



**Testimony to the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
Tuesday, February 7, 2012
9:00 a.m.
State Capitol - Conference Room 325**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 2483 RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Chair Coffman and Vice Chair Kawakami, and members of the committees:

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii supports the intent of H.B. No. 2483. The bill proposes to create a climate change adaptation policy for the State of Hawaii by amending the Hawaii State Planning Act to include climate change adaptation priority guidelines.

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.

As drafted, the bill proposes to amend Chapter 226, HRS to require the office of planning to focus on preparing for and adapting to the expected impacts of climate change. The purpose of this bill is to encourage collaboration and cooperation between county, state, and federal agencies, policy makers, businesses, and other community partners to plan for the impacts of climate change and avoid, minimize, or mitigate loss of life, land, and property of future generations.

The Chamber believes that guidance through effective public policy legislation is the first step the State needs to develop plans for the anticipated impacts of climate change.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our views.