

JAN 22 2021

---

---

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SEA LEVEL RISE ADAPTATION.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that climate change and  
2 sea level rise pose significant, dangerous, and imminent threats  
3 to public safety and the State's social and economic wellbeing,  
4 natural resources and environments, cultural resources,  
5 property, infrastructure, and governmental functions. The  
6 legislature further finds that low-income and otherwise  
7 vulnerable communities will likely be disproportionately  
8 impacted by climate change and sea level rise.

9           The legislature recognizes that due to climate change, the  
10 chronic impacts of sea level rise, including coastal erosion,  
11 high tide flooding, and annual high wave flooding, are already  
12 impacting many low-lying coastal areas, and are predicted to  
13 increase in frequency and severity in the coming decades.  
14 Additionally, climate change and sea level rise will exacerbate  
15 the impacts of disaster events including hurricanes, tsunamis,  
16 and other extreme rainfall and high-wave events.



1           The legislature also finds that, in a 2017 report, the  
2 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration projected that  
3 3.2 feet of global mean sea level rise will occur by 2100 in an  
4 "intermediate" scenario and could occur as early as the 2060s in  
5 an "extreme" scenario. Further, the Hawaii climate change  
6 mitigation and adaptation commission's Hawaii sea level rise  
7 vulnerability and adaptation report, the university of Hawaii's  
8 pacific islands ocean observing system, and the office of  
9 planning's Hawaii statewide GIS program all provide relevant and  
10 best-available scientific assessment data showing the predicted  
11 effects to the State's coastal areas of exposure to sea level  
12 rise. Additionally, the State of Hawaii hazard mitigation plan  
13 provides an expanded assessment of the natural hazards and  
14 potential impacts of disaster events related to climate change  
15 and sea level rise. Both the Hawaii sea level rise  
16 vulnerability and adaptation report and State of Hawaii hazard  
17 mitigation plan are consistent with the latest and best  
18 available sea level rise projections, including the National  
19 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's 2017 report, and serve  
20 as key references for the State in assessing vulnerabilities and



# S.B. NO. 231

1 developing actions to improve resilience to the impacts of sea  
2 level rise and extreme climate events.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require each  
4 executive department to identify departmental facilities that  
5 may be vulnerable to flooding and other impacts of sea level  
6 rise and assess options for mitigating the effects of sea level  
7 rise on those facilities.

8 SECTION 2. Chapter 26, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended  
9 by adding a new section to part II to be appropriately  
10 designated and to read as follows:

11 "§26- Sea level rise; mitigation; reports. (a) Each  
12 executive department shall:

13 (1) Identify existing and planned departmental facilities,  
14 including critical infrastructure facilities, that are  
15 vulnerable to flooding and other impacts of sea level  
16 rise; provided that the departments shall use relevant  
17 natural hazard data and projections and map data from  
18 the most recent versions of, or updates to, the Hawaii  
19 sea level rise vulnerability and adaptation report and  
20 State of Hawaii hazard mitigation plan to make these  
21 identifications;



1        (2) Assess options for mitigating the impacts of sea level  
2        rise to existing and planned departmental facilities,  
3        including flood-proofing and relocating the  
4        facilities, especially those facilities located in  
5        areas in which the conservation of beaches and coastal  
6        environments is desired; provided that the executive  
7        departments shall:

8        (A) Coordinate resiliency actions with the  
9        appropriate county and federal agencies, affected  
10       communities, and the private sector; and

11       (B) Include in the departments' planning and  
12       investment decisions consideration of sea level  
13       rise adaptation and flooding and disaster  
14       resilience; identify and consider potential risks  
15       created by climate change; and employ full life-  
16       cycle cost accounting to evaluate and compare  
17       facility investments and alternatives; provided  
18       that the departments shall be guided by the  
19       following principles:

20       (i) Priority should be given to nature-based  
21       disaster resilience, climate change



1                    adaptation solutions, and actions that  
2                    enhance disaster resilience and climate  
3                    change adaptation efforts; and  
4                    (ii) Actions taken should protect the State's  
5                    most vulnerable populations; and  
6                    (3) Submit a report to the governor, legislature, and  
7                    Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation  
8                    commission no later than twenty days prior to the  
9                    convening of each regular session. Each report shall  
10                   include vulnerability and adaptation assessments for  
11                   the department's facilities and updates on the  
12                   department's progress in implementing the department's  
13                   plans, programs, and capital improvement decisions  
14                   regarding sea level rise and disaster resiliency.  
15                   (b) Each executive department may designate employees of  
16                   that department who possess relevant expertise to be responsible  
17                   for engaging in capacity-building efforts within the department  
18                   and collaborating with the Hawaii climate change mitigation and  
19                   adaptation commission to improve interagency coordination for  
20                   sea level rise adaptation and flooding and disaster resilience."  
21                   SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

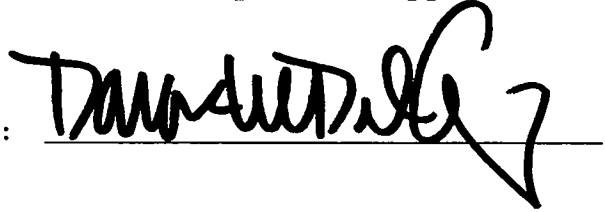


# S.B. NO. 231

1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

2

INTRODUCED BY:





# S.B. NO. 231

**Report Title:**

Sea Level Rise; State Facilities; Mitigation

**Description:**

Requires each executive department to identify departmental facilities 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.

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

