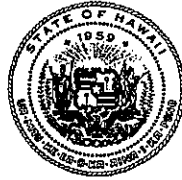


SB 266

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:

**JOINT SENATE COMMITTEES ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT &
TOURISM**

S.B. 266, RELATING TO GLOBAL WARMING

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

**February 10, 2009
2:45 p.m.**

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health appreciates the intent of the measure, however
2 given that a Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Task Force exists and that the State is facing a fiscal
3 shortfall, we respectfully oppose this bill.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** The bill provides for an unspecified amount of general funds for fiscal years 2010
5 and 2011 to support the activities of the new global warming task force. It is unknown at this time on
6 the number of personnel that will be needed, the personnel costs, or the costs for consultant assistance.

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

13 We are concerned about the increase in task forces, given that there is already a Greenhouse Gas
14 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.

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Legislative Testimony
SB 266, RELATING TO GLOBAL WARMING
Senate Committees on Energy and Environment, and Tourism

February 10, 2009
Room: 225

2:45 p.m.

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** S.B. 266, which seeks to establish a global warming task force to assess the physical impacts of climate warming trends in the state.

OHA recognizes that the effects of climate change are more than just theoretical, and that we are already seeing the first of what is unfortunately to be a series of impacts from this phenomenon. As a member of the Hawai'i Ocean Resources Management Plan working group, OHA sees firsthand just how unprepared Hawai'i is for these inevitable effects. OHA believes that our best approach in dealing with these adverse impacts is to be proactive rather than reactive. It is essential that we be prepared and informed in order to prepare and make the best decisions regarding this serious threat. Our state will feel the effects more than most states, and we need to be creative, forward-looking, and ready to make difficult choices to ensure a better future for ourselves and our mo'opuna.

OHA notes that other states' and federal agencies are already preparing for the advent of sea level rise across the nation. For example, other states have begun to coordinate responses, initiate studies, and change laws in anticipation of global warming. On the federal level, the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) at 16 USC §1451 (1) states, "Because global warming may result in a substantial sea level rise with serious adverse effects in the coastal zone, coastal states must anticipate and plan for such an occurrence."

OHA urges that the Legislature take this opportunity to answer the CZMA's call, heed the warning signs of this

unfortunate situation, and begin to enable our state to ready itself.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committees to PASS SB 266. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting S.B. 266 Relating to Global Warming
Senate Committee on Energy & Environment
Senate Committee on Tourism
Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 2:45PM, Room 225**

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.B. 266.

While the Legislature passed landmark legislation in 2007 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 bill points out, we must be prepared to understand and respond to those effects.

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COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair

Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

2:45 p.m.

Conference Room 225

SB 266 Global Warming Task Force.

OPPOSE

Aloha Chairs Gabbard, Nishihara, Vice Chairs English, Galuteria and Members of the Committees

My name is Henry Curtis and I am the Executive Director of Life of the Land, Hawai'i's own energy, environmental and community action group advocating for the people and `aina for almost four decades. Our mission is to preserve and protect the life of the land through sound energy and land use policies and to promote open government through research, education, advocacy and, when necessary, litigation.

The focus of this bill is to set up a climate change task force, populated mostly by bureaucrats, attached to an agency that does not want it, and have them produce a report about what we already know.

A better approach would be for the Legislature to ban high climate impacts fuels, and for each State agency to take into account what is known about climate change impacts in making all decisions.

Mahalo,
Henry Curtis



**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM**

February 10, 2008, 2:45 P.M.
Room 225

(Testimony is 3 pages long)

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 266

Chair Gabbard and Nishihara and members of the committees:

The Blue Planet Foundation supports the intent of SB 266, 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 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 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 should examine this phenomenon and its effects as well. Blue Planet believes that that SB 266 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 reexamined to include additional expertise from the biological sciences, cultural experts, and community groups.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



From: Windward Ahupua`a Alliance [info@waa-hawaii.org]
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2009 3:55 PM
To: ENETestimony
Subject: SB 266 - RELATING TO GLOBAL WARMING Hearing, 2:45 pm, Tuesday 2/10/09

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>
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Cellular: 808/224-4496

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
Senator Mike Gabbard, *Chair*
Senator J. Kalani English, *Vice Chair*

COMMITTEE ON TOURISM
Senator Clarence Nishihara, *Chair*
Senator Brickwood Galuteria, *Vice Chair*

2:45 pm
Tuesday, February 10, 2009
Conference Room 225

SB 266 - RELATING TO GLOBAL WARMING
Support WITH AMENDMENTS

My name is Shannon Wood speaking on behalf of the *Windward Ahupua`a Alliance* in support of **SB 266 - RELATING TO GLOBAL WARMING** which would create a **Global Warming Task Force** to assess the impacts of climate warming trends in the in Hawai`i. In addition, I'll be offering some amendments to strengthen the bill.

However, before I speak to **SB 266**, I offer the following selected excerpts from a speech presented on Wednesday, January 28, 2009, to the *United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee* by *Vice President Al Gore*, founder of **The Climate Project**:

We have arrived at a moment of decision. Our home Earth is in grave danger. What is at risk of being destroyed is not the planet itself, of course, but the conditions that have made it hospitable for human beings.

