

MAR 06 2020

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF PLANNING TO WORK WITH THE HAWAII
CLIMATE CHANGE AND ADAPTATION COMMISSION AND DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION TO CREATE A PLAN TO ADDRESS THE IMPACTS OF
SEA LEVEL RISE ON PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii is already experiencing the impacts of
2 climate change, including rising sea levels, extreme tides,
3 accelerated coastal erosion, and stronger, more frequent storms;
4 and

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6 WHEREAS, even with decisive actions to reduce greenhouse
7 gas emission, many of the impacts of climate change are
8 inescapable and must be addressed; and

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10 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Climate Adaptation Initiative Act was
11 enacted in 2014 with the purpose of protecting the State's
12 economy, health, environment, and lifestyle, by considering how
13 to best adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change; and

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15 WHEREAS, in December 2017, the Hawaii Climate Change and
16 Adaptation Commission produced the first Hawaii Sea Level Rise
17 Vulnerability and Adaptation Report; and

18
19 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and
20 Adaptation Report identified geographic areas that are
21 susceptible to the impacts of sea level rise and urged immediate
22 preparations for a 3.2-foot increase in the sea level by 2060;
23 and

24
25 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and
26 Adaptation Report identified potential impacts of a 3.2-foot sea
27 level rise to include the flooding of over 25,800 acres of land
28 in the State rendering it unusable and over six thousand five
29 hundred structures located near shorelines to be lost or
30 compromised; and

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1 WHEREAS, over thirty-eight miles of major roads across the
2 State would be chronically flooded according to the Report, and
3 many utilities such as water, wastewater, and electrical systems
4 often run parallel or underneath roadways; and

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6 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and
7 Adaptation Report also made a number of recommendations to state
8 and county agencies, based on emerging practices, designed to
9 strengthen Hawaii's overall readiness to face sea level rise and
10 climate change; now, therefore,

11
12 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
13 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, the House of
14 Representatives concurring, that the Office of Planning is
15 requested to work with the Hawaii Climate Change and Adaptation
16 Commission and Department of Transportation to create a plan to
17 address the impacts of sea level rise on the State's
18 transportation infrastructure; and

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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Planning is
21 requested to work with the Hawaii Climate Change and Adaptation
22 Commission and Department of Transportation to:

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- 24 (1) Address transportation infrastructure already impacted
25 by sea level rise, including but not limited to
26 highways, airports, and harbors;
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 - 28 (2) Identify other vulnerable associated public
29 infrastructure;
 - 30
 - 31 (3) Create a comprehensive management plan for mitigating
32 and adapting to sea level rise that includes:
 - 33
 - 34 (A) Potential highway realignments;
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 - 36 (B) Options for the Daniel K. Inouye Airport to
37 strengthen the existing airport against sea level
38 rise, including the possibility of purchasing
39 Wheeler Field and exchanging the existing airport
40 with Wheeler Field;
 - 41



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- 1 (C) Building another major harbor besides Honolulu
- 2 Harbor, on another island that is facing a
- 3 different direction; and
- 4
- 5 (D) Potential liability costs; and
- 6
- 7 (4) Provide policy recommendations to the Legislature on
- 8 how and what funding is needed to move forward with
- 9 concrete strategies to address the impacts of climate
- 10 change on the State; and
- 11

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Planning is
 13 requested to submit a report of its findings and
 14 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
 15 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
 16 the Regular Session of 2022; and

17
 18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 19 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the
 20 Office of Planning, Director of Transportation, and Chairperson
 21 of the Hawaii Climate Change and Adaptation Commission.

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OFFERED BY:

[Handwritten signatures and names]

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