

---

---

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Pacific islands  
2 region is experiencing dangerous climate change. Currently, the  
3 most vulnerable areas include human and natural communities in  
4 low islands, nearshore and coastal areas, and coral reefs. Some  
5 of the most imminent and alarming concerns include:

6           (1) Freshwater supplies that will be more limited on many  
7 Pacific islands as the quantity and quality of water  
8 in aquifers and surface catchments change in response  
9 to warmer, drier conditions coupled with increased  
10 occurrences of saltwater intrusion;

11           (2) Rising sea levels that will increase the likelihood of  
12 coastal flooding and erosion, damaging coastal  
13 infrastructure and agriculture, negatively impacting  
14 tourism, reducing habitat for endangered species, and  
15 threatening shallow reef systems; and

16           (3) Higher sea-surface temperatures that will increase  
17 coral bleaching, leading to a change in coral species



1 composition, coral disease, coral death, and habitat  
2 loss.

3 The legislature also finds that some of these changes to  
4 the environment are now unavoidable and require some degree of  
5 planning and adaptation. However, some of these changes can  
6 still be greatly mitigated, if not prevented altogether, but it  
7 requires innovation, collaboration, and hard work. A  
8 comprehensive evaluation of the effectiveness of alternative  
9 adaptation strategies is needed to refine planning and  
10 management decisions.

11 The purpose of this Act is to require the lieutenant  
12 governor to convene and chair a climate change roundtable to  
13 enhance the State's resilience to the myriad changes already  
14 occurring and those yet to come.

15 SECTION 2. Section 26-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
16 amended by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

17 "(d) In addition to the functions and duties provided by  
18 law, the lieutenant governor shall [~~assume~~]:

- 19 (1) Assume administrative responsibility for the office of  
20 information practices[-]; and  
21 (2) Convene and chair a climate change roundtable."



# H.B. NO. 460

1 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

4

INTRODUCED BY:

*Garthie Yvelin*

JAN 18 2013



# H.B. NO. 460

**Report Title:**

Office of the Lieutenant Governor; Climate Change Roundtable

**Description:**

Requires the Lieutenant Governor to convene and chair a climate change roundtable.

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

