
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW.

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

1 The legislature recognizes that vulnerable communities and
2 neighborhoods have been historically excluded, and systemically
3 underresourced, resulting in socioeconomic disparities across
4 Hawai'i. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted these preexisting
5 vulnerabilities and conditions. In furtherance of the Hawai'i
6 State Planning Act, section 226, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, this
7 legislature recognizes the need to ensure for present and future
8 generations' physical, social, and economic equity and well-
9 being. As we prepare for a post-COVID-19 era and in conjunction
10 with federal legislation and investments, the legislature
11 further finds that the rebuilding of our community shall not
12 exacerbate disenfranchised communities or neighborhoods.

13 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to ensure that
14 agency decisionmakers assess socioeconomic disparities of
15 proposed actions as part of the environmental review process.

16 SECTION 1. Chapter 343, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, is
17 amended by adding a new section to part II to be appropriately
18 designated and to read as follows:

