13 various potential health impacts.

14 SECTION 2. Section 225P-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
15 amended by amending subsection (e) to read as follows:

16 "[+] (e) [+] In developing the report, the committee shall:

- 17 (1) Solicit public views and concerns; [~~and~~]  
18 (2) Coordinate with the various county, state, and federal  
19 agencies involved in ongoing climate change adaptation  
20 planning initiatives [~~-~~]; and



1        (3) Include the findings and recommendations of the  
2        climate change and health working group established by  
3        Act \_\_\_\_\_, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015."

4        SECTION 3. (a) There is established in the department of  
5 land and natural resources, for administrative purposes only, a  
6 climate change and health working group.

7        (b) The working group shall be composed of members to be  
8 appointed by the chairperson of the board of land and natural  
9 resources and the Hawaii Public Health Association and shall  
10 include members that represent the public and private health  
11 sectors.

12        (c) The working group shall:

13        (1) Assist the State's health professionals in effectively  
14 and efficiently preparing for and responding to  
15 various potential health impacts of climate change;

16        (2) Develop, integrate, and maintain state and regional  
17 disease surveillance and monitoring systems to respond  
18 to various potential health impacts of climate change,  
19 including but not limited to water and food safety and  
20 security, vector-borne infectious disease, respiratory



- 1 and cardiovascular health, mental and behavioral  
2 health, and community or population-specific health;
- 3 (3) Create evidence-based tools to predict and monitor the  
4 public health impacts of climate change in the State;
- 5 (4) Identify and prioritize communities and populations  
6 that may be vulnerable to various potential health  
7 impacts of climate change and develop a strategy to  
8 inform and protect these communities and populations;
- 9 (5) Develop and recommend programs for public health care  
10 professionals and the public to promote climate-change  
11 preparedness and response strategies related to public  
12 health;
- 13 (6) Develop and recommend ways to expand and train the  
14 public health workforce to strengthen the workforce's  
15 ability to respond to and prepare for the various  
16 potential health impacts of climate change; and
- 17 (7) Develop and recommend ways to advance, implement, and  
18 support state and local preparedness, including  
19 communication and response plans.
- 20 (d) The working group shall submit a report of its  
21 findings and recommendations, including any proposed



1 legislation, to the interagency climate adaption committee and  
 2 provide the interagency climate adaption committee with ample  
 3 time to incorporate the working group's applicable findings and  
 4 recommendations into the interagency climate adaption  
 5 committee's report due to be published no later than  
 6 December 31, 2017. The working group shall be dissolved on  
 7 June 30, 2018.

8 (e) The members of the working group shall serve without  
 9 compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses, including  
 10 travel expenses, necessary for the performance of their duties.

11 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
 12 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

13 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.  
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INTRODUCED BY:

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**Report Title:**

Climate Change and Health Working Group; Interagency Climate Adaption Committee

**Description:**

Requires the chairperson of the board of land and natural resources and the Hawaii Public Health Association to appoint members to a climate change and health working group to examine various potential health impacts of climate change and assist the State's health professionals in effectively and efficiently preparing for and responding to the various potential health impacts; and requires the interagency climate adaption committee to include the findings and recommendations of the climate change and health working group in the committee's report to the legislature.

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