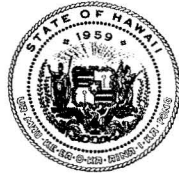


LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

Bill No. 266

Support Y N

Date 3/18/09 CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

Time 1515

Cat AF AS AX B C

Type 1 2 WI

In reply, please refer to:
File:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

S.B. 266, SD2, RELATING TO GLOBAL WARMING

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

March 19, 2009
10:00 a.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health opposes this measure given that a Greenhouse Gas
2 Emission Reduction Task Force already exists. In addition, the Department opposes the new
3 expenditures in this bill which have not been accounted for in the budget.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** The bill provides for \$100,000 of tourism special funds for fiscal years 2010 and
5 the same sum for 2011 to support the activities of the new global warming task force. The Department
6 estimates it would need one personnel count for an Environmental Engineer V and two-year funding
7 totaling \$470,000 for personnel costs of \$170,000 and for consultant assistance costs of \$300,000.

8 **Purpose and Justification:** This bill seeks to create a global warming task force administratively
9 within the Department of Health. The purpose of the task force is to assess the potential impacts and
10 costs of global warming trends and ocean level rising on the people, natural resources, economy, visitor
11 industry, air and sea transportation, buildings, public utilities infrastructure, shoreline erosion, and
12 public health. In addition, the task force is to provide recommendations for addressing or mitigating the
13 near and long term effects from global warming. The task force is to be dissolved on June 30, 2011.

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. While we understand that adaptation issues differ

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

4 We also think that a 29-member task force, as proposed, will be unwieldy and lead to quorum
5 problems.

6 While adaptation issues are important, the current budget situation forces difficult choices, and
7 we think that emission reduction and clean energy should be the higher priorities.

8 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

EEPtestimony

From: Windward Ahupua`a Alliance [info@waa-hawaii.org]
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2009 4:42 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: info@waa-hawaii.org
Subject: SB 226 SD 2

Bill No. 266
Support Y N
Date 3/18/09
Time 1643
Cat AF AS AX B C
Type 1 2 WI

TESTIMONY SUBMITTED BY:

Shannon Wood, *President*

Windward Ahupua`a Alliance/The Climate Project

P.O. Box 6366

Kane`ohe, HI 96744

Website: <http://www.waa-hawaii.org>; E-Mail: <mailto:info@waa-hawaii.org>

Voicemail: 808/247-6366 ext.1#

Cellular: 808/224-4496 - 5 copies

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Rep. Hermina Morita, Chair

Rep. Denny Cooper, Vice Chair

10 am

Thursday, March 19, 2009

Conference Room 325

SB 266 SD2- RELATING TO GLOBAL WARMING

Support WITH AMENDMENTS

My name is Shannon Wood speaking on behalf of the *Windward Ahupua`a Alliance*. **SB 266 SD- RELATING TO GLOBAL WARMING** would create a **Global Warming Task Force** to assess the impacts of climate warming trends in the in Hawai`i.

Although I certainly agree with the general focus of **SB 266 -SD2** as we face the challenges of climate change & sea level rise over the next several decades, the bill needs to be strengthened in order for it to achieve its stated mission:

1. Assess the current and potential impacts of global warming and climate change trends on the citizens, natural resources, and the economy of the State;
2. Assess the potential impacts of rising ocean levels as a result of climate change on the citizens, natural resources, and the economy of the State;
3. Estimate the costs to the State of the adverse effects associated with climate change and rising sea levels;
4. Make recommendations to the legislature and the governor on measures that would address or mitigate the near- and long-term effects of climate change.

The **Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Task Force** established by the *Legislature* in 2007 has done a significant amount of research on preparing us to reduce our dependency on fossil fuels to power up our electricity plants and our transportation sectors; however, its mandate does not deal with issues as diverse as re-evaluating county planning ordinances & zoning codes, addressing beach losses, protecting potable water supplies, reducing loss of habitat, mitigating the impacts of major storms, flooding, droughts & wildfires, and re-visiting how we live, work & play when we begin to really feel the impacts of **Post-Peak Oil** leading to a permanent economic shift away from mass tourism and, to a lesser extent, dependence upon the military.

