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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SEA LEVEL RISE.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii is already  
2 experiencing the impacts of climate change, including rising sea  
3 levels, extreme tides, accelerated coastal erosion, and stronger  
4 and more frequent storms. Even with decisive actions to reduce  
5 greenhouse gas emissions, many of the impacts of climate change  
6 are inescapable, and require that the population and environment  
7 adapt to them.

8           The Hawaii climate adaptation initiative was established in  
9 2014 with the purpose of protecting the State's economy, health,  
10 environment, and way of life by considering how to best adapt to  
11 and mitigate the impacts of climate change. Pursuant to section  
12 225P-3(n), Hawaii Revised Statutes, in December 2017, the Hawaii  
13 climate change mitigation and adaptation commission produced the  
14 first Hawaii sea level rise vulnerability and adaptation report.  
15 The report identified areas that are susceptible to sea level  
16 rise impacts and urged immediate preparations for a 3.2-foot  
17 increase in sea level by the mid to latter part of the century.



1 The report also made a number of recommendations to state and  
2 county agencies based on emerging good practices and designed to  
3 strengthen Hawaii's overall readiness to address sea level rise  
4 and climate change.

5 The purpose of this Act is to increase funding and direct  
6 the Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission  
7 to address impacted areas, to:

- 8 (1) Further address the impacts of sea level rise;
- 9 (2) Identify critical public infrastructure in impacted  
10 areas;
- 11 (3) Create a plan for mitigation and adaptation to sea  
12 level rise; and
- 13 (4) Provide policy direction to the legislature about how  
14 to proceed with fully-developed strategies.

15 SECTION 2. (a) The Hawaii climate change mitigation and  
16 adaptation commission shall:

- 17 (1) Bring resources to the various agencies and  
18 departments in the form of best practices;
- 19 (2) Provide to the applicable state agencies and  
20 departments guidance and a coordinating structure and  
21 timeframe within which to work;



1 (3) Work with partners to operationalize sea level rise  
2 exposure areas into county planning and permitting,  
3 and provide a status update in the commission's annual  
4 report to the governor and legislature pursuant to  
5 section 225P-3(k), Hawaii Revised Statutes; and

6 (4) Work to enhance, uniformize, and support the work of  
7 the state and county agencies in the development of  
8 sea level rise adaptation plans utilizing the sea  
9 level rise vulnerability and adaptation report.

10 (b) The Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation  
11 commission shall submit a report of its findings and  
12 recommendations to the legislature no later than twenty days  
13 prior to the convening of the regular session of 2022.

14 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
16 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for  
17 the purpose of funding the Hawaii climate change mitigation and  
18 adaptation commission to conduct its activities as required by  
19 section 2 of this Act.

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



1 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
 2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
 3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 to  
 4 fund the climate change mitigation and adaptation coordinator  
 5 position established by Act 32 Session Laws of Hawaii 2017.

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

8 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Department of Land and Natural Resources; Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission; Sea Level Rise; Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Coordinator; Appropriations

**Description:**

Requires the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission to further address and make recommendations regarding sea level rise. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

