
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 climate change is a
2 major threat to Hawaii. Act 32, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017,
3 states that, "not only is climate change real, but it is the
4 overriding challenge of the 21st century and . . . poses
5 immediate and long-term threats to the State's economy,
6 sustainability, security, and way of life". Article XI,
7 section 1 of the Hawaii State Constitution requires the State
8 and its political divisions to "conserve and protect Hawaii's
9 natural beauty and all natural resources" for future
10 generations. The Paris Climate Agreement states, "all Parties
11 are to undertake and communicate ambitious efforts".

12 The purpose of this Act is to require climate vulnerability
13 assessments for permit applications filed on or after January 1,
14 2020, to construct, modify, relocate, or operate any regulated
15 air pollutant source, in order to further the State's commitment
16 to the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 342B, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to part III to be appropriately
3 designated and to read as follows:

4 "§342B- Climate vulnerability assessments. (a) An
5 application for a permit required pursuant to this chapter that
6 is filed after December 31, 2019, shall include a climate
7 vulnerability assessment. The department shall adopt rules
8 pursuant to chapter 91 necessary to implement this section,
9 which may include exemptions for projects.

10 (b) For the purposes of this section:

11 "Climate vulnerability assessment" means a project analysis
12 that includes a life cycle analysis of the project's gross and
13 net carbon emissions, the vulnerability of the project to
14 climate-related disasters, and possible mitigations and
15 alternatives.

16 "Project" means any planned building, transportation, or
17 land use change by any public or private entity that may
18 generate significant greenhouse gas emissions in its
19 construction or operation phase."

20 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2025.

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Report Title:

Climate Change; Greenhouse Gas Emissions; Climate Vulnerability Assessments; Paris Climate Agreement

Description:

Requires climate vulnerability assessments for permit applications filed after December 31, 2019, to construct, modify, relocate, or operate any regulated air pollutant source. Takes effect 1/1/2025. (SD1)

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