



The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
928 Nu'uuanu Avenue
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817

Tel (808) 537-4508
Fax (808) 545-2019

nature.org/hawaii

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Opposing H.B. 1068 Relating to Greenhouse Gas Emissions
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
Thursday, February 3, 2011, 8:30AM, Rm. 325

The Nature Conservancy opposes H.B. 1068. We do not believe that the requirement for Department of Health rules under the State's Greenhouse Gas emission reduction plan should become discretionary.

While the Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Task Force unanimously supported the goals of the Hawai'i Clean Energy Initiative, seven of ten members also strongly recommended that there be additional assurances that emission reduction targets are met in the event that that some HCEI activities are unrealized. These additional assurances or "backstops" included Department of Health regulations.

Please review the Task Force's December 30, 2009 report to the Legislature at DBEDT's website: <http://hawaii.gov/dbedt/info/energy/greenhouse>. You'll see that the members who recommended additional assurances like DOH regulations included the Task Force representatives from DOH and DBEDT.

Also notable is that while the Task Force did not provide the DOH and the Legislature with an actual draft of proposed regulations, the Administration had only released half of the money appropriated by the Legislature for the Task Force's work. So, the Task Force was a bit hampered in its ability to produce work products.

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