

MAR 09 2018

SENATE 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
33 or county department or agency review their existing policies
34 and regulatory frameworks in light of expected sea level rise,



1 including each department or agency's planned future capital
2 improvement projects; and
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4 WHEREAS, the Commission also recommended that state and
5 county departments and agencies review approval processes for
6 new developments in areas susceptible to sea level rise; update
7 design standards to limit urban growth and increase flood
8 resiliency; develop guidance to help developers cope with
9 climate change; encourage the purchase of flood insurance;
10 incorporate sea level rise into hazard mitigation planning;
11 develop pre-disaster recovery frameworks; prioritize the
12 preservation of coral reefs; inventory and assess the
13 vulnerability of critical infrastructure; develop a financing
14 strategy to deal with the expected costs of sea level rise; and
15 explore potential public-private partnerships as a way to
16 preserve coastal resources; and
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18 WHEREAS, to protect and preserve beaches, one of the
19 State's most important cultural and economic resources, the
20 State was requested to develop and administer a "willing seller"
21 program to move development away from important beaches
22 endangered by sea level rise and erosion; and
23

24 WHEREAS, the Commission further recommended that the
25 counties integrate projected sea level rise into flood
26 standards, flood maps, and building codes; and conduct market
27 studies and detailed redevelopment strategies for areas
28 identified as priority areas for smart redevelopment as part of
29 a managed retreat strategy; and
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31 WHEREAS, the Office of Planning was requested to integrate
32 sea level rise adaptation guidelines into state planning,
33 prioritize development outside of areas vulnerable to sea level
34 rise, and inventory lands outside of these vulnerable areas that
35 could be used for smart redevelopment as part of a managed
36 retreat strategy; and
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38 WHEREAS, the Commission recommended that the Land Use
39 Commission develop a policy addressing managed retreat from
40 areas threatened by sea level rise onto other lands, including
41 lands that may currently be zoned for agriculture or
42 conservation; and



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2 WHEREAS, the Office of Environmental Quality Control was
3 requested to develop and issue guidance explaining how sea level
4 rise and climate change should be addressed within environmental
5 assessments and environmental impact statements; and
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7 WHEREAS, the State Historic Preservation Division, in
8 consultation with other agencies and private organizations, was
9 requested to inventory traditional and customary native Hawaiian
10 cultural resources and practices that would be adversely
11 impacted by sea level rise, and develop adaptation processes and
12 protocols to mitigate these impacts; and
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14 WHEREAS, the Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands was
15 requested to conduct a statewide assessment of beaches that are
16 important for recreational uses, cultural practices, and
17 wildlife habitats, and identify which beaches could benefit from
18 special adaptation measures, including the preservation of
19 undeveloped lands, managed retreat, and prohibition of coastal
20 armoring; and
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22 WHEREAS, the Commission recommended that the Department of
23 Hawaiian Home Lands, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and the Aha
24 Moku Councils work with native Hawaiian communities to develop
25 an adaptation plan to preserve access to coastal lands and
26 waters impacted by sea level rise; and
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28 WHEREAS, the Department of Health was requested to conduct
29 a sea level rise mitigation review to identify sites or
30 geographic areas with the highest probabilities of large or
31 catastrophic failures or releases, including releases of
32 hazardous material or waste, associated with increased coastal
33 flooding due to sea level rise; and
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35 WHEREAS, the Department of Health was also requested to
36 review its existing environmental regulations, guidance
37 documents, and practices to ensure that its practices take into
38 account the effects of rising sea levels; and
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40 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and
41 Adaptation Commission also recommended that its own role be
42 expanded to include expanded coordination of sea level rise



1 adaptation; community engagement; and the development of up-to-
2 date information that state and county agencies may use to make
3 policy decisions; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Mayor of the County of Maui recently signed a
6 proclamation accepting the Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and
7 Adaptation Report, becoming the first county in the State to
8 formally accept the findings of the report; and
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10 WHEREAS, the proclamation acknowledged that climate change
11 is real and directed Maui County departments to "use the report
12 in their plans, programs and capital improvement decisions, to
13 mitigate impacts to infrastructure and critical facilities
14 triggered by sea level rise;" and
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16 WHEREAS, the Mayor of the County of Maui also called on the
17 Maui County Planning Department to propose rule changes to the
18 Maui, Molokai, and Lanai Planning Commissions to include sea
19 level rise in their shoreline setback calculations; and
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21 WHEREAS, mitigating the effects of climate change and sea
22 level rise will require a managed approach involving all state
23 and county agencies to do their part to ensure the resiliency of
24 our islands; and
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26 WHEREAS, the Legislature believes that other public
27 entities of the State should be encouraged to follow the County
28 of Maui's lead; now, therefore,
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30 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
31 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018,
32 that the State, the counties, and each of their agencies is
33 requested to implement the recommendations of the Hawaii Sea
34 Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report; and
35

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