
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 the State faces
2 billions of dollars in current and future losses and financial
3 liabilities resulting from the impacts of climate change. The
4 legislature further finds that the Hawaii climate commission was
5 created to "provide policy direction, facilitation,
6 coordination, and planning..." and "establish climate change
7 mitigation and adaptation strategies and goals to help guide
8 planning and implementation..." Those strategies and goals were
9 to be used to develop the next steps for planning and
10 implementation by the office of planning and sustainable
11 development, and state departments were then to take action.

12 However, the legislature finds that the co-chairs
13 responsible for the commission agenda and resulting work may
14 have inherent conflicts of interest that have prevented the
15 commission from fulfilling the vast majority of its statutorily
16 mandated duties, resulting in missed opportunities to reduce
17 climate-related impacts and costs for Hawaii residents.



1 The legislature notes that the tasks assigned by statute to
2 the commission were, in relevant part, to "identify existing
3 climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts at the federal,
4 state, and local levels and make recommendations for how to meet
5 or exceed Hawaii's state mitigation goals[,]" to "adopt a
6 liberal approach in preparation, so as to minimize future risk
7 to the people and environment of Hawaii[,]" to "assess the
8 capacity and availability of existing resources and identify new
9 sources of revenue necessary to address climate change
10 mitigation and adaptation and [to] advise the governor,
11 legislature, and counties on the economic and budgetary
12 ramifications of climate change impacts, mitigation, and
13 adaptation[,]" and to "identify the information necessary to
14 track progress in implementing climate change mitigation and
15 adaptation efforts and [to] conduct a comprehensive review of
16 the implementation as required by this section[.]"

17 The legislature finds that, while the coordinator has done
18 remarkable work with minimal resources under the commission's
19 direction, the broader commission agenda, as set by the
20 co-chairs, has yet to consider, evaluate, or deliver meaningful



1 recommendations, policies, and progress evaluations as required
2 by statute.

3 The legislature also finds that reforming the commission's
4 structure can eliminate the potential conflicts of interest that
5 have prevented the commission from performing its duties as
6 required by law. Currently, the co-chairs of the commission,
7 the head of the office of planning and sustainable development,
8 and the chair of the department of land and natural resources,
9 appear to be conflicted, as they are tasked with evaluating
10 fellow departments on progress, which can naturally lead to
11 conflicts within the executive branch of government. The
12 co-chairs are also tasked with making recommendations to fellow
13 departments and the legislature, which can conflict with the
14 policy and budget priorities set by the administration.

15 The legislature believes these structural conflicts must be
16 resolved. Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

17 (1) Restructure the leadership of the climate change
18 mitigation and adaptation commission to reduce the
19 conflicts of interest that may be contributing to the
20 commission co-chairs' failure to set an agenda that
21 meets the requirements of the law; and



1 (2) Provide additional capacity for the commission to do
 2 the work intended by statute, including identifying
 3 and providing strategies and recommendations to the
 4 legislature and departments, which can inform planning
 5 and implementation by the office of planning and
 6 sustainable development, and other agencies.

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

10 "Coordinator" means the climate change mitigation and
 11 adaptation coordinator."

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

14 **"§225P-3 Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation**
 15 **commission; general functions, duties, and powers.** (a) There
 16 is established the Hawaii climate change mitigation and
 17 adaptation commission that shall be placed within the department
 18 of land and natural resources for administrative purposes only.

19 (b) Coordination of the commission shall be headed
 20 ~~[jointly by the chairperson of the board of land and natural~~
 21 ~~resources, or the chairperson's designee, and the director of~~



1 ~~the office of planning and sustainable development, or the~~
2 ~~director's designee.] by the climate change mitigation and~~
3 adaptation coordinator.

