
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 recognizes that, given the
2 State's island topography and substantial exposure to climate
3 change hazards, Hawaii's vulnerable coastal communities must
4 plan for adapting to and mitigating the impacts of sea level
5 rise, groundwater inundation, and coastal erosion. The
6 legislature further recognizes that comprehensive, feasible, and
7 appropriate adaptation and resilience policies, plans, and
8 actions are required to effectively safeguard the State's
9 critical assets in sea level rise exposure areas. Accordingly,
10 the legislature established a number of laws that regulate
11 Hawaii's coastal areas, such as the coastal zone management law,
12 chapter 205A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and Act 16, Session Laws
13 of Hawaii 2020, which amended the State's coastal zone
14 management policy to include the protection of state beaches and
15 reduction of residential exposure to coastal hazards.

16 The legislature also established the Hawaii climate change
17 mitigation and adaptation commission to study and submit



1 recommendations for mitigating and adapting to sea level rise,
2 which the Commission did in its 2017 report, *Hawaii Sea Level*
3 *Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report*. This report estimates
4 that the 3.2-foot sea level rise that will occur by 2100 will
5 account for a statewide loss of over \$19,000,000,000 in land and
6 critical infrastructure; the displacement of 19,800 residents;
7 and the flooding of 6,500 structures and nearly thirty-eight
8 miles of major roads. The report recommends that private and
9 public entities begin planning for the projected sea level rise
10 through adaptation strategies such as beach restoration, new
11 drainage systems, and adaptive urban designs.

12 The legislature finds that although there are adaptation
13 and mitigation programs that help address the impacts of sea
14 level rise and guide policies at the macro-level, any effective
15 short-term strategy or action must ultimately be acceptable and
16 attuned to those who live and work in the affected community.
17 Residents, property owners, businesses, and others directly
18 affected must be involved in the adaptation and mitigation
19 planning process. Other jurisdictions, such as Boston, Miami,
20 New Orleans, New York, San Francisco, and Santa Cruz, can offer



1 lessons and shared understanding from their successful
2 resilience planning and design guidelines.

3 The legislature believes that it should continue to provide
4 leadership and direction to the various counties in monitoring
5 and regulating coastal areas. Because several studies on sea
6 level rise impacts and adaptation measures have been conducted
7 in Waikiki, the legislature proposes using Waikiki as a pilot
8 and demonstration site to develop a science-driven framework for
9 a comprehensive community resilience and adaptation plan. The
10 resulting plan can be refined and applied for use in other
11 coastal communities in the State that share similar geographic
12 and economic characteristics, such as Poipu and Hanalei on
13 Kauai; Kailua and Haleiwa on Oahu; Kahului and Kaanapali on
14 Maui; and Hilo and Kailua-Kona on Hawaii island as examples.

15 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish a
16 pilot project where the office of planning and sustainable
17 development will develop the framework for a Waikiki adaptation
18 and resilience plan that addresses the projected impacts of
19 climate change and sea level rise in the State.

20 SECTION 2. (a) The office of planning and sustainable
21 development shall establish a pilot project to develop an



1 adaptation and resilience plan that addresses the climate change
2 and sea level rise impacts in the Waikiki special district.

3 (b) The Waikiki adaptation and resilience plan shall
4 assess nature-based designs, as appropriate, and urban designs
5 for sea level rise and coastal flood adaptation, benefit-to-cost
6 economic evaluation of alternatives, technical feasibility
7 assessments that distinguish public from private adaptation
8 strategies, strategies for effective community outreach and
9 engagement, and a timeline for adaptation measures and specific
10 action triggers.

11 (c) In developing the Waikiki adaptation and resilience
12 plan, the office of planning and sustainable development shall
13 coordinate with representatives from the University of Hawaii,
14 city and county of Honolulu, department of land and natural
15 resources, Waikiki beach special improvement district
16 association, and Waikiki neighborhood board and may consult
17 other private and public stakeholders, including residents and
18 owners of properties in Waikiki, that are critical to developing
19 the plan for Waikiki.

20 (d) In developing the Waikiki adaptation and resilience
21 plan, the office of planning and sustainable development shall



1 use the best data available on sea level rise and groundwater
2 inundation impacts, community planning and outreach, and
3 successful initiatives in other jurisdictions with similar
4 challenges and may consider the coastal flood adaptation
5 architectural design study by the University of Hawaii sea grant
6 college; sea level rise modeling by the University of Hawaii
7 school of ocean and earth science technology; south shore
8 coastal resilience and connectivity research and proof-of-
9 concept design work by the University of Hawaii community design
10 center; and disaster recovery planning for the Waikiki area by
11 the department of urban and regional planning of the University
12 of Hawaii at Manoa and Federal Emergency Management Agency's
13 National Disaster Preparedness Training Center.

14 SECTION 3. The office of planning and sustainable
15 development shall submit a preliminary status report of its
16 progress to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to
17 the convening of the regular session of 2023. The office of
18 planning and sustainable development shall submit the final
19 Waikiki adaptation and resilience plan, including any proposed
20 legislation and an implementation strategy for the Waikiki
21 adaptation and resilience plan, to the legislature no later than



1 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of
2 2024.

3 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for
6 the development of a Waikiki adaptation and resilience plan.

7 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of
8 planning and sustainable development for the purposes of this
9 Act.

10 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
12 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for
13 one full-time equivalent position (1.0 FTE) within the office of
14 planning and sustainable development to lead, manage, and
15 procure consultant services to carry out the activities and
16 provide sustained staff support to monitor and coordinate
17 agencies towards plan implementation.

18 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of
19 planning and sustainable development for the purposes of this
20 Act.



1 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022;
2 provided that section 4 of this Act shall take effect on July 1,
3 2022.



Report Title:

Sea Level Rise; Waikiki Adaptation and Resilience Plan; Pilot Program; Office of Planning and Sustainable Development; Report; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development to establish a pilot program to develop a Waikiki adaptation and resilience plan to address climate change and sea level impacts in the Waikiki Special District. Requires reports to the Legislature. Makes an appropriation. (SD1)

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