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# 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 of sea level rise in real estate transactions  
13 pursuant to section 508D-15(a)(5) and the analysis of sea level  
14 rise required by the State's environmental review process. The  
15 counties also rely on modeling products developed by SOEST to  
16 carry out ordinances related to shoreline setbacks and special  
17 management areas.

18       The legislature also finds that these modeling capacities  
19 at SOEST are currently funded by soft money grants and contracts  
20 and thus are a fragile resource for Hawaii to depend on for  
21 community-focused climate science and could disappear any year



1 if funding fails to materialize. The legislature notes that due  
2 to the incoming federal administration's desire to cut budgets  
3 and hostility to climate research, this critical research is at  
4 risk of being lost.

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

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

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



1 year 2026-2027 for the university of Hawaii at Manoa school of  
2 ocean and earth science and technology to establish and operate  
3 the center for climate resilient development.

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

6 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 31, 2050.

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**Report Title:**

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

**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 7/31/2050. (SD1)

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

