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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that climate change  
2 affects human health and well-being. Major public health  
3 organizations, including the United States Centers for Disease  
4 Control and Prevention, World Health Organization, and  
5 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, have reported that  
6 climate change is a critical public health problem.

7           Steps can be taken to lessen climate change and reduce its  
8 impacts on human health and the health of future generations.  
9 Some of these steps can yield simultaneous benefits for human  
10 health, society, the environment, and the economy. The federal  
11 government has also called for efforts to support climate change  
12 mitigation and adaptation to create healthier, more sustainable  
13 communities.

14           The legislature has authorized numerous mitigation  
15 activities, nearly all of which are focused on infrastructure  
16 changes to reduce carbon emissions or infrastructure resilience  
17 efforts to address sea level rise or potential severe weather



1 events. However, Hawaii will still feel the impacts of global  
2 climate change even if the State meets all of its United Nations  
3 Paris Agreement goals, because large political and economic  
4 entities, such as the United States, China, and European Union,  
5 continue to produce greenhouse gases at a scale and pace that  
6 risks run-away climate change.

7       The legislature further finds that, while investments in  
8 mitigation efforts relating to infrastructure are sound, few  
9 efforts have focused on adaptation specifically relating to  
10 human health. Climate change exacerbates many existing diseases  
11 and health conditions and may introduce pests and pathogens into  
12 new regions or communities. As the planet warms, oceans expand,  
13 the sea level rises, floods and droughts become more frequent  
14 and intense, and heat waves and hurricanes become more severe.  
15 These effects of climate change place vulnerable people,  
16 including children, the elderly, the poor, and those with  
17 underlying health conditions at increased risk for diseases and  
18 other health problems. These illnesses will begin to further  
19 stress the State's health care infrastructure, financial  
20 systems, and delivery systems.



1           Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish and  
2 appropriate funds for a climate change and human health  
3 adaptation coordinator within the department of health.

4           SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department  
5 of health a full-time climate change and human health adaptation  
6 coordinator to:

- 7           (1) Direct the coordination and implementation of  
8 adaptation goals, principles, and policies relating to  
9 the effects of climate change on human health; and  
10          (2) Define and implement state goals, objectives,  
11 policies, and priority guidelines relating to the  
12 effects of climate change on human health using  
13 sections 226-3 to 226-27 and 226-103 to 226-109 and  
14 chapter 225P, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as guiding  
15 principles.

16          (b) The climate change and human health adaptation  
17 coordinator shall facilitate the establishment of plans and  
18 policies on adaptation issues relating to human health. These  
19 shall include, at a minimum:

- 20          (1) Temperature-related death and illness;  
21          (2) Air quality impacts;



1 (3) Extreme weather events;

2 (4) Vector-borne diseases;

3 (5) Water-related illness;

4 (6) Food safety, nutrition, and distribution; and

5 (7) Mental health and well-being.

6 (c) The climate change and human health adaptation

7 coordinator shall collaborate with the office of planning and

8 other relevant state, county, and private entities to update the

9 Hawaii 2050 sustainability plan regarding climate change and

10 human health adaptation.

11 (d) The climate change and human health adaptation

12 coordinator shall be equivalent to a program specialist VI and

13 shall be selected by the director of health or the director's

14 designee.

15 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general

16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much

17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the

18 establishment of one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) permanent

19 climate change and human health adaptation coordinator position

20 and other operating expenses.



1           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
2 health for the purposes of this Act.

3           SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

DOH; Climate Change and Human Health Adaptation Coordinator;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes and appropriates funds for a Climate Change and  
Human Health Adaptation Coordinator within the Department of  
Health. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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