

JAN 23 2026

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO A HAWAII CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE PLAN.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State is
2 increasingly vulnerable to the intensifying impacts of climate
3 change, including sea level rise, coastal erosion, flooding,
4 drought, wildfires, extreme heat, and severe storm events.
5 These hazards threaten public health and safety, compromise
6 infrastructure, strain economic stability, degrade ecosystems,
7 and endanger irreplaceable cultural and natural resources.

8 While Hawaii has adopted several sector-specific adaptation
9 plans, there is no comprehensive, integrated statewide
10 implementation plan that assesses climate-related financial
11 risk, prioritizes statewide cross-sector adaptation strategies,
12 or coordinates long-term resilience efforts across
13 jurisdictions. The absence of such a plan exposes the State to
14 increasing fiscal and operational risk. Nationally, United
15 States-based insurers have paid over \$762 billion in
16 climate-related disaster claims between 2015 and 2024. The
17 growing frequency and severity of these events have led to



1 rising insurance premiums, reduced coverage availability, and
2 heightened volatility in insurance markets. Credit rating
3 agencies began recognizing the potential financial implications
4 of climate change. Moody's Investors Service and Fitch Ratings
5 have identified climate-related physical risks and resilience
6 planning as important factors in evaluating public-sector credit
7 worthiness. States and municipalities with high climate
8 exposure and insufficient adaptation strategies face greater
9 fiscal vulnerability, which may affect market perception,
10 borrowing costs, and long-term credit competitiveness.

11 The legislature further finds that jurisdictions such as
12 California, Maryland, and South Carolina have adopted formal,
13 data-informed climate adaptation and resilience planning
14 frameworks that examine climate risks and guide strategic
15 decision-making, and cities such as Boston and New York City
16 maintain structured climate resilience planning processes
17 grounded in scientific projections and integrated into policy
18 and infrastructure planning. These frameworks improve
19 intergovernmental coordination, enhance regulatory consistency,
20 reduce risk, and strengthen access to federal funding and
21 climate-aligned capital.



1 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to require the office
2 of planning and sustainable development to develop and maintain
3 a comprehensive Hawaii climate adaptation and resilience plan.

4 SECTION 2. Chapter 226, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended by adding a new section to part II to be appropriately
6 designated and to read as follows:

7 "§226- Hawaii climate adaptation and resilience plan.

8 (a) The office of planning and sustainable development shall
9 develop and publish a Hawaii climate adaptation and resilience
10 plan that aligns with the objectives established under this
11 chapter, the State's multiple sustainability and climate
12 targets, county general plans, county climate and sustainability
13 plans, applicable federal and state climate and hazard
14 mitigation programs, and the most accurate climate data and
15 science based targets available.

16 (b) The purpose of the Hawaii climate adaptation and
17 resilience plan shall be to:

18 (1) Determine the overall financial risk to the State
19 associated with climate change;



S.B. NO. 2977

- 1 (2) Aggregate and analyze statewide hazard, exposure, and
2 climate vulnerability data for use in statewide and
3 regional climate adaptation planning;
- 4 (3) Assess a range of options for the State to adapt to
5 multiple hazards and climate change impacts; and
- 6 (4) Recommend specific strategies related to land use,
7 zoning, infrastructure adaptations, resource
8 allocation, and community investment to protect,
9 enhance, and promote local economies, the environment,
10 community well-being, and long-term climate resilience
11 for the present and future benefit of the people of
12 Hawaii.

13 (c) The office shall submit the Hawaii climate adaptation
14 and resilience plan to the legislature no later than twenty days
15 prior to the convening of the regular session of 2028 and shall
16 submit updates of the Hawaii climate adaptation and resilience
17 plan every five years thereafter."

18 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$160,000 or so much
20 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 to
21 establish:



S.B. NO. 2977

1 (1) One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) planner IV
2 position; and

3 (2) One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) planner V position.

4 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of
5 planning and sustainable development for the purposes of this
6 Act.

7 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,840,000 or so much
9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for
10 climate risk and vulnerability modeling, cost benefit modeling
11 and fiscal risk assessments, data visualization, monitoring and
12 evaluation, public outreach and community engagement, plan
13 development, and other expenses for the preparation of the
14 Hawaii climate adaptation and resilience plan.

15 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of
16 planning and sustainable development for the purposes of this
17 Act.

18 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.



S.B. NO. 2977

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

2

INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. M.', written over a horizontal line.

S.B. NO. 2977

Report Title:

OPSD; Hawaii Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan; Report;
Positions; Appropriations

Description:

Requires the Office of Sustainable Development to establish a Hawaii Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan. Requires a report to the Legislature. Establishes positions. Appropriates funds.

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

