
SENATE 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
29 Adaptation Report, the University of Hawaii's Pacific Islands
30 Ocean Observing System, and the Office of Planning's Hawaii



1 statewide GIS program all provide relevant and best-available
2 scientific assessment data showing the predicted effects to the
3 State's coastal areas of exposure to sea level rise; and
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5 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii Hazard Mitigation Plan
6 provides an expanded assessment of the natural hazards and
7 potential impacts of disaster events related to climate change
8 and sea level rise; and
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10 WHEREAS, both the Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and
11 Adaptation Report and State of Hawaii Hazard Mitigation Plan are
12 consistent with the latest and best available sea level rise
13 projections, including the United States National Oceanic and
14 Atmospheric Administration's 2017 report, and serve as key
15 references for the State in assessing vulnerabilities and
16 developing actions to improve resilience to the impacts of sea
17 level rise and extreme climate events; now, therefore,
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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
20 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,
21 that the Office of Planning, in coordination with each executive
22 department, is requested to:
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24 (1) Identify existing and planned departmental facilities,
25 including critical infrastructure facilities, that are
26 vulnerable to flooding and other impacts of sea level
27 rise using relevant natural hazard data and
28 projections and map data from the most recent versions
29 of, or updates to, the Hawaii Sea Level Rise
30 Vulnerability and Adaptation Report and State of
31 Hawaii Hazard Mitigation Plan to make these
32 identifications; and
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34 (2) Assess options for mitigating the impacts of sea level
35 rise to existing and planned departmental facilities
36 and infrastructure, including flood-proofing and
37 relocating the facilities and infrastructure,
38 especially those facilities and infrastructure located
39 in areas in which the conservation of beaches and
40 coastal environments is desired; provided that the
41 Office of Planning is also requested to:
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- 1 (A) Coordinate resiliency actions with the
- 2 appropriate county and federal agencies, affected
- 3 communities, and the private sector; and
- 4
- 5 (B) Include in the Office of Planning's planning and
- 6 investment decisions consideration of sea level
- 7 rise adaptation and flooding and disaster
- 8 resilience; identify and consider potential risks
- 9 created by climate change; and employ full life-
- 10 cycle cost accounting to evaluate and compare
- 11 facility investments and alternatives; provided
- 12 that:
- 13
- 14 (i) Priority should be given to nature-based
- 15 disaster resilience, climate change
- 16 adaptation solutions, and actions that
- 17 enhance disaster resilience and climate
- 18 change adaptation efforts; and
- 19
- 20 (ii) Actions taken should protect the State's
- 21 most vulnerable populations; and
- 22

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Planning is
 24 requested to submit a report to the Governor, Legislature, and
 25 Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission no
 26 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
 27 Session of 2023; and

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 29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report is requested to
 30 include vulnerability and adaptation assessments for each
 31 department's facilities and updates on each department's
 32 progress in implementing the Office of Planning's plans,
 33 programs, and capital improvement decisions regarding sea level
 34 rise and disaster resiliency; and

35
 36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Planning may
 37 designate employees of that department who possess relevant
 38 expertise to be responsible for engaging in capacity-building
 39 efforts within the department and collaborating with the Hawaii
 40 Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission to improve
 41 interagency coordination for sea level rise adaptation and
 42 flooding and disaster resilience; and

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

