
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO BLUE CARBON.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State is not on
2 track to meet its legally mandated greenhouse gas emission
3 reduction targets for 2030 and 2045 as established by Act 15,
4 Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, and as amended by Act 238, Session
5 Laws of Hawaii 2022. Many other jurisdictions across the world
6 have enacted similar targets, and it is critical that the State
7 continue to support clean energy initiatives and reduce climate-
8 related impacts.

9 The legislature further finds that coastal ecosystems, or
10 blue carbon ecosystems, such as native seagrass beds, salt
11 marshes, and loko i'a (fish ponds), are highly effective carbon
12 sinks, yet remain largely unmapped, unregulated, and at risk
13 from coastal development, dredging, and pollution. Protecting
14 and restoring native blue carbon ecosystems could significantly
15 reduce the State's atmospheric carbon and greenhouse gas
16 emissions, help meet mandated climate targets, and enhance
17 coastal resilience.



1 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require the
2 office of planning and sustainable development to:

- 3 (1) Establish a statewide blue carbon strategy; and
4 (2) Submit a report to the legislature.

5 SECTION 2. The office of planning and sustainable
6 development shall establish a statewide blue carbon strategy
7 that includes:

- 8 (1) Conducting a mapping and baseline assessment of native
9 blue carbon ecosystems; and
10 (2) Regulating and protecting identified native blue
11 carbon ecosystems and habitats from development,
12 dredging, pollution, or other harmful activities.

13 SECTION 3. The office of planning and sustainable
14 development shall submit a report detailing the statewide blue
15 carbon strategy and its findings and recommendations, including
16 any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than
17 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of
18 2027.

19 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: *Stev C*



S.B. NO. 2207

Report Title:

OPSD; Coastal Zone Management Program; Statewide Blue Carbon Strategy; Report

Description:

Requires the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development to establish a Statewide Blue Carbon Strategy. Requires a report to the Legislature.

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