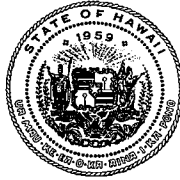


**SCR 126 SR 65**

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO, M.D.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P.O. Box 3378  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

## SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

### SCR 126/SR 65, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH A GLOBAL WARMING TASK FORCE

Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.  
Director of Health

April 1, 2008  
2:45 p.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health appreciates the intent of this resolution to assess  
2 global warming's impact on Hawaii, but has concerns and respectfully **opposes** the resolution.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** The resolution does not provide funding to support the activities of the new  
4 global warming task force. It is unknown at this time about the number of personnel that will be needed,  
5 the personnel costs, or the costs for consultant assistance, but it is likely to be considerable, and it is not  
6 provided for in the executive supplemental budget proposal.

7 **Purpose and Justification:** This resolution directs the Department of Health to establish a global  
8 warming task force composed of a broad array of representatives from government, military, and  
9 education as well as affected communities and industries. The purpose of the task force is to assess the  
10 potential impacts of global warming and rising ocean levels on Hawaii including the people, natural  
11 resources, economy, visitor industry, air and sea transportation, buildings, public utilities infrastructure,  
12 shoreline erosion, and public health. In addition, the task force is to provide recommendations for  
13 addressing or mitigating the near and long-term effects from global warming.

14 We are concerned about the increase in task forces, given that there is already a Greenhouse Gas  
15 Emission Reduction Task Force under Act 234, 2007 Session Laws of Hawaii. Any recommendations

1 for global warming, including one for an additional task force on prevention and mitigation of impacts  
2 should come from the work of that task force. Otherwise, there is a tremendous potential for needless  
3 duplication of effort or wasteful work done in contradiction with one another.

4 We also think that a large task force, as proposed, will be unwieldy and lead to quorum  
5 problems.

6 Moreover, the task force will require staff administration and support. The resolution does not  
7 provide the resources (position counts and sufficient general funds) to cover the inevitable personnel,  
8 operational, and consultant costs, whether the work is to be done by a new task force or the existing  
9 Greenhouse Gas Task Force, or a department. The work will be considerable because the resolution  
10 covers many subjects.

11 We also question the task force approach. All agencies, businesses, and organizations should be  
12 working now to assess potential impacts of climate change on their operations and the effect of their  
13 greenhouse gas emissions. We all need to integrate such concerns into ongoing operations, rather than  
14 relying solely on a panel of experts.

15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24

**Testimony of the The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i  
Supporting S.C.R. 126 and S.R. 65 Requesting the Department of Health to Establish a  
Global Warming Task Force to Assess the Impacts of Global Warming on the State  
Senate Committee on Energy & Environment  
Tuesday, April 1, 2008, 2:45PM, Room 414**

---

*The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of Hawaii's native plants, animals, and ecosystems. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands for native species in Hawai'i. Today, we actively manage more than 32,000 acres in 11 nature preserves on O'ahu, Maui, Hawai'i, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Kaua'i. We also work closely with government agencies, private parties and communities on cooperative land and marine management projects.*

---

The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii supports S.C.R. 126 and S.R. 65.

While the Legislature passed landmark legislation last year to put Hawai'i on the path to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, that legislation does not provide authority or resources toward assessing, mitigating and adapting to the inevitable effects of climate change. Regardless of the level of reduced emissions, Hawai'i and the world will feel the effects of human-induced climate change for generations to come.

The health of Hawaii's unique but threatened natural resources directly affects our economy and quality of life. Beyond breathtaking beauty, these resources provide essential natural services that make life possible in the middle of the vast Pacific Ocean. From native forests that give us fresh water, erosion control, and cultural treasures, to abundant coral reefs that provide food, recreation, and protection from storms, we all depend daily on nature to sustain us. However, higher temperatures, more intense storm events but overall less rainfall, and ocean acidification threaten to alter the health and function of the natural systems upon which our lives, livelihood and lifestyles depend.

