

JAN 24 2018

---

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

---

RELATING TO GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.

**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, ranging from a disruption in rainfall  
3 patterns creating periods of drought and heavy rain to an  
4 increase in sea levels that would put many beaches underwater.  
5 About one-third of greenhouse gas emissions in Hawaii come from  
6 aviation and marine transportation, much of which is driven by  
7 visitors. The relationship between the tourism industry and  
8 climate change is poorly understood. As a state, Hawaii  
9 effectively has no control over national and international  
10 flights and marine travel. However, Hawaii can influence the  
11 inbound and outbound travel to and from the State through laws  
12 and regulations that affect the tourism industry. Thus, even  
13 though the tourism industry advocates for a sustainable growth  
14 in the number of tourists visiting Hawaii, this may exacerbate  
15 climate change and have a net negative effect on the State,  
16 making it necessary for the legislature to step in and regulate  
17 tourism.



# S.B. NO. 2977

1       The purpose of this Act is to broaden the State's  
2       commitment to combat climate change by calling for the Hawaii  
3       climate change mitigation and adaptation commission to assess  
4       the role the tourism industry has on climate change.

5       SECTION 2. Section 225P-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
6       amended to read as follows:

7       "**§225P-3 Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation**  
8       **commission; general functions, duties, and powers.** (a) There  
9       is established the Hawaii climate change mitigation and  
10       adaptation commission that shall be placed within the department  
11       of land and natural resources for administrative purposes only.

12       (b) Coordination of the commission shall be headed jointly  
13       by the chairperson of the board of land and natural resources,  
14       or the chairperson's designee, and the director of the office of  
15       planning, or the director's designee.

16       (c) The commission shall include the following members:

17       (1) The chairs of the standing committees of the  
18       legislature with subject matter jurisdiction  
19       encompassing environmental protection and land use;



(2) The chairperson of the board of land and natural resources or the chairperson's designee, who shall be the co-chair of the commission;

(3) The director of the office of planning or the director's designee, who shall be the co-chair of the commission;

(4) The director of business, economic development, and tourism or the director's designee;

(5) The chairperson of the board of directors of the Hawaii tourism authority or the chairperson's designee;

(6) The chairperson of the board of agriculture or the chairperson's designee;

(7) The chief executive officer of the office of Hawaiian affairs or the officer's designee;

(8) The chairperson of the Hawaiian homes commission or the chairperson's designee;

(9) The director of transportation or the director's designee;

(10) The director of health or the director's designee;



(11) The adjutant general or the adjutant general's designee;

(12) The chairperson of the board of education or the chairperson's designee;

(13) The directors of each of the county planning departments, or the directors' designees; and

(14) The manager of the coastal zone management program.

(d) In addition to the members listed in subsection (c), the chairs of the commission may request the participation or input of members of the public; experts in the field; and county, state, or federal officials or others as necessary.

(e) The members of the commission shall serve without pay but shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses, including travel expenses, incurred in carrying out their duties.

(f) The commission shall provide policy direction, facilitation, coordination, and planning among state and county agencies, federal agencies, and other partners as appropriate.

(g) The commission shall establish climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies and goals to help guide planning and implementation statewide using the latest



1 scientific analysis and risk assessment to monitor and forecast  
2 climate change related impacts at the regional, state, and local  
3 level, including any additional information deemed necessary.

4 (h) The commission shall identify vulnerable people,  
5 communities, industries, ecosystems, and the potential economic  
6 ramifications for climate change related impacts.

7 (i) The commission shall identify existing climate change  
8 mitigation and adaptation efforts at the federal, state, and  
9 local levels and make recommendations for how to meet or exceed  
10 Hawaii's state mitigation goals and shall adopt a liberal  
11 approach in preparation, so as to minimize future risk to the  
12 people and environment of Hawaii.

13 (j) The commission shall assess the capacity and  
14 availability of existing resources and identify new sources of  
15 revenue necessary to address climate change mitigation and  
16 adaptation and shall advise the governor, legislature, and  
17 counties on the economic and budgetary ramifications of climate  
18 change impacts, mitigation, and adaptation.

19 (k) The commission shall identify the information  
20 necessary to track progress in implementing climate change  
21 mitigation and adaptation efforts and shall submit an annual



1 report to the governor and legislature no later than twenty days  
2 prior to the convening of each regular session of the  
3 legislature.

4 (1) The commission shall maintain a website that includes  
5 a mission statement as well as access to climate change related  
6 actions, plans, policies, and results.

7 (m) The commission shall conduct a comprehensive review of  
8 the implementation as required by this section and submit a  
9 report to the governor, legislature, and the counties no later  
10 than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session  
11 of 2023 and every five years thereafter.

12 (n) The commission shall, as a first step, focus on and  
13 develop sea level rise vulnerability and adaptation reports that  
14 shall include:

15 (1) Identification of the major areas of sea level rise  
16 impacts affecting the State and counties through 2050;

17 (2) Identification of expected impacts of sea level rise  
18 based on the latest scientific research for each area  
19 through 2050;

20 (3) Identification of the economic ramifications of sea  
21 level rise;



(4) Identification of applicable federal laws, policies, or programs that impact affected areas; and

(5) Recommendations for planning, management, and adaptation for hazards associated with increasing sea level rise.

The reports shall be made publicly available no later than December 31, 2017, and the commission shall reevaluate and update the sea level rise vulnerability and adaptation report every five years.

(o) The commission shall develop reports assessing the impact of the tourism industry on climate change that shall include:

(1) Analyses of the types and amounts of greenhouse gas emissions associated with the Hawaii tourism industry, including emissions related to aviation and marine transportation; and

(2) Identification of methods to decrease, mitigate, or offset the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the tourism industry.



13

INTRODUCED BY: R. E. R.

Hal Mend Alma Tull  
Doc Smith-Agnew Will Gyo  
Alma de Boker Anna Mercedes K.  
Spelling Lorraine R. Snowye  
Clarence K. Smith Breene Hunt  
Stacy R. O. O. J.



# S.B. NO. 2977

**Report Title:**

Climate Change; Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission; Tourism

**Description:**

Instructs the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission to assess the effects of tourism on climate change and publish a report on its findings.

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

