
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO GLOBAL WARMING.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that global warming poses
2 a serious threat to the economic well-being, public health,
3 natural resources, and the environment of Hawaii. The potential
4 adverse effects of climate change include a rise in sea levels,
5 resulting in the displacement of businesses and residences and
6 the inundation of Hawaii's freshwater aquifers, damage to marine
7 ecosystems and the natural environment, extended drought and
8 loss of soil moisture, an increase in the spread of infectious
9 diseases, and an increase in the severity of storms and extreme
10 weather events.

11 On February 2, 2007, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate
12 Change, a body established by the United Nations, released its
13 fourth assessment of the predicted impacts of global climate
14 change. The panel predicted temperature rises of up to eleven
15 and a half degrees Fahrenheit by 2100 and a sea level rise of up
16 to twenty-three inches, with an additional 7.8 inches possible



1 if current melting of the ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica
2 continues.

3 Climate change will have detrimental effects on some of
4 Hawaii's largest industries, including tourism, agriculture,
5 recreational, commercial fishing, and forestry as well as
6 Hawaii's fragile and unique natural resources. Accordingly, we
7 need to be prepared to understand and respond to the effects of
8 climate change. While the legislature has taken actions to
9 address the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through the
10 passage of Act 234, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, strategies to
11 focus on adaptation need to be investigated and implemented.

12 SECTION 2. Climate change task force; objectives;
13 membership. (a) The climate change task force is established
14 within the office of planning, for administrative purposes only.
15 The task force shall have the following objectives:

16 (1) Assess the current and potential impacts of global
17 warming and climate change trends on the citizens,
18 natural resources, and the economy of the State,
19 including impacts on:

20 (A) The visitor industry;

21 (B) Intrastate and interstate air and sea

22 transportation of cargo and persons;



1 (C) Existing buildings and the public utilities
2 infrastructure;

3 (D) The health of the people of the State; and

4 (E) Native plants, animals, and ecosystems;

5 (2) Assess the potential impacts of rising ocean levels as
6 a result of climate change on the citizens, natural
7 resources, and the economy of the State, including
8 impacts on:

9 (A) The visitor industry;

10 (B) Shoreline erosion;

11 (C) Intrastate and interstate air and sea
12 transportation of cargo and persons;

13 (D) Existing buildings and the public utilities
14 infrastructure;

15 (E) The health of the people of the State; and

16 (F) Native plants, animals, and ecosystems;

17 (3) Estimate the costs to the State of the adverse effects
18 associated with climate change and rising sea levels;
19 and

20 (4) Make recommendations to the legislature and the
21 governor on measures that would address or mitigate



1 the near- and long-term effects of climate change,
2 including:

- 3 (A) Preventing shoreline erosion;
- 4 (B) Preserving the visitor industry;
- 5 (C) Relocating the transportation infrastructure,
6 such as airports and shipping terminals;
- 7 (D) Implementing restrictions on construction in
8 affected areas;
- 9 (E) Improving or hardening the public utilities
10 infrastructure;
- 11 (F) Preparing for health emergencies; and
- 12 (G) Maintaining the health and resilience of native
13 species and ecosystems.

14 (b) The climate change task force shall be comprised of
15 the following:

- 16 (1) The director of the office of planning or the
17 director's designee, who shall act as chairperson;
- 18 (2) The director of business, economic development, and
19 tourism or the director's designee;
- 20 (3) The deputy director of the department of health's
21 environmental health administration or the deputy
22 director's designee;



1 (4) Three members appointed by the president of the
2 senate, of whom one shall be from an environmental
3 organization;

4 (5) Three members appointed by the speaker of the house of
5 representatives, of whom one shall be from an
6 environmental organization; and

7 (6) Two members from the University of Hawaii at Manoa to
8 be appointed by the president of the University of
9 Hawaii as follows:

10 (A) One member from the climate change commission to
11 be nominated by members of the commission; and

12 (B) One member from the department of urban and
13 regional planning to be nominated the dean of the
14 college of social sciences.

15 Members of the task force shall be exempt from the
16 requirements of section 26-34, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and
17 serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for expenses
18 necessary for the performance of their duties, including travel
19 expenses.

20 (c) The task force shall:

21 (1) Submit a preliminary report of its findings and
22 recommendations, including any proposed legislation,



1 to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to
2 the convening of the regular session of 2010; and

3 (2) Submit a final report of its findings and
4 recommendations, including any proposed legislation,
5 to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to
6 the convening of the regular session of 2011.

7 (d) The office of planning shall provide any necessary
8 administrative, professional, technical, and clerical support
9 required by the task force.

10 (e) The task force shall cease to exist on June 30, 2011.

11 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the tourism
12 special fund the sum of \$100,000 or so much thereof as may be
13 necessary for fiscal year 2009-2010 and the same sum or so much
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2010-2011 for the
15 purposes of this Act.

16 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the office of
17 planning for the purposes of this Act.

18 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2010.



Report Title:

Climate Change Task Force

Description:

Establishes the climate change task force to assess the impacts of global warming and climate change trends in the State. (HD1)