Some folks will oppose the bill by arguing that we cannot afford to spend any money on new government programs because of Hawai'i's fiscal condition; however, a close examination of existing and new federal funds as well as the possibility of being able to tap into some of the stimulus funds indicates that money will be available to help underwrite the costs of setting up the **Global Warming Task Force**. In fact, both **EPA & NOAA** have come out in support of providing federal assistance for local governments plus there are also private foundations which are funding community-based efforts to address these issues.

Report Calls For Federal Assistance For Local Planning for Climate Change

On March 12, the **National Research Council** released a report, **Informing Decisions in a Changing Climate**, calling for new federal efforts to identify local officials who need assistance in planning for climate change impacts.

According to a press release by the **National Academies**, "The report recommends six principles that all agencies should follow in supporting decision makers who are facing the effects of climate change. For example, agencies' efforts should be driven by the needs of end users in the field, not by scientific research priorities. And agencies should create close ties between the scientists who produce climate change information and the practitioners who use it."

The report was sponsored by the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency** and the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**. The **National Academy of Sciences**, **National Academy of Engineering**, **Institute of Medicine**, and **National Research Council** make up the **National Academies**.

To read the press release and the report: <http://www.nationalacademies.org/morenews/20090312.html>.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS FOR SB 266 SD2 - RELATING TO GLOBAL WARMING

1. Reduce the total number of seats from 29 to 20
2. Reduce the number of appointments by the *Governor* from 11 to 7
3. Expand the focus to include all resort & other commercial/industrial areas across the entire state which will be directly impacted by rising sea levels
4. With respect to funding, I urge that you make it clear that state financial support would be matching funds and that the **Governor's Office**, in conjunction with the **Legislature** and other interested parties, would identify and apply for federal & private grants to help underwrite the **Task Force's** costs.

5. **PROPOSED MEMBERS** - where appropriate, chairs & department heads could designate a representative.

Chair, State Department of Agriculture

Chair, State Department of Transportation

Chair, State Department of Land & Natural Resources

Deputy Director, State Department of Health

State Energy Office Administrator (DBEDT)

State Planning Office Administrator (DBEDT)

Hawai'i Tourism Authority (DBEDT)

City & County of Honolulu Chief Planning Officer

Maui County Chief Planning Officer

Kaua'i County Chief Planning Officer

Hawai'i County Chief Planning Officer

One representative from an environmental **NGO** appointed by the **House Speaker**

One representative from the ocean-based commercial ocean sector appointed by the **House Speaker**

One representative from ocean-based recreational users appointed by the **House Speaker**

One representative from an environmental **NGO** appointed by the **Senate President**

One representative from the land-based commercial business/industrial sector appointed by the **Senate President**

One representative from ocean commercial users appointed by the **Senate President**

One member from the **University of Hawai'i SOEST** faculty & research staff selected by the **UH** administration

One member from the **University of Hawai'i Dept. of Urban & Regional Planning** selected by the **UH** administration

One energy or environmental researcher from the **East-West Center** selected by its chief administrative officer

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer these amendments to strengthen **SB 266**. If you would like to discuss any of these, please give me a call at 224-4496.

Shannon Wood, *President*

Windward Ahupua`a Alliance/The Climate Project

P.O. Box 6366

Kane`ohe, HI 96744

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

Website: <http://www.waa-hawaii.org>; E-Mail: <mailto:info@waa-hawaii.org>



Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

PO Box 2577, Honolulu, HI 96803
808.537.9019 hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org

Bill No. 266

Support Y N

Date 3/18/09

Time 2:44

Cat AF AS AX B C

Type 1 2 WI

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

March 19, 10:0 A.M.

(Testimony is 3 pages long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 266, SD2

Aloha Chair Morita and Members of the Committees:

The Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, with 5500 dues paying members statewide, supports the intent of SB 266, establishing a global warming task force to assess the impacts of climate change on Hawai'i. We believe it would be wise preventative measure for the State to establish a task force that is focused solely on examining the potential impacts of global climate change and Hawaii's adaptation needs. Clear deliverables from the task force—in terms of proposed legislation, rule changes, resource needs, etc—are needed for the work of the task force to be effective. Establishment of a climate change adaptation task force would be a welcome complement to the existing Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Task Force. This other Task Force solely focuses on mitigating Hawaii's contribution to global climate change.

