



The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii
The Voice of Business in Hawaii

LATE TESTIMONY

**Testimony to the House Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business
Thursday, January 26, 2011 at 8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 312, State Capitol**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 2268 RELATING TO SMALL BUSINESS

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Choy, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports the passage of HB 2268 relating to Small Business.**

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, representing more than 1,100 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of its members, which employ more than 200,000 individuals, to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

This measure requires DBEDT to convene a working group, administratively attached to the Small Business Regulatory Review Board, to identify redundant and obsolete state and county laws related to small business. It also requires a report to the Legislature.

Small companies are the engine for Hawaii's economy through the creation of jobs and the generation of economic activity. Small business owners are continuing to face rising costs of doing business in Hawaii. Meeting county and state regulations are significant costs for Hawaii's businesses, and any effort to streamline and make the process more efficient is helpful.

The Chamber supports eliminating or streamlining onerous-and often duplicative-regulatory requirements, and limiting the creation of new regulations. The Chamber also supports working with local and state governments to improve business permitting, fee assessment, collection systems, and increase regulatory efficiencies that allow businesses to better manage their regulatory obligations and responsibilities.

We appreciate the Legislature's recognition of the need to review the regulatory process so that it remains current and relevant. We look forward to continued discussion on this measure. Thank you for this opportunity to express our views.