Moreover, we must face up to this urgent and unprecedented threat to the existence of our civilization at a time when our country must simultaneously solve two other worsening crises. Our economy is in its deepest recession since the 1930s. And our national security is endangered by a vicious terrorist network and the complex challenge of ending the war in Iraq honorably while winning the military and political struggle in Afghanistan.

As we search for solutions to all three of these challenges, it is becoming clearer that they are linked by a common thread our dangerous over-reliance on carbon-based fuels.....

Most importantly, as long as we continue to depend on dirty fossil fuels like coal and oil to meet our energy needs, and dump 70 million tons of global warming pollution into the thin shell of atmosphere surrounding our planet, we move closer and closer to several dangerous tipping points which scientists have repeatedly warned again (us which) will threaten to make it impossible for us to avoid irretrievable destruction of the conditions that make human civilization possible on this planet.

To read Mr. Gore's complete speech, click here:

<http://foreign.senate.gov/testimony/2009/GoreTestimony090128p.pdf>

If there is any doubt as to whether there is such a thing as climate change leading to global warming & sea level rise, please take the time to visit the *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's* website at MailScanner has detected a possible fraud attempt from "www.ipcc.ch" claiming to be <http://www.ipcc.ch/> The research is rock-solid and continuously updated & expanded by scientists from all around the world.

As taken from the website: *The IPCC was established to provide the decision-makers and others interested in climate change with an objective source of information about climate change. (It) does not conduct any research nor does it monitor climate-related data or parameters. Its role is to assess on a comprehensive, objective, open and transparent basis the latest scientific, technical and socio-economic literature produced worldwide relevant to the understanding of the risk of human-induced climate change, its observed and projected impacts and options for adaptation and mitigation.*

Although I can't do much directly to stop greenhouse gas emissions in China or the destruction of ancient rainforests in Southeast Asia or Brazil to plant biofuel crops, I can work towards mitigating the damages caused by the impacts of human development on our planet both here in Hawai'i and the United States over the past 100+ years.

The first way is to support the creation of the Global Warming Task Force by working with the two committees to strengthen the bill and then to make sure that it continues to get support as it works its way through the legislative process.

SB 266 which creates the Global Warming Task Force addresses the inter-connectivity between the environment **and** the economy **and** energy **and** education both formal & informal **and** social equity issues as we face the challenges of dealing with climate change & sea level rise over the next several decades.

Although 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, 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.

As for proposed amendments, first I urge the two committees to reduce the number of members on the Global Warming Task Force - 29 is too many. For example, why not have just one representative from the various military branches rather than four members in addition to the *Adjutant General* plus the *Coast Guard*.

In the meantime, no representatives from *NGOs* focusing on energy & the environment are directly

included although they could be named by the *House Speaker* and the *Senate President*. There are also no representatives from private sector businesses not directly connected to the visitor industry.

Another area which needs addressing is the failure to include more academic researchers in fields as diverse as urban planning, invasive species, and alternative energy resources from solid waste and sewage.

I would also like to see the language expanded to include resort areas across the state rather than just focusing on Waikiki.

Some folks will oppose **SB 266** 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 federal funds as well as the opportunity to tap into some of the **Economic Stimulus Package** \$\$\$ indicates that money will be available to help underwrite the costs of setting up the **Global Warming Task Force**. There are also private foundations which are funding efforts like these all around the world.

And, yes, we all must continue to pressure both *Congress* and the *Obama Administration* to move forward on their initiatives as well. Still, this is the opportunity for us who live in the middle of the *Pacific Ocean* to prepare for the future. The time is now and not decades from now when it will be too late.

We are more than willing to sit down with you and your staff members and others with expertise in the areas of climate change, global warming & sea level rise to strengthen this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to present these amendments.

The *Windward Ahupua`a Alliance*, a 501c3 Hawai'i non-profit corporation, was established in July, 2002, to create the **Ko`olau Greenbelt & Heritage Trails System** in order to restore, protect & provide public access to the *mauka* (mountain) lands on the Windward side of O`ahu along the base of *Na Ko`olau* as well as to support locally-owned sustainable economic activities in the more developed areas. Over time, however, its mandate has expanded well beyond these vitally important regional issues.

WAA now works to educate & inform residents, visitors, businesses, policymakers, and the media all across Hawai'i about using **Smart Growth** planning principles which promote sustainability. These include: Designing long-term waste management systems; providing needed research & support on public access issues; improving illegal dumping/derelict vehicle legislation & enforcement; developing & implementing comprehensive curbside recycling programs; 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.

WAA's current legislative priorities are:

1. Establish food security as well as fuel security policies to address both environmental & economic concerns;
2. Establish a permanent **Climate Change/Global Warming/Sea Level Rise Task Force** similar to **Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Task Force**;
3. Establish a legislative study to examine the possibility of establishing a Cabinet-level *State Department of Energy & Environment* combining elements as well as personnel currently within the *Departments of Transportation, Agriculture, Health, Business Economic Development & Tourism, and Land & Natural Resources* which deal directly with energy and environmental matters;
4. Mandate reasonable public access to all public lands including *mauka* trails as well as beaches;
5. Ban the interstate or international shipment of non-recycled solid waste across the *Pacific Ocean* by counties with more than 500,000 population.



Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT SENATE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

February 10, 2009, 2:45 P.M.

(Testimony is 2 pages long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 266

Chair Gabbard, Chair Nishihara, 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 that was established recently. 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.

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