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

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

7 [~~1~~] (2) The chairs of the standing committees of the
8 legislature with subject matter jurisdiction
9 encompassing environmental protection and land use;

10 [~~2~~] (3) The chairperson of the board of land and natural
11 resources or the chairperson's designee [~~7~~ ~~who shall be~~
12 ~~the co-chair of the commission];~~

13 [~~3~~] (4) The director of the office of planning and
14 sustainable development or the director's designee [~~7~~
15 ~~who shall be the co-chair of the commission];~~

16 [~~4~~] (5) The director of business, economic development,
17 and tourism or the director's designee;

18 [~~5~~] (6) The chairperson of the board of directors of the
19 Hawaii tourism authority or the chairperson's
20 designee;



- 1 ~~[+6]~~ (7) The chairperson of the board of agriculture and
2 biosecurity or the chairperson's designee;
- 3 ~~[+7]~~ (8) The chief executive officer of the office of
4 Hawaiian affairs or the officer's designee;
- 5 ~~[+8]~~ (9) The chairperson of the Hawaiian homes commission
6 or the chairperson's designee;
- 7 ~~[+9]~~ (10) The director of transportation or the director's
8 designee;
- 9 ~~[+10]~~ (11) The director of health or the director's
10 designee;
- 11 ~~[+11] The adjutant general or the adjutant general's~~
12 ~~designee;~~]
- 13 (12) The administrator of the Hawaii emergency management
14 agency or the administrator's designee;
- 15 ~~[+12]~~ (13) The chairperson of the board of education or the
16 chairperson's designee;
- 17 ~~[+13]~~ (14) The directors of each of the county planning
18 departments~~[7]~~ or the directors' designees; and
- 19 ~~[+14] The manager of the coastal zone management program.]~~
- 20 (15) The comptroller or comptroller's designee.



1 (d) In addition to the members listed in subsection (c),
2 the [~~chairs of the commission~~] coordinator may request the
3 participation or input of members of the public; experts in the
4 field; and county, state, or federal officials or others as
5 necessary.

6 (e) The members of the commission shall serve without pay
7 but shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses,
8 including travel expenses, incurred in carrying out their
9 duties.

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

13 ~~(g) The commission shall establish climate change~~
14 ~~mitigation and adaptation strategies and goals to help guide~~
15 ~~planning and implementation statewide using the latest~~
16 ~~scientific analysis and risk assessment to monitor and forecast~~
17 ~~climate change related impacts at the regional, state, and local~~
18 ~~level, including any additional information deemed necessary.~~

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



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

7 ~~(j) The commission shall assess the capacity and~~
8 ~~availability of existing resources and identify new sources of~~
9 ~~revenue necessary to address climate change mitigation and~~
10 ~~adaptation and shall advise the governor, legislature, and~~
11 ~~counties on the economic and budgetary ramifications of climate~~
12 ~~change impacts, mitigation, and adaptation.~~

13 ~~(k) The commission shall identify the information~~
14 ~~necessary to track progress in implementing climate change~~
15 ~~mitigation and adaptation efforts and shall submit an annual~~
16 ~~report to the governor and legislature no later than twenty days~~
17 ~~prior to the convening of each regular session of the~~
18 ~~legislature.~~

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



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

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

9 ~~(1) Identification of the major areas of sea level rise~~
10 ~~impacts affecting the State and counties through 2050;~~

11 ~~(2) Identification of expected impacts of sea level rise~~
12 ~~based on the latest scientific research for each area~~
13 ~~through 2050;~~

14 ~~(3) Identification of the economic ramifications of sea~~
15 ~~level rise;~~

16 ~~(4) Identification of applicable federal laws, policies,~~
17 ~~or programs that impact affected areas; and~~

18 ~~(5) Recommendations for planning, management, and~~
19 ~~adaptation for hazards associated with increasing sea~~
20 ~~level rise.~~



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

5 ~~(e) In developing the report, pursuant to subsection (n),~~
6 ~~the commission shall:~~

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

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

11 (f) Each state department having an officer or employee as
12 a member of the commission shall submit to the commission a
13 report containing the department's plans and proposed courses of
14 action to meet or exceed the State's climate mitigation and
15 adaptation directives and targets. The coordinator shall assist
16 the departments in complying with this subsection and shall make
17 the reports publicly available.

18 (g) The commission may enter into contracts for the
19 procurement of goods and services to advance climate change
20 mitigation and adaptation.



