

**Testimony to the Senate Committees on Energy and Environment and Water,  
Land and Housing  
Tuesday, January 31, 2012 at 2:45 p.m.  
Conference Room 225, State Capitol**

**RE: SENATE BILL NO. 2021 RELATING TO THE CLIMATE CHANGE  
TASK FORCE**

Chairs Gabbard and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs English and Solomon, and Members of the Committees:

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber") **opposes** S.B. 2021 relating to the Climate Change Task Force in its present form.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, representing more than 1,100 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 the climate change task force to assess the impacts of global warming and climate change trends in the State and appropriates funds for the task force.

As drafted, the bill proposes to:

1. Scope the current and potential impacts of global warming and climate change on the people, natural resources, and the economy of the State; and,
2. Scope the potential impacts of rising ocean levels as a result of climate change on the people, natural resources, and the economy of the State.

It also proposes to create a task force comprised of 8 representatives from Government; 2 representatives from environmental organizations; and 4 appointed at the discretion of the Senate President (2) and Speaker of the House (2).

Our basic opposition is based on the fact that there does not appear to be enough scientific evidence gathered that would predict when and the rate at which sea level rise would occur. This information would appear to us to be critical in developing any type of plan on how to prepare.

Our recommendation would be to focus on the science first and then develop the public policy based on the scientific evidence.

Finally, we would suggest that the make-up of the task force include more scientists who understand the mechanics of sea level rise, economists who can compare cost/benefits of the various responses to sea level rise, and representatives from companies experienced with large scale construction projects that are being considered in response to sea level rise.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our views.