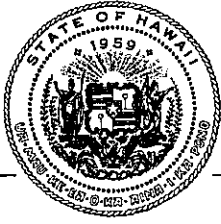


SB 80



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR
RICHARD C. LIM
INTERIM DIRECTOR
MARY LOU KOBAYASHI
PLANNING PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR
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Statement of
MARY LOU KOBAYASHI
Planning Program Administrator, Office of Planning
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT,
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND HOUSING,
AND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY,
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**
Thursday, February 10, 2011
4:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

in consideration of
SB 80
RELATING TO THE CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE

Chairs Gabbard, Dela Cruz, and Espero, Vice Chairs English, Solomon, and Kidani, and Members of the Senate Committees on Energy and Environment, Water, Land, and Housing, and Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs.

SB 80 amends Act 20, Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2009, to extend the existence of the climate change task force until June 30, 2013.

The Office of Planning (OP) supports the intent of this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact the priorities in the Executive Biennium Budget request. We offer several amendments to the measure that we believe are critical to successfully plan for climate change in the State. OP has incorporated these proposed amendments to Section 1 of SB80 in Attachment A, which is attached hereto for your consideration.

Since the climate change task force was initially created in 2009, numerous entities have initiated efforts to address the State's need for a comprehensive planning approach to the impacts of climate change. For example, the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OahuMPO) received a Federal Highway Administration grant to conduct a pilot study assessing the

vulnerability of Oahu's transportation assets. This is one of the tasks assigned to the task force in Act 20. The Department of Transportation is also required to address climate change in its current update of the Statewide Transportation Plan.

In 2009, the Hawaii Ocean Resources Management Plan (ORMP) working group partnered with the University of Hawaii's Center for Island Climate Adaptation and Policy (ICAP) to develop *A Framework for Climate Change Adaptation in Hawaii*. The ORMP policy group officially endorsed the Framework, which is available for download on the Hawaii Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program website. The Framework was submitted to the 2010 Legislature and provides meaningful context for a number of key areas that climate change will continue to affect, such as shoreline erosion, coastal development, coastal hazards, and the preservation of our natural and cultural resources. It lays out a proposed step-by-step process by which the State can begin to develop plans and make informed decisions on climate change adaptation. In addition, the Framework includes a list of potential impacts and adaptation planning considerations for each planning area affected by climate change

We recommend the objectives and tasks of the climate change task force be amended to recognize and capitalize on these and other climate change adaptation planning efforts. In summary, our suggested amendments are:

- o To amend the purpose of the task force to that of providing guidance for climate change adaptation efforts in the State; and
- o To amend the tasks of the task force to account for completed and ongoing efforts, and to ensure that entities working on climate change adaptation continue to have the flexibility necessary to conduct their work.

Each recommended amendment is described in further detail below:

Task force objective: We recommend that the task force coordinate and guide government climate change adaptation efforts. In particular, we suggest that the climate change task force assume the role described for a climate change adaptation team on page 10 of the Framework. Because climate change ignores traditional management sectors, it is essential to coordinate adaptation and planning activities across departments, jurisdictions, and levels of government.

Coordinating the many efforts occurring throughout the State will also serve a broader purpose than conducting additional, possibly duplicative, studies. Furthermore, there is not

enough funding allocated to this bill to conduct the comprehensive studies necessary for climate change adaptation planning. Having the task force guide the State's climate change adaptation efforts will also ensure that agencies and entities continue to have the flexibility necessary to develop appropriate scopes of work to meet the most current funding opportunities and research needs.

Task force responsibilities: Because a number of the tasks originally identified for the task force have already been addressed, we suggest the task force's responsibilities be amended to the following:

1. Articulate a long-term vision for Hawaii's climate change adaptation efforts. Having a clearly articulated long-term vision for the State's adaptation is an essential element for ensuring a proactive, integrated, and comprehensive approach across sectors.
2. Determine the scale(s) at which adaptation plans will be developed and implemented, as appropriate. Making these decisions early in the climate adaptation planning process will ensure a coordinated effort.
3. Coordinate and monitor projects and programs related to climate change adaptation and planning with a view to effect climate change adaptation as set forth in the State's long-term vision.
4. Identify and recommend opportunities for increased coordination among various climate change adaptation studies and projects.
5. Discuss and identify ways to support, increase awareness of, and implement recommendations of various climate change adaptation studies and projects.
6. Identify and make recommendations to the legislature and the governor on future funding needs and priorities for the State regarding climate change adaptation.

Metrics/Performance Measures: We have included amendments in Attachment A to evaluate the work and accomplishments of the Task Force.

The Office of Planning has incorporated these proposed amendments to Section 1 of SB80 in Attachment A, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.