Global climate change is perhaps the greatest threat to Hawaii's prosperity. The ongoing increase in global greenhouse gas emissions—primarily from fossil fuel combustion—has systematically increased the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. This increase in greenhouse gases is causing a warming of the Earth, leading to dramatic changes in climate, sea level, and weather.

Global climate change threatens Hawai'i with stronger hurricanes, prolonged drought, shifting weather patterns, warmer temperatures, shifting micro-climates, increased spread of invasive species, and saltwater intrusion into Hawaii's aquifers. University of Hawaii experts have demonstrated that a one meter rise in sea level—a change that is possible within the next 50 years—would inundate much of Hawaii's coastline, including its beaches, the world renown Waikiki resort area, the Honolulu International Airport's reef runway, the majority of Hawaii's wastewater treatment facilities, many historic sites, and many populated areas, including lands up to a mile away from the existing shoreline in parts of Honolulu. The image on page 3 of this

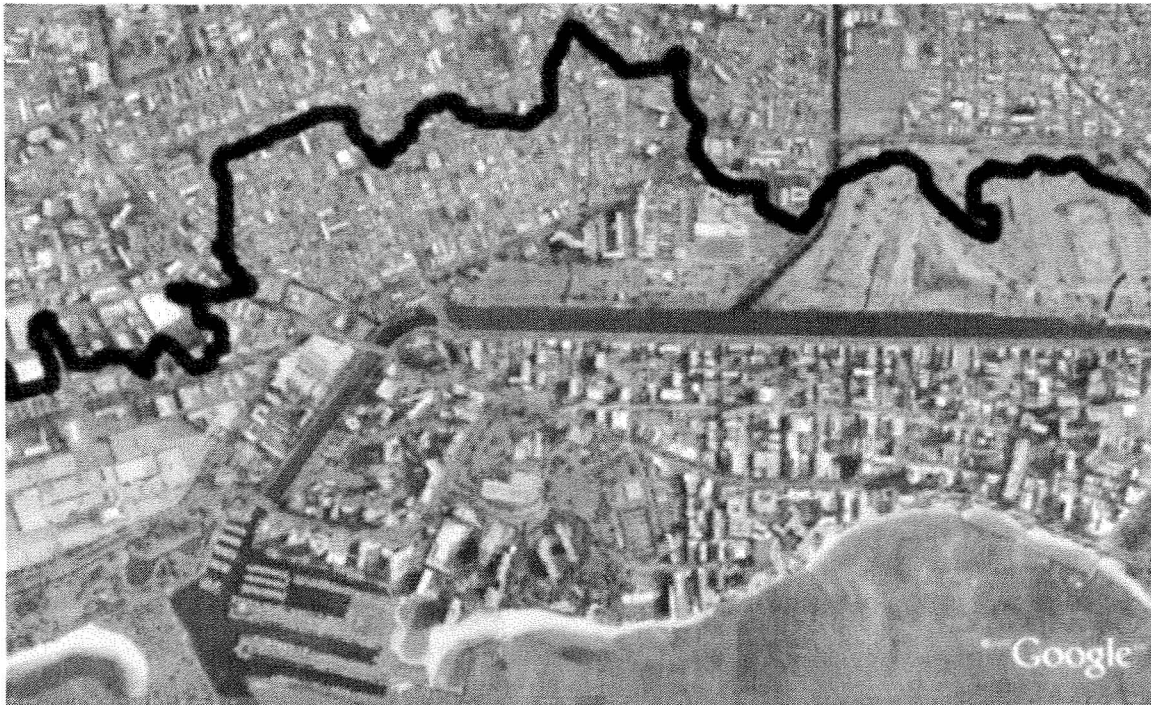
testimony demonstrates the extent of flooding through the Waikiki-Moiliili-McCully areas that would likely be caused by a one-meter rise in sea level.

