

JAN 21 2026

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## 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: 



**S.B. NO. 2186**

**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.

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

