

JAN 21 2026

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the office of  
2 planning and sustainable development, rather than the department  
3 of land and natural resources, is best equipped to effectively  
4 administer the Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation  
5 commission. The office of planning and sustainable development  
6 is responsible for supporting the principles of the Hawaii State  
7 Planning Act, including state priorities for climate change  
8 adaptation, and leads the State's coordination of sea level rise  
9 adaptation activities.

10       The legislature further finds that the office of planning  
11 and sustainable development is charged with coordinating  
12 activities across levels of government and ensuring cooperation  
13 to reach the State's goals. The legislature recognizes that  
14 comprehensive and coordinated action is necessary to combat the  
15 impacts of climate change.

16       Accordingly, to promote public safety, efficiency, and  
17 effectiveness, the purpose of this Act is to:



- (1) Transfer the Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission from the department of land and natural resources to the office of planning and sustainable development for administrative purposes;
- (2) Remove the manager of the coastal zone management program from the Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission; and
- (3) Add a representative from the university of Hawaii to the Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission.

SECTION 2. Section 225P-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended as follows:

1. By amending subsection (a) to read:

"(a) There is established the Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission that shall be placed within the ~~[department of land and natural resources]~~ office of planning and sustainable development for administrative purposes only."

2. By amending subsection (c) to read:

"(c) The commission shall include the following members:



- 1       (1) The chairs of the standing committees of the  
2       legislature with subject matter jurisdiction  
3       encompassing environmental protection and land use;
- 4       (2) The chairperson of the board of land and natural  
5       resources or the chairperson's designee, who shall be  
6       the co-chair of the commission;
- 7       (3) The director of the office of planning and sustainable  
8       development or the director's designee, who shall be  
9       the co-chair of the commission;
- 10      (4) The director of business, economic development, and  
11      tourism or the director's designee;
- 12      (5) The chairperson of the board of directors of the  
13      Hawaii tourism authority or the chairperson's  
14      designee;
- 15      (6) The chairperson of the board of agriculture and  
16      biosecurity or the chairperson's designee;
- 17      (7) The chief executive officer of the office of Hawaiian  
18      affairs or the officer's designee;
- 19      (8) The chairperson of the Hawaiian homes commission or  
20      the chairperson's designee;



- 1           (9)   The director of transportation or the director's  
2           designee;  
3           (10)  The director of health or the director's designee;  
4           (11)  The adjutant general or the adjutant general's  
5           designee;  
6           (12)  The chairperson of the board of education or the  
7           chairperson's designee;  
8           (13)  The directors of each of the county planning  
9           departments, or the directors' designees; and  
10          (14)  ~~[The manager of the coastal zone management program.]~~  
11           A representative of the university of Hawaii."

12           SECTION 3. All rights, powers, functions, and duties of  
13 the department of land and natural resources relating to the  
14 administration of the Hawaii climate change mitigation and  
15 adaptation commission are transferred to the office of planning  
16 and sustainable development.

17           All officers and employees whose functions are transferred  
18 by this Act shall be transferred with their functions and shall  
19 continue to perform their regular duties upon their transfer,  
20 subject to the state personnel laws and this Act.



1       No officer or employee of the State having tenure shall  
2 suffer any loss of salary, seniority, prior service credit,  
3 vacation, sick leave, or other employee benefit or privilege as  
4 a consequence of this Act, and the officer or employee may be  
5 transferred or appointed to a civil service position without the  
6 necessity of examination; provided that the officer or employee  
7 possesses the minimum qualifications for the position to which  
8 transferred or appointed; and provided that subsequent changes  
9 in status may be made pursuant to applicable civil service and  
10 compensation laws.

11       An officer or employee of the State who does not have  
12 tenure and who may be transferred or appointed to a civil  
13 service position as a consequence of this Act shall become a  
14 civil service employee without the loss of salary, seniority,  
15 prior service credit, vacation, sick leave, or other employee  
16 benefits or privileges and without the necessity of examination;  
17 provided that the officer or employee possesses the minimum  
18 qualifications for the position to which transferred or  
19 appointed.

20       If an office or position held by an officer or employee  
21 having tenure is abolished, the officer or employee shall not



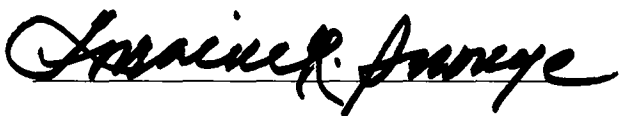
1 thereby be separated from public employment, but shall remain in  
2 the employment of the State with the same pay and classification  
3 and shall be transferred to some other office or position for  
4 which the officer or employee is eligible under the personnel  
5 laws of the State as determined by the head of the department or  
6 the governor.

7 SECTION 4. All appropriations, records, equipment,  
8 machines, files, supplies, contracts, books, papers, documents,  
9 maps, and other personal property heretofore made, used,  
10 acquired, or held by the department of land and natural  
11 resources relating to the functions transferred to the office of  
12 planning and sustainable development shall be transferred with  
13 the functions to which they relate.

14 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
15 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

16 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.  
17

INTRODUCED BY:





# S.B. NO. 2018

**Report Title:**

OPSD; DLNR; Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission; UH; Membership; Transfer

**Description:**

Transfers the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission from the Department of Land and Natural Resources to the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development for administrative purposes. Removes the manager of the Coastal Zone Management Program from the Commission. Adds a representative from the University of Hawaii to the Commission.

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

