
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 more than
6 \$19,000,000,000 in land and critical infrastructure; the
7 displacement of 19,800 residents; and the flooding of 6,500
8 structures and nearly thirty-eight miles of major roads. The
9 report recommended that private and public entities begin
10 planning for the projected sea level rise through adaptation
11 strategies such as beach restoration, new drainage systems, and
12 adaptive urban designs.

13 The legislature finds that, although there are adaptation
14 and mitigation programs that help address the impacts of sea
15 level rise and guide policies at the macro-level, any effective
16 short-term strategy or action must ultimately be acceptable and
17 attuned to those who live and work in the affected community.
18 Residents, property owners, businesses, and others directly
19 affected must be involved in the adaptation and mitigation
20 planning process. Other jurisdictions, such as Boston, Miami,
21 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
8 project and demonstration site to develop a science-driven
9 framework for a comprehensive community resilience and
10 adaptation plan. The resulting plan can be refined and applied
11 for use in other coastal communities in the State that share
12 similar geographic and economic characteristics, such as Poipu
13 and Hanalei on the island of Kauai; Kailua and Haleiwa on the
14 island of Oahu; Kahului and Kaanapali on the island of Maui; and
15 Hilo and Kailua-Kona on the island of Hawaii.

16 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require the
17 office of planning and sustainable development to establish a
18 pilot project to develop an adaptation and resilience plan that
19 addresses the climate change and sea level rise impacts in the
20 Waikiki special district.



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

5 (b) The Waikiki adaptation and resilience plan shall
6 include:

7 (1) An assessment of nature-based, as appropriate, and
8 urban designs for sea-level rise and coastal flood
9 adaptation;

10 (2) A benefit-to-cost economic evaluation of alternatives;

11 (3) Technical feasibility assessments that distinguish
12 public from private adaptation strategies;

13 (4) Strategies for effective community outreach and
14 engagement; and

15 (5) A timeline for adaption measures and specific action
16 triggers.

17 (c) The office of planning and sustainable development
18 shall coordinate with representatives from the university of
19 Hawaii, city and county of Honolulu, department of land and
20 natural resources, Waikiki beach special improvement district
21 association, and Waikiki neighborhood board. The office of



1 planning and sustainable development may also consult other
2 private and public stakeholders, including residents and owners
3 of properties in Waikiki, that are critical to developing a sea
4 level rise community adaptation and resilience plan for Waikiki.

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

19 SECTION 3. (a) The office of planning and sustainable
20 development shall submit a preliminary status report of its
21 progress to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to



1 the convening of the regular session of 2023. This preliminary
2 status report shall also include any findings, recommendations,
3 proposed legislation, and funding requirements necessary for the
4 completion of the Waikiki adaptation and resilience plan.

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

10 SECTION 4. 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 to
13 fund the initial phase of developing the Waikiki adaptation and
14 resilience plan.

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

18 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050;
19 provided that section 4 of this Act shall take effect on
20 July 1, 2050.



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 project to develop an adaptation and resilience plan that addresses the climate change and sea level rise impacts in the Waikiki special district. Requires reports to the Legislature. Makes an appropriation. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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