Attachment A:
Proposed amendments to Section 1 of SB80,
Provided by the State of Hawaii Office of Planning

SECTION 1. Act 20, Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2009, is amended by amending section 2 to read as follows:

"SECTION 2. Climate change task force; objectives; membership. (a) The climate change task force is established within the office of planning, for administrative purposes only. The task force shall coordinate and guide climate change adaptation efforts throughout the State. The task force shall have the following ~~[objectives;]~~ responsibilities:

- ~~[(1) Scoping the current and potential impacts of global warming and climate change on the people, natural resources, and the economy of the State, including impacts on:
 - ~~(A) The visitor industry;~~
 - ~~(B) Intrastate and interstate air and sea transportation of cargo and persons;~~
 - ~~(C) Existing buildings and the public utilities infrastructure;~~
 - ~~(D) The health of the people of the State; and~~
 - ~~(E) Native plants, animals, and ecosystems]~~~~
- (1) Articulate a long-term vision for Hawaii's climate change adaptation efforts;
- ~~[(2) Scoping the potential impacts of rising ocean levels as a result of climate change on the people, natural resources, and the economy of the State, including impacts on:
 - ~~(A) The visitor industry;~~
 - ~~(B) Shoreline erosion;~~
 - ~~(C) Intrastate and interstate air and sea transportation of cargo and persons;~~
 - ~~(D) Existing buildings and the public utilities infrastructure;~~
 - ~~(E) The health of the people of the State; and~~
 - ~~(F) Native plants, animals, and ecosystems]~~~~
- (2) Determine the scale(s) at which adaptation plans will be developed and implemented, as appropriate;
- ~~[(3) Estimate the costs to the State of the adverse effects associated with climate change and rising sea levels; and]~~
- (3) Coordinate and monitor projects and programs related to climate change adaptation and planning with a view to effect climate change adaption as set forth in the State's long-term vision;

- ~~[(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. Such measures may include:~~
- ~~(A) Protecting against shoreline erosion;~~
 - ~~(B) Maintaining the visitor industry;~~
 - ~~(C) Relocating or armoring the transportation infrastructure, such as airports, highways, and ports;~~
 - ~~(D) Implementing restrictions on construction in areas at risk for sea level rise and inundation;~~
 - ~~(E) Improving or hardening the public utilities infrastructure, including communication lines, power generation systems, water supply systems, and wastewater treatment and disposal systems;~~
 - ~~(F) Preparing for health emergencies and impacts to established emergency management systems; and~~
 - ~~(G) Preserving the health, biodiversity, and resilience of terrestrial, freshwater, and marine ecosystems.]~~

- (4) Identify and recommend opportunities for increased coordination among various climate change adaptation studies and projects;
- (5) Discuss and identify ways to support, increase awareness of, and implement recommendations of various climate change adaptation studies and projects; and
- (6) Identify and make recommendations to the legislature and the governor on future funding needs and priorities for the State regarding climate change adaptation.
- (7) Identify performance measures to evaluate the work of the task force and include status updates of the measures in the annual reports to the legislature.

(b) The climate change task force shall comprise the following:

- (1) The director of the office of planning or the director's designee, who shall act as chairperson;
- (2) The deputy director of the department of health's environmental health administration or the deputy director's designee;
- (3) The director of transportation or the director's designee;
- (4) The chairperson of the board of land and natural resources, or the chairperson's designee;
- (5) The vice-director of civil defense of the department of defense or the vice-director's designee;

- (6) One member appointed by each of the mayors of Hawaii, Honolulu, Kauai, and Maui counties;
- (7) Three members appointed by the president of the senate, of whom one shall be from an environmental organization;
- (8) Three members appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, of whom one shall be from an environmental organization;
- (9) The director of the Center for Island Climate Adaptation and Policy at the University of Hawaii at Manoa; and
- (10) One member from the Joint Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research to be appointed by its administrative board.

Members of the task force shall be exempt from section 26-34, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for expenses necessary for the performance of their duties, including travel expenses.

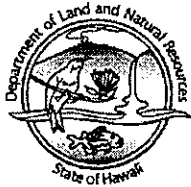
(c) The task force shall:

- (1) Submit a preliminary report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of [~~2010~~] 2012; and
- (2) Submit a final report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of [~~2011~~] 2013.

(d) The office of planning shall provide administrative and clerical support required by the task force.

(e) The task force shall cease to exist on June 30, [~~2011~~] 2013."

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT,
WATER, LAND, AND HOUSING
and
PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

**Wednesday, February 10, 2011
4:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 80
RELATING TO THE CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE**

The purpose of Senate Bill 80 is to extend the existence of the Climate Change Task Force until June 30, 2013. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure and appreciates the opportunity to serve as a member of this important Task Force, provided that there are no adverse fiscal implications to the Executive Biennium Budget which is being finalized.

As an island community, Hawaii is especially vulnerable to the impacts of a changing climate. Increased temperatures and rising sea levels can threaten Hawaii's ecosystems, infrastructure, and economy. We must immediately assess the potential impacts of climate change and explore strategies for mitigating and adapting to these impacts. In order to maximize available resources and avoid duplication of work, it is imperative that government agencies, academic institutions, and environmental organizations collaborate and cooperate when studying climate change in Hawaii.

