



Senator Hirono's Women and Climate Change Act of 2022

*To address the disparate impact of climate change on women
and support the efforts of women globally to address climate change*

Problem:

Women all over the world are facing greater economic, agricultural, and health-related hardships due to climate change. Vulnerable communities are often the first to feel the negative impacts of climate change, including scarcity, drought, food insecurity, and increased disease. Women often disproportionately face harmful effects through their influential roles in growing food, collecting vital resources, and providing for the economic wellbeing of their families and communities. Conflict, displacement, and refugee crises that result from climate change sometimes lead to violence and sexual exploitation against women, as well as higher health risks and mortality rates.

While women are bearing the brunt of climate change's effects, they are often underrepresented in the development of climate change adaptation policy. This bill seeks to empower women and encourage more intersectional and gender-sensitive approaches in climate change policy.

Bill Summary:

The Women and Climate Change Act of 2022 affirms the commitment to include and empower women in economic development planning and international climate change policies and practices to help communities embark on a path towards clean and sustainable development. It directs federal agencies to lead the global effort and provide coordinated and comprehensive strategies to mitigate the effects of climate change on women and girls around the world. More specifically, this legislation establishes a Federal Interagency Working Group on Women and Climate Change within the U.S. Department of State. Members of this working group include, but are not limited to, designees from the Department of State, the Agency for International Development, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and the White House Council on Environmental Quality. Duties of the working group include:

- (1) Developing federal policies and activities related to the effects of climate change on women;
- (2) Identifying and improving data collection on the impact of climate change on women; and
- (3) Developing a strategy to prevent and respond to the effects of climate change on women.

*Cosponsors: Sen. Blumenthal (D-CT), Sen. Durbin (D-IL), Sen. Markey (D-MA),
Sen. Smith (D-MN), Sen. Warren (D-MA), Sen. Whitehouse (D-RI)*

*Groups in Support: Sierra Club, Planned Parenthood, the Women's Environment and
Development Organization, MADRE, Outdoor Afro, California Environmental Voters, Oxfam America,
League of Conservation Voters, Schools for Climate Action.*