



**Testimony to the House Committees on Water, Land & Ocean Resources
And, Energy and Environmental Protection
Friday, February 10, 2012
9:00 a.m.
State Capitol - Conference Room 325**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 1813 RELATING TO SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS

Chairs Chang and Coffman, Vice Chairs Har and Kawakami, and members of the committees:

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii supports the intent of H.B. No. 1813. The bill proposes to exempt any state or county Capital Improvement Project (CIP) from special management area guidelines and requirements

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, representing more than 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the “Voice of Business” in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of its members, which employ more than 200,000 individuals, to improve the state’s economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

The bill proposes to amend Chapter 205A HRS by adding the following section:

Exemption for state projects. This part shall not apply to any capital improvement project within a special management area that is funded, wholly or partially, by state or county funds and located on state or county land.

We understand that the State Office of Planning, in a separate Bill (HB 2154) indicated that they have developed an alternative permitting process for state projects that is consistent with the coastal zone management program and will present its findings to the Legislature prior to the Regular Session of 2013.

The Chamber supports the legislative intent; however, given the position of the State Planning Office, we suggest that more details of the proposed “alternative permitting process” proposed by the State Planning Office be provided in order to determine if the legislation proposed in HB 1813 is required.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our views.