
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE CENTER FOR CLIMATE RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that leaders in the State
2 are keenly aware of the vulnerabilities and threats posed by
3 climate change hazards, however no individual office or agency
4 is responsible for developing community resiliency plans.

5 The legislature also finds that community resiliency is
6 addressed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
7 (IPCC), the world's leading authority on climate science. In
8 its latest Assessment Report 6 (AR6), the IPCC defined the term
9 "climate resilient development". The legislature finds that
10 climate resilience development combines strategies to adapt to
11 climate change with actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
12 to support sustainable development with an emphasis on social
13 equity for all communities.

14 The legislature further finds that AR6 also defines climate
15 resilient development involving questions of equity and system
16 transitions in land, ocean, and ecosystems; urban and



1 infrastructure; energy; industry; and society, and includes
2 adaptations for human, ecosystem, and planetary health.

3 Given the lack of climate resilient development capacity in
4 the State, the legislature proposes leveraging existing modeling
5 expertise in the school of ocean and earth science and
6 technology (SOEST) at the university of Hawaii at Manoa, which
7 has already been working with communities to identify multiple
8 forms of flooding due to sea level rise, hurricane storm surge,
9 heat projections, and leveraging campus-wide expertise in
10 wildfire ignition modeling. Additionally, the State utilizes
11 modeling products developed by SOEST for the mandatory
12 disclosure in real estate transactions of residential real
13 property lying in sea level rise exposure areas pursuant to
14 section 508D-15(a)(5), Hawaii Revised Statutes, and the analysis
15 of sea level rise required by the State's environmental review
16 process. The counties also rely on modeling products developed
17 by SOEST to carry out ordinances related to shoreline setbacks
18 and special management areas.

19 The legislature also finds that these modeling capacities
20 at SOEST are currently funded by soft money grants and contracts
21 and could disappear any year if funding fails to materialize



1 and, thus, are a fragile resource for Hawaii to depend on for
2 community-focused climate science. The legislature notes that
3 due to the incoming federal administration's desire to cut
4 budgets and hostility to climate research, this critical
5 research is at risk of being lost.

6 The legislature finds that there should be created a center
7 for climate resilient development in SOEST at the university of
8 Hawaii at Manoa. The center should be a community-focused
9 resource that provides guidance on climate hazards, works moku
10 by moku across the State assessing risk and vulnerabilities to
11 climate hazards, and makes recommendations for capital
12 improvement projects and shovel-ready projects to build
13 resiliency. The center should also continue to seek external
14 funding to bolster its efforts and expand research and modeling
15 capabilities.

16 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate
17 funds to establish and operate the center for climate resilient
18 development within SOEST at the university of Hawaii at Manoa.

19 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
21 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and



1 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
2 year 2026-2027 for the university of Hawaii at Manoa school of
3 ocean and earth science and technology to establish and operate
4 the center for climate resilient development.

5 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the university
6 of Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

7 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



S.B. NO. 657
S.D. 1
H.D. 1

Report Title:

UH; SOEST; Center for Climate Resilient Development;
Establishment; Climate Change; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for the School of Ocean and Earth Science and
Technology within the University of Hawaii at Manoa to establish
and operate a Center for Climate Resilient Development.
Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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