1 (h) The coordinator may hire staff necessary to carry out
2 the purposes of this section.

3 (i) The coordinator shall:

4 (1) Provide policy direction, facilitation, coordination,
5 and planning among state and county agencies, federal
6 agencies, and other partners as appropriate;

7 (2) Establish climate change mitigation and adaptation
8 strategies and goals to help guide statewide planning
9 and implementation using the latest scientific
10 analyses and risk assessments to monitor and forecast
11 climate change-related impacts at the state and county
12 levels;

13 (3) Identify vulnerable people, communities, industries,
14 and ecosystems, and the potential short- and long-term
15 ramifications of climate-related impacts for public
16 health, economics, and the environment, based on the
17 latest and best international models;

18 (4) Identify existing climate change mitigation and
19 adaptation efforts in other jurisdictions and make
20 recommendations for how to implement similar efforts
21 in the State to meet or exceed the State's climate



1 change mitigation and adaptation goals. In
2 establishing the recommendations, the coordinator
3 shall adopt an approach that minimizes future risk to
4 the people and environment of the State;

5 (5) Assess the capacity and availability of existing
6 resources; identify any new sources of revenue
7 necessary to address climate change mitigation and
8 adaptation; and advise the governor, legislature, and
9 counties on the economic and budgetary ramifications
10 of climate change impacts, mitigation, and adaptation,
11 including current or future costs for both the
12 government and residents that may be avoided or
13 reduced through mitigation or adaptation strategies,
14 based on the latest and best international models;

15 (6) Evaluate the State's progress toward reaching climate
16 mitigation and adaptation directives and targets,
17 including identifying the information necessary to
18 track progress in implementing climate change
19 mitigation and adaptation efforts;



- 1 (7) Maintain a website that includes a mission statement
- 2 as well as access to climate change-related actions,
- 3 plans, policies, and results;
- 4 (8) Contract for services if required for the
- 5 implementation of this chapter; and
- 6 (9) Conduct a comprehensive review of the efforts required
- 7 by this section and submit a report to the governor,
- 8 legislature, and counties no later than twenty days
- 9 prior to each regular session that includes:
- 10 (A) Updated information related to paragraphs (1)
- 11 through (6), including expected climate impacts
- 12 on the public health, environment, and economy of
- 13 the State based on the latest science; any
- 14 current or future costs for both the government
- 15 and residents that may be avoided or reduced
- 16 through the latest mitigation or adaptation
- 17 strategies; and the overall progress toward the
- 18 State's climate mitigation and adaptation
- 19 directives and targets, as established by law;
- 20 and



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

4 (i) An update on the top three states, excluding
5 the State, demonstrating the most progress
6 on climate mitigation and adaptation related
7 to the jurisdiction of that department,
8 including an overview of that state's
9 contributing policies, programs, projects,
10 and best practices;

11 (ii) No fewer than five other examples of the
12 most innovative and successful government
13 projects, programs, policies, and best
14 practices relevant to the jurisdiction of
15 that department that have been developed or
16 implemented by other countries, states,
17 cities, or jurisdictions and that may help
18 accelerate the department's success in
19 meeting the climate mitigation and
20 adaptation directives and targets
21 established by law;



1 (iii) The department's current plans and efforts
 2 to meet the climate mitigation and
 3 adaptation directives and targets
 4 established by law; and
 5 (iv) Recommendations for improving the
 6 department's current plans and proposed
 7 courses of action to better meet and exceed
 8 the State's climate-related targets.

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

12 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
 13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
 14 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for
 15 the establishment of the following positions within the Hawaii
 16 climate change mitigation and adaptation commission:

- 17 (1) Four full-time equivalent (4.0 FTE) specialist
- 18 positions, exempt from chapter 76, Hawaii Revised
- 19 Statutes;
- 20 (2) One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) account clerk V;
- 21 and



1 (3) One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) office manager;
2 and other expenses, including contracts entered into under
3 chapter 225P, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

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

7 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
8 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

9 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

DLNR; HCCMAC; Climate Change; Positions; 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. Requires annual reports to the Governor, Legislature, and counties. Establishes six full-time equivalent positions within the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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