We do suggest reexamining the composition of the Task Force. We suggest reducing the number but attempting to keep an appropriate balance of environmentalists and scientists in the process. For example, the Greenhouse Task Force language could be copied:

- (1) Two members appointed by the president of the senate from affected business sectors;
- (2) Two members appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives from affected business sectors;
- (3) The deputy director of the department of health's environmental health administration or the deputy director's designee, who shall co-chair the task force;
- (4) The director of business, economic development, and tourism or the director's designee, who shall co-chair the task force;
- (5) Two members from the University of Hawaii at Manoa climate change commission, selected by members of the Commission;
- (6) A member from an environmental organization appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; and
- (7) A member from an environmental organization appointed by the president of the senate.

Finally, we note that HB 1271 may provide an appropriate funding mechanism for this task forced. It proposes to fund energy independence and food security by way of a \$1.00 tax on each barrel of oil. One of the principle causes of global climate change is the use of fossil fuels. Turning the source of our problem, oil, into a potential mechanism for creating a solution seems like an appropriate and suitable nexus.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Picture showing where sea level rise is anticipated.



Bill No. 266
Support Y N
Date 3/19/09
Time 1213

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION Cat AF AS AX BC

March 19, 2009, 10:00 A.M.
Room 325

Type 1 2 WI

(Testimony is 3 pages long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 266 SD2

Chair Morita and members of the committee:

The Blue Planet Foundation supports the intent of SB 266 SD2, establishing a global warming task force to assess the impacts of climate change on Hawai'i.

Blue Planet believes it would be wise preventative measure for the State to establish a task force that is focused solely on examining the potential impacts of global climate change and Hawaii's adaptation needs. Clear deliverables from the task force—in terms of proposed legislation, rule changes, resource needs, etc—are needed for the work of the task force to be effective. Establishment of a climate change adaptation task force would be a welcome complement to the existing Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Task Force (GHGERTF) that was established in 2007 through Act 234. The GHGERTF is focused on mitigating Hawaii's contribution to global climate change—that is, actually reducing Hawaii's greenhouse gas emissions. The task force contemplated in SB 266 SD2 would be focused on reducing the inevitable negative impacts that Hawai'i will likely experience given ongoing and accelerating climate change.

Global climate change is perhaps the greatest threat to Hawaii's prosperity. The ongoing increase in global greenhouse gas emissions—primarily from fossil fuel combustion—has systematically increased the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. This increase in greenhouse gases is causing a warming of the Earth, leading to dramatic changes in climate, sea level, and weather.

Global climate change threatens Hawai'i with stronger hurricanes, prolonged drought, shifting weather patterns, warmer temperatures, shifting micro-climates, increased spread of invasive

Jeff Mikulina, executive director • jeff@blueplanetfoundation.org

55 Merchant Street 17th Floor • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813 • 808-954-6142 • blueplanetfoundation.org

species, and saltwater intrusion into Hawaii's aquifers. University of Hawaii experts have demonstrated that a one meter rise in sea level—a change that is possible within the next 50 years—would inundate much of Hawaii's coastline, including its beaches, the world renown Waikiki resort area, the Honolulu International Airport's reef runway, the majority of Hawaii's wastewater treatment facilities, many historic sites, and many populated areas, including lands up to a mile away from the existing shoreline in parts of Honolulu. The image on page 2 of this testimony demonstrates the extent of flooding through the Waikiki-Moiliili-McCully areas that would likely be caused by a one-meter rise in sea level.

Independent of the warming, the increase in carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere fosters greater carbon dioxide uptake by the world's oceans, leading to ocean acidification and the resultant decrease in reef health and decrease in survival of ocean life that rely on calcium carbonate shells. The Task Force contemplated in SB 266 SD2 should examine this phenomenon and its effects as well. Blue Planet believes that that SB 266 SD2 should be amended to address global climate change and its effects as opposed to global warming alone. The composition of the Task Force could also be reduced and reexamined to include expertise from the biological sciences, cultural experts, and community groups.

Finally, we appreciate the amendment made in the Senate Ways and Means Committee to fund this new task force through an appropriation from the Tourism Special Fund (the image of Waikiki with a 1 meter sea level rise on the following page is a compelling reason why). We would also support using a portion of the barrel fee increase (as contemplated in HB 1271) to fund the Global Warming task force.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

