

JAN 28 2026

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CLIMATE PLANNING.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii faces
2 billions of dollars in current and future losses resulting from
3 the impacts of climate change. These impacts include shoreline
4 erosion accelerated by sea level rise, increased public health
5 and medical costs due to rising urban heat, agricultural losses
6 driven by drought, degradation of coral reefs and fisheries
7 caused by warming and ocean acidification, and more frequent and
8 severe disasters fueled by shifting weather patterns. Hawaii
9 residents will ultimately bear these costs, driving up the cost
10 of living and diminishing quality of life.

11 The legislature further finds that numerous other states
12 and jurisdictions have advanced far beyond Hawaii in developing
13 innovative policies, programs, projects, and best practices to
14 address these same challenges. These efforts have reduced
15 current costs for their residents while preventing billions of
16 dollars in future losses.



1 The legislature believes that Hawaii must more effectively
2 evaluate and adopt proven strategies from other jurisdictions
3 that have reduced harm, lowered costs, and provided tangible
4 benefits to local communities. Although Hawaii is among the
5 states most exposed to climate-related risks, progress on climate
6 mitigation and adaptation has been slow, leaving Hawaii
7 residents vulnerable to unnecessary impacts and avoidable
8 financial burdens.

9 The purpose of this Act is to strengthen the capacity of
10 the Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission
11 to:

- 12 (1) Better assess the climate impacts affecting Hawaii;
13 (2) Identify effective strategies used in other
14 jurisdictions; and
15 (3) Develop recommendations.

16 SECTION 2. Section 225P-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
17 amended by adding a new definition to be appropriately inserted
18 and to read as follows:

19 "Coordinator" means the climate change mitigation and
20 adaptation coordinator."



SECTION 3. Section 225P-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"§225P-3 Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission; general functions, duties, and powers. (a) There is established the Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission that shall be placed within the department of land and natural resources for administrative purposes only.

(b) Coordination of the commission shall be headed ~~[jointly by the chairperson of the board of land and natural resources, or the chairperson's designee, and the director of the office of planning and sustainable development, or the director's designee.]~~ by the climate change mitigation and adaptation coordinator.

(c) The commission shall include the following members:

(1) The coordinator, who shall serve as the chairperson of the commission;

~~[+1+]~~ (2) The chairs of the standing committees of the legislature with subject matter jurisdiction encompassing environmental protection and land use;



- 1 [~~+2+~~] (3) The chairperson of the board of land and natural
2 resources or the chairperson's designee[~~, who shall be~~
3 ~~the co-chair of the commission~~];
- 4 [~~+3+~~] (4) The director of the office of planning and
5 sustainable development or the director's designee[~~,~~
6 ~~who shall be the co-chair of the commission~~];
- 7 [~~+4+~~] (5) The director of business, economic development,
8 and tourism or the director's designee;
- 9 [~~+5+~~] (6) The chairperson of the board of directors of the
10 Hawaii tourism authority or the chairperson's
11 designee;
- 12 [~~+6+~~] (7) The chairperson of the board of agriculture and
13 biosecurity or the chairperson's designee;
- 14 [~~+7+~~] (8) The chief executive officer of the office of
15 Hawaiian affairs or the officer's designee;
- 16 [~~+8+~~] (9) The chairperson of the Hawaiian homes commission
17 or the chairperson's designee;
- 18 [~~+9+~~] (10) The director of transportation or the director's
19 designee;
- 20 [~~+10+~~] (11) The director of health or the director's
21 designee;



1 ~~[(11) The adjutant general or the adjutant general's~~
2 ~~designee;]~~

3 (12) The administrator of the Hawaii emergency management
4 agency or the administrator's designee;

5 ~~[(12)]~~ (13) The chairperson of the board of education or the
6 chairperson's designee;

7 ~~[(13)]~~ (14) The directors of each of the county planning
8 departments, or the directors' designees; and

9 ~~[(14) The manager of the coastal zone management program.]~~

10 (15) The comptroller or comptroller's designee.

11 (d) In addition to the members listed in subsection (c),
12 the ~~[chairs of the commission]~~ coordinator may request the
13 participation or input of members of the public; experts in the
14 field; and county, state, or federal officials or others as
15 necessary.

