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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ENVIRONMENT.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that according to the  
2   *Hawaii Climate Change Action Plan*, published in November 1998 by  
3   the department of business, economic development, and tourism's  
4   energy, resources, and technology division and the department of  
5   health's clean air branch, major climate change effects expected  
6   for Hawaii include warmer temperatures; increases in heat-  
7   related deaths and illnesses; sea-level rise with resultant  
8   flooding, beach erosion, and damage to coastal property;  
9   increased vulnerability to storm damage; greater variance in  
10   water resources; undetermined effects on agriculture and  
11   forestry; and stresses on ecosystems.

12           The 1998 report is consistent with current climate science.  
13   According to recent findings by researchers at the University of  
14   Hawaii, global warming is evident in Hawaii. Air temperature  
15   has risen, rain intensity has increased while total rainfall has  
16   decreased, stream flows have decreased, sea level and sea  
17   surface temperatures have increased, and the ocean is becoming  
18   more acidic. Because these trends are likely to continue and



1 scientists anticipate growing impacts to Hawaii's water  
2 resources and forests, coastal communities, and marine ecology,  
3 it is timely to consider adaptation and mitigation strategies.  
4 There is a significant and compelling need for sustained and  
5 enhanced climate monitoring and assessment activities as well as  
6 focused research to produce models of future climate changes and  
7 impacts.

8 Hawaii's existing climate change policy focuses primarily  
9 on mitigation through the reduction of greenhouse gases. Act  
10 234, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, established the State's policy  
11 framework and requirements to address Hawaii's greenhouse gas  
12 emissions, recognizing the potential adverse effects of global  
13 climate change to Hawaii's economy, public health, natural  
14 resources, and environment. The focus and general purpose of  
15 Act 234 was to achieve cost-effective greenhouse gas emissions  
16 reductions at or below Hawaii's greenhouse gas emissions  
17 estimates of 1990 by January 1, 2020. Subsequently, the  
18 legislature passed Act 73, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010. Act 73  
19 established the barrel tax, which also addresses issues relating  
20 to the effects of climate change. The purpose of Act 73 was to  
21 help ensure Hawaii's energy and food self-sufficiency and to  
22 plan for and implement measures to help Hawaii's natural



1 resources and population adapt and be resilient to the  
2 inevitable challenges brought on by climate change caused by  
3 carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions from burning  
4 fossil fuels.

5       However, even if greenhouse gases emissions are reduced to  
6 1990 levels, global climate change will still significantly  
7 impact Hawaii well into the future. Therefore, this Act focuses  
8 on preparing for and adapting to the anticipated impacts of  
9 climate change. The purpose of this Act is to encourage  
10 collaboration and cooperation among county, state, and federal  
11 agencies, policy makers, businesses, and other community  
12 partners to plan for the impacts of climate change and avoid,  
13 minimize, or mitigate loss of life, land, and property of future  
14 generations.

15       In the course of implementing the legislatively mandated  
16 ocean resources management plan, the multi-stakeholder ocean  
17 resources management plan policy group and working group  
18 recognized a need for policy guidance to frame and effectuate a  
19 coordinated effort to adapt to the expected impacts of climate  
20 change. The ocean resources management plan working group  
21 partnered with the center for island climate adaptation and  
22 policy at the University of Hawaii to develop *A Framework for*



1 *Climate Change Adaptation in Hawaii*, in November 2009. The  
2 desired outcome of the process outlined in the *Framework* is for  
3 Hawaii to adapt successfully to the impacts of climate change.

4 In August 2011, the ocean resources management plan policy  
5 group and working group along with other stakeholders from  
6 academia, business, and native Hawaiian communities, met for a  
7 two-day intensive workshop to implement the first steps of the  
8 *Framework*, including the development of an effective measure of  
9 Hawaii's adaptation to the impacts of climate change. The  
10 results of the workshop and input from the broader community are  
11 the foundation of this Act.

12 This Act amends the Hawaii State Planning Act, chapter 226,  
13 Hawaii Revised Statutes, by adding a climate change adaptation  
14 priority guideline to part III. Priority guidelines focus state  
15 and county resources on major areas of statewide concern that  
16 merit priority attention to improve the quality of life for  
17 Hawaii's present and future population through the pursuit of  
18 desirable courses of action. The priority guideline codified by  
19 this Act will serve as a guiding policy for adapting to the  
20 expected impacts of climate change through the existing  
21 implementation provisions of the Hawaii State Planning Act,  
22 which include guiding all major state and county activities,



1 programs, budgetary, land use and other decision making  
2 processes, and county general plans and development plans,  
3 pursuant to part II of the Hawaii State Planning Act.

4 SECTION 2. Chapter 226, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
5 amended by adding a new section to part III to be appropriately  
6 designated and to read as follows:

7 "§226- Climate change adaptation priority guidelines.

8 (a) Priority guidelines to prepare the State to address the  
9 impacts of climate change, including impacts to agriculture;  
10 conservation lands; coastal and near shore marine areas; natural  
11 and cultural resources; education; energy; higher education;  
12 health; historic preservation; water resources; built  
13 environment such as housing, recreation, and transportation; and  
14 the economy:

15 (1) Ensure that Hawaii's people are educated, informed,  
16 and aware of the impacts climate change may have on  
17 Hawaii's communities;

18 (2) Encourage community stewardship groups and local  
19 stakeholders to participate in planning and  
20 implementation of climate change policies;



- 1       (3) Invest in continued monitoring and research of  
2       Hawaii's climate and the impacts of climate change on  
3       the State;
- 4       (4) Consider native Hawaiian traditional knowledge and  
5       practices in planning for the impacts of climate  
6       change;
- 7       (5) Encourage the preservation and restoration of natural  
8       landscape features, including coral reefs, beaches and  
9       dunes, forests, streams, floodplains, and wetlands  
10       that have the inherent capacity to avoid, minimize, or  
11       mitigate the impacts of climate change;
- 12       (6) Explore adaptation strategies that moderate harm or  
13       exploit beneficial opportunities in response to actual  
14       or expected climate change impacts to the natural and  
15       built environments;
- 16       (7) Promote sector resilience in areas such as water,  
17       roads, airports, and public health by encouraging the  
18       identification of climate change threats, assessment  
19       of potential consequences, and evaluation of  
20       adaptation options;
- 21       (8) Foster cross-jurisdictional collaboration among  
22       county, state, and federal agencies and partnerships



- 1           among government and private entities including  
2           nonprofit entities;
- 3           (9) Use management and implementation approaches that  
4           encourage the continual collection, evaluation, and  
5           integration of new information and strategies into new  
6           and existing practices, policies, and plans; and
- 7           (10) Encourage planning and management of the natural and  
8           built environments to effectively integrate climate  
9           change policy."

10           SECTION 3. Section 226-102, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
11 amended to read as follows:

12           "**§226-102 Overall direction.** The State shall strive to  
13 improve the quality of life for Hawaii's present and future  
14 population through the pursuit of desirable courses of action in  
15 [~~six~~] seven major areas of statewide concern which merit  
16 priority attention: economic development, population growth and  
17 land resource management, affordable housing, crime and criminal  
18 justice, quality education, [~~and~~] principles of  
19 sustainability[-], and climate change adaptation."

20           SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
21 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



**Report Title:**

Hawaii State Planning Act; Priority Guidelines; Climate Change

**Description:**

Amends the Hawaii State Planning Act to include climate change adaptation priority guidelines. (HB2483 HD1)

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

