



**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. 2523 RELATING TO INTERISLAND ELECTRIC  
TRANSMISSION CABLE SYSTEM**

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

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii strongly supports H.B. No. 2523 in its present form. The bill proposes to establish the regulatory structure under which interisland undersea transmission cables can be developed, financed, and constructed on commercially reasonable terms, such as those upon which successful cable projects have been undertaken in several locations around the world.

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 establish a regulatory structure for the installation and implementation of an interisland high voltage electric transmission cable system and for the construction of on-island transmission infrastructure.

The Chamber strongly supports this initiative that attempts to attract private investment to develop an interisland undersea transmission cable. Such a cable would allow the State of Hawaii to make better use of its natural energy resources that are unique to certain areas of the State.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our views.