16 (e) The members of the commission shall serve without pay
17 but shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses,
18 including travel expenses, incurred in carrying out their
19 duties.



1 ~~[(f) The commission shall provide policy direction,~~
2 ~~facilitation, coordination, and planning among state and county~~
3 ~~agencies, federal agencies, and other partners as appropriate.~~

4 ~~(g) The commission shall establish climate change~~
5 ~~mitigation and adaptation strategies and goals to help guide~~
6 ~~planning and implementation statewide using the latest~~
7 ~~scientific analysis and risk assessment to monitor and forecast~~
8 ~~climate change related impacts at the regional, state, and local~~
9 ~~level, including any additional information deemed necessary.~~

10 ~~(h) The commission shall identify vulnerable people,~~
11 ~~communities, industries, ecosystems, and the potential economic~~
12 ~~ramifications for climate change related impacts.~~

13 ~~(i) The commission shall identify existing climate change~~
14 ~~mitigation and adaptation efforts at the federal, state, and~~
15 ~~local levels and make recommendations for how to meet or exceed~~
16 ~~Hawaii's state mitigation goals and shall adopt a liberal~~
17 ~~approach in preparation, so as to minimize future risk to the~~
18 ~~people and environment of Hawaii.~~

19 ~~(j) The commission shall assess the capacity and~~
20 ~~availability of existing resources and identify new sources of~~
21 ~~revenue necessary to address climate change mitigation and~~



1 ~~adaptation and shall advise the governor, legislature, and~~
2 ~~counties on the economic and budgetary ramifications of climate~~
3 ~~change impacts, mitigation, and adaptation.~~

4 ~~(k) The commission shall identify the information~~
5 ~~necessary to track progress in implementing climate change~~
6 ~~mitigation and adaptation efforts and shall submit an annual~~
7 ~~report to the governor and legislature no later than twenty days~~
8 ~~prior to the convening of each regular session of the~~
9 ~~legislature.~~

10 ~~(l) The commission shall maintain a website that includes~~
11 ~~a mission statement as well as access to climate change related~~
12 ~~actions, plans, policies, and results.~~

13 ~~(m) The commission shall conduct a comprehensive review of~~
14 ~~the implementation as required by this section and submit a~~
15 ~~report to the governor, legislature, and the counties no later~~
16 ~~than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session~~
17 ~~of 2023 and every five years thereafter.~~

18 ~~(n) The commission shall, as a first step, focus on and~~
19 ~~develop sea level rise vulnerability and adaptation reports that~~
20 ~~shall include:~~



- ~~(1) Identification of the major areas of sea level rise impacts affecting the State and counties through 2050;~~
- ~~(2) Identification of expected impacts of sea level rise based on the latest scientific research for each area through 2050;~~
- ~~(3) Identification of the economic ramifications of sea level rise;~~
- ~~(4) Identification of applicable federal laws, policies, or programs that impact affected areas; and~~
- ~~(5) Recommendations for planning, management, and adaptation for hazards associated with increasing sea level rise.~~

~~The reports shall be made publicly available no later than December 31, 2017, and the commission shall reevaluate and update the sea level rise vulnerability and adaptation report every five years.~~

~~(c) In developing the report, pursuant to subsection (n), the commission shall:~~

- ~~(1) Solicit public views and concerns; and~~



1 ~~(2) Coordinate with the various county, state, and federal~~
2 ~~agencies involved in ongoing climate change adaptation~~
3 ~~planning initiatives.]~~

4 (f) Each state department having an officer or employee as
5 a member of the commission shall submit to the commission a
6 report containing the department's plans and proposed courses of
7 action to meet or exceed the state's climate mitigation and
8 adaptation directives and targets. The coordinator shall assist
9 the departments in complying with this subsection and shall make
10 the reports publicly available.

11 (g) The commission may enter into contracts for the
12 procurement of goods and services to advance climate change
13 mitigation and adaptation.

14 (h) The coordinator may hire staff necessary to carry out
15 the purposes of this part.

