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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE STATE AND THE COUNTIES TO IMPLEMENT THE  
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE HAWAII SEA LEVEL RISE VULNERABILITY  
AND ADAPTATION REPORT.

1 WHEREAS, climate change and sea level rise are not only  
2 real phenomena, but are also two of the most preeminent  
3 challenges of the twenty-first century and are pivotal issues  
4 for the State; and

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6 WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has  
7 projected up to 3.2 feet of global sea level rise by the end of  
8 this century under the "business as usual" greenhouse gas  
9 emissions scenario; and

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11 WHEREAS, recognizing that shorelines are one of the State's  
12 most dynamic and important cultural and economic resources, the  
13 Legislature in 2017 created the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation  
14 and Adaptation Commission (Commission) and tasked the  
15 commission, as a first step, to focus on sea level rise and  
16 develop a report identifying vulnerabilities and recommending  
17 adaptations; and

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19 WHEREAS, the Commission submitted the Hawaii Sea Level Rise  
20 Vulnerability and Adaptation Report in December 2017, which  
21 identified, at tax map key detail, areas that are susceptible to  
22 sea level rise impacts based on the 3.2 feet of sea level rise  
23 projected by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; and

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25 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and  
26 Adaptation Report also made a number of recommendations to state  
27 and county agencies based on emerging good practices to  
28 strengthen Hawaii's overall readiness to confront sea level  
29 rise; and

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31 WHEREAS, specifically, the Hawaii Sea Level Rise  
32 Vulnerability and Adaptation Report recommended that each state



1 or county department or agency review their existing policies  
2 and regulatory frameworks in light of expected sea level rise,  
3 including each department or agency's planned future capital  
4 improvement projects; and  
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6 WHEREAS, the Commission also recommended that state and  
7 county departments and agencies review approval processes for  
8 new developments in areas susceptible to sea level rise; update  
9 design standards to limit urban growth and increase flood  
10 resiliency; develop guidance to help developers cope with  
11 climate change; encourage the purchase of flood insurance;  
12 incorporate sea level rise into hazard mitigation planning;  
13 develop pre-disaster recovery frameworks; prioritize the  
14 preservation of coral reefs; inventory and assess the  
15 vulnerability of critical infrastructure; develop a financing  
16 strategy to deal with the expected costs of sea level rise; and  
17 explore potential public-private partnerships as a way to  
18 preserve coastal resources; and  
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20 WHEREAS, to protect and preserve beaches, one of the  
21 State's most important cultural and economic resources, the  
22 State was requested to develop and administer a "willing seller"  
23 program to move development away from important beaches  
24 endangered by sea level rise and erosion; and  
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26 WHEREAS, the Commission further recommended that the  
27 counties integrate projected sea level rise into flood  
28 standards, flood maps, and building codes; and conduct market  
29 studies and detailed redevelopment strategies for areas  
30 identified as priority areas for smart redevelopment as part of  
31 a managed retreat strategy; and  
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33 WHEREAS, the Office of Planning was requested to integrate  
34 sea level rise adaptation guidelines into state planning,  
35 prioritize development outside of areas vulnerable to sea level  
36 rise, and inventory lands outside of these vulnerable areas that  
37 could be used for smart redevelopment as part of a managed  
38 retreat strategy; and  
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40 WHEREAS, the Commission recommended that the Land Use  
41 Commission develop a policy addressing managed retreat from  
42 areas threatened by sea level rise onto other lands, including



1 lands that may currently be zoned for agriculture or  
2 conservation; and

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4 WHEREAS, the Office of Environmental Quality Control was  
5 requested to develop and issue guidance explaining how sea level  
6 rise and climate change should be addressed within environmental  
7 assessments and environmental impact statements; and

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9 WHEREAS, the State Historic Preservation Division, in  
10 consultation with other agencies and private organizations, was  
11 requested to inventory traditional and customary native Hawaiian  
12 cultural resources and practices that would be adversely  
13 impacted by sea level rise, and develop adaptation processes and  
14 protocols to mitigate these impacts; and

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16 WHEREAS, the Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands was  
17 requested to conduct a statewide assessment of beaches that are  
18 important for recreational uses, cultural practices, and  
19 wildlife habitats, and identify which beaches could benefit from  
20 special adaptation measures, including the preservation of  
21 undeveloped lands, managed retreat, and prohibition of coastal  
22 armoring; and

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24 WHEREAS, the Commission recommended that the Department of  
25 Hawaiian Home Lands, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and the Aha  
26 Moku Councils work with native Hawaiian communities to develop  
27 an adaptation plan to preserve access to coastal lands and  
28 waters impacted by sea level rise; and

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30 WHEREAS, the Department of Health was requested to conduct  
31 a sea level rise mitigation review to identify sites or  
32 geographic areas with the highest probabilities of large or  
33 catastrophic failures or releases, including releases of  
34 hazardous material or waste, associated with increased coastal  
35 flooding due to sea level rise; and

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37 WHEREAS, the Department of Health was also requested to  
38 review its existing environmental regulations, guidance  
39 documents, and practices to ensure that its practices take into  
40 account the effects of rising sea levels; and

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1           WHEREAS, the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and  
2 Adaptation Commission also recommended that its own role be  
3 expanded to include expanded coordination of sea level rise  
4 adaptation; community engagement; and the development of up-to-  
5 date information that state and county agencies may use to make  
6 policy decisions; and  
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8           WHEREAS, the Mayor of the County of Maui recently signed a  
9 proclamation accepting the Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and  
10 Adaptation Report, becoming the first county in the State to  
11 formally accept the findings of the report; and  
12

13           WHEREAS, the proclamation acknowledged that climate change  
14 is real and directed Maui County departments to "use the report  
15 in their plans, programs and capital improvement decisions, to  
16 mitigate impacts to infrastructure and critical facilities  
17 triggered by sea level rise;" and  
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19           WHEREAS, the Mayor of the County of Maui also called on the  
20 Maui County Planning Department to propose rule changes to the  
21 Maui, Molokai, and Lanai Planning Commissions to include sea  
22 level rise in their shoreline setback calculations; and  
23

24           WHEREAS, mitigating the effects of climate change and sea  
25 level rise will require a managed approach involving all state  
26 and county agencies to do their part to ensure the resiliency of  
27 our islands; and  
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29           WHEREAS, the Legislature believes that other public  
30 entities of the State should be encouraged to follow the County  
31 of Maui's lead; now, therefore,  
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33           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
34 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
35 of 2018, the Senate concurring, that the State, the counties,  
36 and each of their agencies is requested to implement the  
37 recommendations of the Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and  
38 Adaptation Report; and  
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40           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Planning, Land  
41 Use Commission, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Office  
42 of Hawaiian Affairs, Department of Health, and Hawaii Climate



1 Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission are each requested  
2 to effectuate the specific actions requested by the Hawaii Sea  
3 Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report; and  
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of the Governor is  
6 requested to submit a report on the progress of executive  
7 agencies in implementing the recommendations of the Hawaii Sea  
8 Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report, including any  
9 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty  
10 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2019; and  
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
13 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; the Mayor  
14 of each county; the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the  
15 Office of Hawaiian Affairs; the Chairperson of the Board of Land  
16 and Natural Resources; the Director of Business, Economic  
17 Development, and Tourism; the Director of Health; the Director  
18 of the Office of Planning; and the Co-Chairpersons of the Hawaii  
19 Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission.  
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OFFERED BY: 

MAR 09 2018