As this resolution points out, we must be prepared to understand and respond to those effects.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

S. Haunani Apoliona Peter D. Baldwin Christopher J. Benjamin Zadoc W. Brown, Jr. Carl A. Carlson, Jr. David C. Cole Samuel A. Cooke  
Peter H. Ehrman Kenton T. Eldridge Guy Fujimura J. Stephen Goodfellow Thomas Gottlieb James J.C. Haynes Ron Higgins Peter Ho  
Stanley Hong J. Douglas Ing Mark L. Johnson Dr. Kenneth Kaneshiro Bert A. Kobayashi, Jr. Faye Watanabe Kurren Duncan MacNaughton  
Bill D. Mills Wayne Minami Michael T. Pfeffer H. Monty Richards Jean E. Rolles Scott Rolles James Romig Eric Yeaman

**testimony**

---

**From:** Windward Ahupua`a Alliance [info@waa-hawaii.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 31, 2008 10:00 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** SCR 126/SR 65 - 2:45 pm, Tuesday, April 1, 2008

**SUBMITTED BY:*****Windward Ahupua`a Alliance***

P.O. Box 6366

Kane`ohe, HI 96744

Phone: 808/247-6366; Cellular: 808/223-4481 or 224-4496

E-Mail: info@waa-hawaii.org

Website: <http://www.waa-hawaii.org>**COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT*****Sen. Ron Menor, Chair******Sen. Gary Hooser, Vice Chair*****PUBLIC HEARING****2:45 pm****Tuesday, April 1, 2008****Conference Room 414****SCR 126/SR 65: REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH A GLOBAL WARMING TASK OFORCE TO ASSESS THE IMPACTS OF GLOBAL WARMING ON THE STATE****SUPPORT THE INTENT PLUS COMMENTS****TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT:**

My name is Shannon Wood, speaking on behalf of the *Windward Ahupua`a Alliance*, a **501c3** Hawai`i non-profit corporation, which was established in July, 2002.

For the past three years, one of *WAA's* key foci has been on renewable energy issues and the impacts of global warming, climate change and sea level rise. I was one of ten people here in Hawai`i selected to go through an intensive training program in January, 2007, with **The Climate Project**, founded by former *Vice President* Al Gore who, along with the *International Panel on Climate Change*, was awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize** for their global warming/climate change work. All totaled, there are about 1,000 of us from around the world carrying the message to ordinary folks about climate change and global warming.

Growing out of that training, I also now work with a national organization which addressing these issues in *Congress* and with the *Bush Administration* - although I am sorry to say that we were unable to persuade the *Department of the Interior* to place the polar bear on the **Endangered Species Act** list before opening up its habitat to the sale of oil-drilling leases.

As someone who helped craft the **ACT 234** last year and who is now tracking the **Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Task Force's** work closely, I know that its mandate and mission to focus primarily on energy-related matters here in Hawai'i will restrict its ability to work on other inter-related issues even though they will impact its work product.

What makes this so frustrating to deal with is that the complex nature of global warming/sea level rise covers a whole host of topics which are outside its purview but which will have an enormous impact on the **Task Force's** work product.

For example, it is highly unlikely that the current **Task Force** will even take up **loss of habitat** issues from other areas of the world - perhaps not even looking at the negative impacts of bringing in "renewable" feedstocks to wean Hawai'i off fossil fuel usage.

Unfortunately, **SCR 126/SR 65** are unfunded which will put the *Department of Health* under extreme pressure to do its regular work, let alone something new such as this.

What is needed is a bill addressing these matters, but the only vehicle in this session - **SB 2016 SD 1** - did not get heard in **Ways & Means**.

Perhaps *DOH* could work with the private sector & NGOs such as the *Windward Ahupua`a Alliance* as well as with the federal government to obtain financing to implement the contents of this resolution so that we can get a solid bill passed out during the next couple of years.

Mahalo for the opportunity to present these thoughts.

*The Windward Ahupua`a Alliance works to educate & inform residents, visitors, businesses, policymakers, and the media about using Smart Growth planning principles which promote sustainability. These include: Designing long-term waste management systems; improving illegal dumping/derelect vehicle legislation & enforcement; developing & implementing comprehensive curbside recycling programs; providing research & support on public access issues; establishing both state & county-level "legacy lands" funds to support affordable workforce housing initiatives and critical land purchases to protect against inappropriate development; creating alternative energy systems to reduce Hawai`i's dependency on fossil fuels & to mitigate the impacts of global warming; and, setting long-term watershed protection policies based upon ahupua`a concepts & principles.*