

JAN 22 2026

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CENTRALIZED ACCESS TO RESOURCES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the people of Hawaii
2 are grappling with the escalating impacts of the dual crises of
3 affordability and climate change. Climate change has dynamic
4 and multifaceted effects on the State, yet climate action is
5 often fragmented, siloed, and therefore ineffective. With the
6 increasing impacts of climate change on Hawaii's working
7 families, planning for and adapting to these anticipated impacts
8 will require society-wide interventions. The State must prepare
9 for and advance these interventions by fostering greater
10 understanding of climate-induced impacts on vulnerable
11 populations and by providing impacted communities with resources
12 to improve their resilience.

13 The legislature further finds that the climate and
14 affordability crises are connected. The costs of climate change
15 are not evenly distributed, and lower income families are more
16 susceptible to climate hazards and less likely to have the
17 financial resources to rebound from them. Improving financial



1 and economic security can build both household and community
2 resilience to climate shocks. Similarly, improving climate
3 resilience, adaptive capacity, and energy efficiency can result
4 in significant savings for working families.

5 The legislature also finds that in response to the climate
6 and affordability crises, many programs exist to offset the
7 costs of climate preparedness for low- to moderate-income
8 families and to provide financial resources to families
9 struggling to meet their basic needs. However, communicating
10 that information in an accessible and dynamic framework has
11 remained a challenge.

12 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require and
13 appropriate funds for the development, implementation, and
14 maintenance of a centralized resource website, modeled after
15 Seattle's Assistance and Discount website, to connect residents
16 to support and resources to address affordability, health,
17 safety, and the impacts of climate change in Hawaii.

18 SECTION 2. (a) The Hawaii climate change mitigation and
19 adaptation commission shall develop, implement, and maintain a
20 centralized resource website, including an integrated online
21 resource portal, to connect residents to programs, services,



1 discounts, and assistance that address affordability, health,
2 safety, and the impacts of climate change.

3 (b) The website shall be designed as the main starting
4 point to access and apply for multiple programs, services,
5 discounts, and assistance that address affordability, health,
6 safety, and the impacts of climate change. In light of this
7 goal, the website shall consolidate and communicate information
8 regarding programs and resources intended to:

9 (1) Offset the costs of climate preparedness, resilience,
10 and adaptation for low- to moderate-income households;

11 (2) Improve household energy efficiency, reduce utility
12 costs, and promote long-term cost savings for working
13 families;

14 (3) Provide financial assistance or cost-reduction
15 opportunities related to housing, utilities, food
16 security, transportation, health care, and other basic
17 needs; and

18 (4) Support households in preparing for, responding to,
19 and recovering from climate-related impacts, including
20 but not limited to extreme weather events and natural
21 hazards.



SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$600,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for the development, implementation, and maintenance of the centralized resource website pursuant to section 2 of this Act, to be allocated as follows:

(1) \$500,000 for the development and implementation of the website; and

(2) \$100,000 for the maintenance of the website;

provided that the appropriation authorized by this Act shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year for which the appropriation is made; provided further that all moneys from the appropriation unencumbered as of June 30, 2028, shall lapse as of that date.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

INTRODUCED BY: Karl Rhoads



S.B. NO. 2440

Report Title:

Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission;
Centralized Resource Website; Affordability; Climate Change;
Appropriation

Description:

Requires and appropriates funds for the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission to develop, implement, and maintain a centralized resource website to connect residents to support and resources to address affordability, health, safety, and the impacts of climate change.

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