
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO COASTAL PLANNING.

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

PART I

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SECTION 1. The legislature finds that sea level rise is the preeminent challenge and a pivotal issue for the State. The legislature in 2017 created the Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission through Act 32, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, and tasked the commission to focus on sea level rise and develop a report identifying vulnerabilities and recommending adaptations. The commission published its Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report in December 2017. The report found that warming of the global atmosphere and ocean is leading to sea level rise and studies of sea level rise predict between 3.2 feet and six feet of sea level rise by 2100 under the high-end Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change scenario. Under these conditions, Hawaii will face increased hurricane risk and coastal flooding and erosion hazards from high waves and storms.



1 The legislature further finds that the commission's report
2 recommended the following adaptation strategies:

- 3 (1) Ensuring that development does not take place in areas
4 subject to coastal hazards associated with sea level
5 rise; and
- 6 (2) Requiring that new development is built to be more
7 resilient to sea level rise.

8 Planning for sea level rise is necessary to protect coastal
9 structures, infrastructure, and environments.

10 The purpose of this part is to require the incorporation of
11 sea level rise projections in all new state plans and updates to
12 existing state plans generated under the Hawaii State Planning
13 Act pursuant to chapter 226, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 226, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
16 and to read as follows:

17 "§226- Sea level rise; plans. The State shall
 18 incorporate evaluations, predictions, and recommendations
 19 pertaining to sea level rise projections in the preparation of
 20 new plans and updates to existing plans. All new plans and
 21 updates shall incorporate findings of the most recent version of



1 the sea level rise vulnerability and adaptation report prepared
2 by the Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation
3 commission pursuant to section 225P-3(n)."

4 PART II

5 SECTION 3. The legislature finds that it is appropriate to
6 implement sound practices that reduce negative impacts of large
7 scale construction projects so that the State may protect the
8 environment, ensure the supply of clean water, and preserve the
9 ecosystem and the quality of the natural environment.

10 The legislature notes that the Ala Wai watershed, located
11 in the city and county of Honolulu, encompasses approximately
12 nineteen square miles, or 12,064 acres, and extends from the
13 ridge of the Koolau mountains to the nearshore waters of Mamala
14 bay, and includes Makiki, Manoa, and Palolo Streams, which drain
15 into the Ala Wai canal. The canal is owned and maintained by
16 the State, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers has
17 coordinated with the State and city and county of Honolulu since
18 2001 to develop a plan to mitigate flooding in the Ala Wai
19 watershed if a major, once-in-a-century storm occurs.

20 The purpose of this part is to mitigate coastal flooding by
21 appropriating moneys for the facilitation of communications



1 related to environmental protection, clean waters, and ecosystem
2 preservation of the Ala Wai watershed and surrounding areas.

3 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$150,000 or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the
6 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
7 2020-2021 for the facilitation of communications related to
8 environmental protection, clean waters, and ecosystem
9 preservation of the Ala Wai watershed and surrounding areas.

10 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the office of
11 planning for the purposes of this part.

12 PART III

13 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

14 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.



Report Title:

Hawaii State Planning Act; Sea Level Rise; Ala Wai Watershed;
Appropriation

Description:

Requires incorporation of sea level rise projections in all new plans and updates to existing state plans generated under the Hawaii State Planning Act. Appropriates funds for the facilitation of communications related to environmental protection, clean waters, and ecosystem preservation of the Ala Wai watershed and surrounding areas. (SD2 PROPOSED)

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