The Climate Change Task Force is comprised of a broad cross section of policy makers, environmentalists, and scientists who are best qualified to fulfill the proposed objectives identified in Senate Bill 80. In order to complete this mission, it is essential to extend the existence of the Climate Change Task Force until June 30, 2013.

There is strong evidence to suggest that there may be significant changes in the fresh water resources in the State. An adequate supply of fresh water is an absolute essential for all life. In

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON
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GUY H. KAULUKUKUI
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FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

order to more completely address this matter, we respectfully suggest an amendment to the proposed language of Senate Bill 80, by adding a new subsection under SECTION 2. (a)(1):
(F) Ground and surface water resources

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting S.B. 80 Relating to the Climate Change Task Force
Senate Committee on Energy & Environment
Senate Committee on Water, Land & Housing
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations & Military Affairs
Thursday, February 10, 2011, 4:15PM, Room 225

The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii supports S.B. 80. We also believe that an allocation from the barrel tax established by Act 73 (2010) is an appropriate method of paying for the analysis and the task force proposed in this bill.

While the Legislature passed the landmark Act 234 (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. Further, Act 73 (2010) establishing the barrel tax and the subsequent report of the Economic Development Task Force both acknowledge that consumption of fossil fuels contributes to climate change and the deterioration of Hawaii's environment. Both state their purpose to "[h]elp Hawaii's natural resources and population adapt and be resilient to the inevitable challenges brought on by climate change caused by...burning fossil fuels." Act 73 further acknowledges that our lives and the economy are intertwined with the health and function of the natural world around us. Yet, surprisingly, neither Act 73 nor the Task Force report take any specific action or make any recommendation to address the direct 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. Climate change is an imminent and unprecedented threat to both natural systems (*e.g.*, forests, coastlines, coral reefs, wetlands) and to every person in Hawai'i that—whether they know it or not—depends on services from the natural environment for their livelihoods, health and welfare. Scientists have examined the evidence and rapid climate change is real; it is clearly caused by human activity; it is already a problem for habitat for plants and animals; and, if sources of CO₂ are not dramatically reduced, climate change could well have catastrophic results for people and their relationship with the natural environment.

Even if we drastically reduce CO₂ emissions now, we will still feel the effects of climate change. In Hawai'i, science indicates that this may include:

- More frequent and more severe storms;
- Overall, less rainfall and therefore less fresh water;
- Higher temperatures that may affect the health of forested watersheds;
- Climatic conditions even more conducive to invasive plants, insects and diseases;
- Sea level rise and high wave events that will harm coastal areas and cause seawater infiltration into groundwater systems; and
- Ocean acidification that will inhibit the growth of coral reefs.

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 S.B. 80 points out, we must be prepared to understand and respond to those effects.

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Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

4:15 pm

Thursday, February 10, 2011
Conference Room 225

SB 80 - RELATING TO THE CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE

Extends the Existence of the Climate Change Task Force until 6/30/2013

Aloha Kakou:

On behalf of the *Windward Ahupua`a Alliance* - and my grandchildren's great-grandchildren who are not likely to be born until sometime around 2080 - I urge that you pass **SB 80** re-establishing the **Climate Change Task Force**.

Since the fall of 2005 after returning from an international conference on climate change and the impacts on local communities near the ocean, I have been trying to get this legislation passed.

Frankly, I thought I'd finally reached my goal after **Bill 20 -Special Session 2009** was passed in July that year; however, the former *Governor* had her way by refusing to release the funding for the **Climate Change Task Force** to start its work.

As a member of a national advocacy group based in Washington, D.C., we are essentially trying to keep our heads above the water during the next two years in trying to deal with the newly-elected Deniers in the *US Congress* while, at the same time, expanding awareness and getting state and local governments to address the many complex issues surrounding climate change. That's why the **Climate Change Task Force** is so important since it will recommend both legislative and administrative actions to be take by state and county governments.

So here I am once again appearing before the subject matter committees to get the legislation passed and sent on up to the **Fifth Floor** for *Governor Abercrombie's* signature.

Mahalo, by the way, to *Senator Nishihara* for authoring the bill - again.

NOTE: SB 722 which reinstates the "barrel tax" has been amended to include funding for the **Climate Change Task Force.**

In closing, I urge you to click <http://www.grist.org/article/2011-02-08-climate-deniers-look-out-see-catastrophic-storms-attack-al-gore> to look at a couple of photos attached to the story itself. Lucky we live in Hawai'i.

Shannon Wood, *President & Co-Founder*
Windward Ahupua`a Alliance

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Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

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**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND HOUSING
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS**

February 10, 2011, 4:15 P.M.

(Testimony is 1 page long)

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 80

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Espero and Members of the Committees:

The Hawai'i Chapter of the Sierra Club, with 8,000 dues-paying members and supporters, strongly *supports* SB 80. This measure extends the date of the climate change task force to assess the impacts of climate change on Hawai'i. Due to the prior administration's failure to support this effort, the task force has yet to met.

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 at the bottom 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.

Finally, we note that the Energy and Food Security act provides an appropriate funding mechanism for this task forced. 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.