16 (i) The coordinator shall:

17 (1) Provide policy direction, facilitation, coordination,
18 and planning among state and county agencies, federal
19 agencies, and other partners as appropriate;

20 (2) Establish climate change mitigation and adaptation
21 strategies and goals to help guide statewide planning



1 and implementation using the latest scientific
2 analyses and risk assessments to monitor and forecast
3 climate change-related impacts at the state and county
4 levels;

5 (3) Identify vulnerable people, communities, industries,
6 and ecosystems, and the potential short- and long-term
7 ramifications of climate-related impacts for public
8 health, economics, and the environment, based on the
9 latest and best international models;

10 (4) Identify existing climate change mitigation and
11 adaptation efforts in other jurisdictions and make
12 recommendations for how to implement similar efforts
13 in Hawaii to meet or exceed the State's climate change
14 mitigation and adaptation goals. In establishing the
15 recommendations, the coordinator shall adopt an
16 approach that minimizes future risk to the people and
17 environment of Hawaii;

18 (5) Assess the capacity and availability of existing
19 resources; identify any new sources of revenue
20 necessary to address climate change mitigation and
21 adaptation; and advise the governor, legislature, and



1 counties on the economic and budgetary ramifications
2 of climate change impacts, mitigation, and adaptation,
3 including current or future costs for both the
4 government and residents that may be avoided or
5 reduced through mitigation or adaptation strategies,
6 based on the latest and best international models;

7 (6) Evaluate the State's progress toward reaching climate
8 mitigation and adaptation directives and targets,
9 including identifying the information necessary to
10 track progress in implementing climate change
11 mitigation and adaptation efforts;

12 (7) Maintain a website that includes a mission statement
13 as well as access to climate change-related actions,
14 plans, policies, and results;

15 (8) Contract for services if required for the
16 implementation of this chapter; and

17 (9) Conduct a comprehensive review of the efforts required
18 by this section and submit a report to the governor,
19 legislature, and counties no later than twenty days
20 prior to each regular session that includes:



1 (A) Updated information related to paragraphs (1)
2 through (6), including expected climate impacts
3 on the public health, environment, and economy of
4 Hawaii based on the latest science; any current
5 or future costs for both the government and
6 residents that may be avoided or reduced through
7 the latest mitigation or adaptation strategies;
8 and the overall progress toward the State's
9 climate mitigation and adaptation directives and
10 targets, as established by law; and

11 (B) For each state department having an officer or
12 employee as a member of the commission and the
13 department's respective jurisdiction:

14 (i) An update on the top three states, excluding
15 Hawaii, demonstrating the most progress on
16 climate mitigation and adaptation related to
17 the jurisdiction of that department,
18 including an overview of that state's
19 contributing policies, programs, projects,
20 and best practices;



- 1 (ii) No fewer than five other examples of the
2 most innovative and successful government
3 projects, programs, policies, and best
4 practices relevant to the jurisdiction of
5 that department that have been developed or
6 implemented by other countries, states,
7 cities, or jurisdictions and that may help
8 accelerate the department's success in
9 meeting the climate mitigation and
10 adaptation directives and targets
11 established by law;
- 12 (iii) The department's current plans and efforts
13 to meet the climate mitigation and
14 adaptation directives and targets
15 established by law; and
- 16 (iv) Recommendations for improving the
17 department's current plans and proposed
18 courses of action to better meet and exceed
19 the State's climate-related targets.



1 (j) After December 31, 2026, all department and agency
2 plans and decisions shall consider the recommendations made
3 pursuant to this chapter."

4 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much
6 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for the
7 establishment of:

- 8 (1) Four full-time equivalent (4.0 FTE) specialist
9 positions, exempt from chapter 76, Hawaii Revised
10 Statutes;
11 (2) One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) account clerk V;
12 (3) One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) office manager; and
13 (4) Other expenses, including contracts entered into under
14 chapter 225P, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

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

18 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
19 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.



S.B. NO. 3252

1 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

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INTRODUCED BY: _____

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S.B. NO. 3252

Report Title:

DLNR; HCCMAC; Climate Change; Appropriation; Reports

Description:

Amends the powers and duties of the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission administered by the Department of Land and Natural Resources. Establishes a Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission Coordinator position to lead the Commission. Appropriates moneys. Requires annual reports to the Governor, Legislature, and counties.

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

