
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, ground-water 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 Act,
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 Through law, the legislature also established the Hawaii
17 climate change mitigation and adaptation commission to study and



1 submit recommendations for mitigating and adapting to sea level
2 rise, which the Commission did in its 2017 report, *Hawaii Sea*
3 *Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report*. This report
4 estimated that the 3.2-foot sea level rise that will occur by
5 2100 will account for a statewide loss of over \$19,000,000,000
6 in land and critical infrastructure; the displacement of 19,800
7 residents; and the flooding of 6,500 structures and nearly
8 thirty-eight miles of major roads. The report recommended that
9 private and public entities begin planning for the projected sea
10 level rise through adaptation strategies such as beach
11 restoration, new 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 adaption measures have been conducted in
7 Waikiki, the legislature proposes using Waikiki as a pilot and
8 demonstration site to develop a science-driven framework for a
9 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 a working group convened by the office of
17 planning and sustainable development will develop the framework
18 for a Waikiki adaptation and resilience plan that addresses the
19 impacts of the projected climate change and sea level rise in
20 the State.



1 SECTION 2. (a) The office of planning and sustainable
2 development shall convene a Waikiki adaptation and resilience
3 plan working group as a pilot project to develop an adaptation
4 and resilience plan that addresses the climate change and sea
5 level rise impacts in the Waikiki special district.

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

13 (c) The working group shall comprise of representatives
14 from the University of Hawaii, city and county of Honolulu,
15 department of land and natural resources, Waikiki beach special
16 improvement district association, and Waikiki neighborhood
17 board. The working group may also include other private and
18 public stakeholders, including residents and owners of
19 properties in Waikiki, that are critical to developing a sea
20 level rise community adaptation and resilience plan for Waikiki.



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

15 (e) The working group shall dissolve on January 1, 2024.

16 SECTION 3. (a) The office of planning and sustainable
17 development shall submit a preliminary status report of its
18 progress to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to
19 the convening of the regular session of 2023. This preliminary
20 status report shall also include any findings, recommendations,



1 proposed legislation, and funding requirements necessary for the
2 completion of the Waikiki adaptation and resilience plan.

3 (b) The office of planning and sustainable development
4 shall submit the final Waikiki adaptation and resilience plan,
5 including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later
6 than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session
7 of 2024.

8 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
10 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 to
11 fund the initial phase of developing the Waikiki adaptation and
12 resilience plan.

13 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of
14 planning and sustainable development for the purposes of this
15 Act.

16 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
17 provided that section 4 of this Act shall take effect on July 1,
18 2050.



Report Title:

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

Description:

Requires the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development to establish a pilot program to convene a working group 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. Takes effect 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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