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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 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.



**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)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

