
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 The legislature finds that given the lack of climate
4 resilient development capacity in the State, the legislature
5 proposes leveraging existing modeling expertise in the school of
6 ocean and earth science and technology (SOEST) at the university
7 of Hawaii at Manoa, which has already been working with
8 communities to identify multiple forms of flooding due to sea
9 level rise, hurricane storm surge, heat projections, and
10 leverages campus-wide expertise in wildfire ignition modeling.
11 Additionally, the State utilizes modeling products developed by
12 SOEST for the mandatory disclosure of sea level rise in real
13 estate transactions pursuant to section 508D-15(a)(5) and the
14 analysis of sea level rise required by the State's environmental
15 review process. The counties also rely on modeling products
16 developed by SOEST to carry out ordinances related to shoreline
17 setbacks and special 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 failed to materialize. The legislature notes that
2 due to the incoming federal administration's desire to cut
3 budgets and hostility to climate research, this critical
4 research is at 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.

18 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$3,000,000 or so much
20 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the
21 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year



H.B. NO. 1455


1 2026-2027 for the university of Hawaii school of ocean and earth
2 science and technology to establish and operate the center for
3 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 1, 2025.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 23 2025



H.B. NO. 1455

Report Title:

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

Description:

Appropriates funds for the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology within the University of Hawaii to establish and operate a Center for Climate Resilient Development.

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