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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE OFFICE OF PLANNING, IN COORDINATION WITH EACH EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, IDENTIFY DEPARTMENTAL FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE THAT MAY BE VULNERABLE TO FLOODING AND OTHER IMPACTS OF SEA LEVEL RISE AND ASSESS OPTIONS FOR MITIGATING THE EFFECTS OF SEA LEVEL RISE ON THOSE FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE.

1           WHEREAS, climate change and sea level rise pose  
2 significant, dangerous, and imminent threats to public safety  
3 and the State's social and economic wellbeing, natural resources  
4 and environments, cultural resources, property, infrastructure,  
5 and governmental functions; and

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7           WHEREAS, low-income and otherwise vulnerable communities  
8 will likely be disproportionately impacted by climate change and  
9 sea level rise; and

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11           WHEREAS, due to climate change, the chronic impacts of sea  
12 level rise, including coastal erosion, high tide flooding, and  
13 annual high wave flooding, are already impacting many low-lying  
14 coastal areas, and are predicted to increase in frequency and  
15 severity in the coming decades; and

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17           WHEREAS, climate change and sea level rise will exacerbate  
18 the impacts of disaster events, including hurricanes, tsunamis,  
19 and other extreme rainfall and high-wave events; and

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21           WHEREAS, in a 2017 report, the United States National  
22 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration projected that 3.2 feet  
23 of global mean sea level rise will occur by 2100 in an  
24 "intermediate" scenario and could occur as early as the 2060's  
25 in an "extreme" scenario; and

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27           WHEREAS, the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and  
28 Adaptation Commission's Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and



1 Adaptation Report, the University of Hawaii's Pacific Islands  
2 Ocean Observing System, and the Office of Planning's Hawaii  
3 statewide GIS program all provide relevant and best-available  
4 scientific assessment data showing the predicted effects to the  
5 State's coastal areas of exposure to sea level rise; and  
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7 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii Hazard Mitigation Plan  
8 provides an expanded assessment of the natural hazards and  
9 potential impacts of disaster events related to climate change  
10 and sea level rise; and  
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12 WHEREAS, both the Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and  
13 Adaptation Report and State of Hawaii Hazard Mitigation Plan are  
14 consistent with the latest and best available sea level rise  
15 projections, including the United States National Oceanic and  
16 Atmospheric Administration's 2017 report, and serve as key  
17 references for the State in assessing vulnerabilities and  
18 developing actions to improve resilience to the impacts of sea  
19 level rise and extreme climate events; now, therefore,  
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21 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
22 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the  
23 House of Representatives concurring, that the Office of  
24 Planning, in coordination with each executive department, is  
25 requested to:  
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27 (1) Identify existing and planned departmental facilities,  
28 including critical infrastructure facilities, that are  
29 vulnerable to flooding and other impacts of sea level  
30 rise using relevant natural hazard data and  
31 projections and map data from the most recent versions  
32 of, or updates to, the Hawaii Sea Level Rise  
33 Vulnerability and Adaptation Report and State of  
34 Hawaii Hazard Mitigation Plan to make these  
35 identifications; and  
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37 (2) Assess options for mitigating the impacts of sea level  
38 rise to existing and planned departmental facilities  
39 and infrastructure, including flood-proofing and  
40 relocating the facilities and infrastructure,  
41 especially those facilities and infrastructure located  
42 in areas in which the conservation of beaches and



1 coastal environments is desired; provided that the  
2 Office of Planning is also requested to:

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4 (A) Coordinate resiliency actions with the  
5 appropriate county and federal agencies, affected  
6 communities, and the private sector; and  
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8 (B) Include in the Office of Planning's planning and  
9 investment decisions consideration of sea level  
10 rise adaptation and flooding and disaster  
11 resilience; identify and consider potential risks  
12 created by climate change; and employ full life-  
13 cycle cost accounting to evaluate and compare  
14 facility investments and alternatives; provided  
15 that:

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17 (i) Priority should be given to nature-based  
18 disaster resilience, climate change  
19 adaptation solutions, and actions that  
20 enhance disaster resilience and climate  
21 change adaptation efforts; and  
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23 (ii) Actions taken should protect the State's  
24 most vulnerable populations; and  
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Planning is  
27 requested to submit a report to the Governor, Legislature, and  
28 Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission no  
29 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular  
30 Session of 2023; and  
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report is requested to  
33 include vulnerability and adaptation assessments for each  
34 department's facilities and updates on each department's  
35 progress in implementing the Office of Planning's plans,  
36 programs, and capital improvement decisions regarding sea level  
37 rise and disaster resiliency; and  
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Planning may  
40 designate employees of that department who possess relevant  
41 expertise to be responsible for engaging in capacity-building  
42 efforts within the department and collaborating with the Hawaii



1 Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission to improve  
2 interagency coordination for sea level rise adaptation and  
3 flooding and disaster resilience; and  
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
6 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor;  
7 Comptroller; Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture; Attorney  
8 General; Director of Finance; Director of Business, Economic  
9 Development, and Tourism; Director of Commerce and Consumer  
10 Affairs; Adjutant General; Chairperson of the Board of  
11 Education; Superintendent of Education; Chairperson of the  
12 Hawaiian Homes Commission; Director of Health; Director of Human  
13 Resources Development; Director of Human Services; Director of  
14 Labor and Industrial Relations; Chairperson of the Board of Land  
15 and Natural Resources; Director of Public Safety; Director of  
16 Taxation; Director of Transportation; Director of the Office of  
17 Planning; and Co-Chairpersons of the Hawaii Climate Change  
18 Mitigation and Adaptation Commission.

