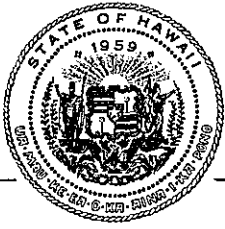


SB 2021



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

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Statement of
JESSE K. SOUKI
Director, Office of Planning
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT,
AND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND AND HOUSING**

Tuesday, February 7, 2012
2:45 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

in consideration of
SB 2021
RELATING TO THE CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE

Chairs Gabbard and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs English and Solomon, and Members of the Senate Committees on Energy and the Environment and Water, Land and Housing.

SB 2021 establishes a climate change task force within the Office of Planning (OP) to continue to investigate and address the impact of climate change on the State of Hawaii.

OP appreciates the intent of this bill; however, the funding allocated would be better used to support the development of a statewide climate change adaptation action plan, as opposed to a task force. A number of the tasks identified for the task force have already been initiated by numerous entities in order to address the State's need for a comprehensive planning approach to the impacts of climate change. Furthermore, we believe the \$50,000 allocated to fund the task force would be insufficient given the tasks and timeline outlined in SB 2021. We offer several comments on the measure that we believe are critical to successfully plan for climate change in the State.

Funding: Section 3 of SB 2021 appropriates the sum of \$50,000 out of general revenues for FY 2012-2013; however, Section 4 states that the act shall take effect on July 1, 2012. FY 2013 starts on July 1, 2012, so it is unclear whether \$50,000 will be allocated for FY 2013 and FY 2014 combined, or \$50,000 per year (for a total of \$100,000) for the two-year task force, which would cease to exist on June 30, 2014 according to Section 2 (e). Furthermore, OP does not believe that \$50,000 would be sufficient to carry out the tasks enumerated in this measure.

Responsibilities of the Task Force: A number of the tasks identified for the task force have already been initiated by numerous entities in order to address the State's need for a comprehensive planning approach to the impacts of climate change. They are described here:

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

(http://hawaii.gov/dbedt/czm/ormp/reports/climate_change_adaptation_framework_final.pdf).

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. Since the development of the Framework, OP has been directing its available resources to the implementation of the different steps in the framework, via existing mandates under the CZM Program and the ORMP.

In December of 2010, the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program completed the *Kailua Beach and Dune Management Plan*, which not only includes beach management recommendations such as dune restoration and sand management practices, but also specifically includes climate change adaptation measures to

anticipate the effects of sea level rise (<http://seagrant.soest.hawaii.edu/kailua-beach-and-dune-management-plan>).

In 2011, the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization completed a *Transportation Asset Climate Change Risk Assessment* for the island of Oahu

(http://www.oahumpo.org/reports/transportation_vulnerability_due_to_climate_change.html).

This assessment was funded by the Federal Highways Administration as one of five federal grant awards nationwide to validate a conceptual model for determining the affects of climate change on transportation infrastructure. The model consisted of three components:

1. Determining what are the likely climate stressors that will be faced by the local region and the probability of their occurrence in the future,
2. Determining what the critical transportation infrastructure assets are for the local region and their relative priority, and
3. Assessing the vulnerability of those priority assets to impacts from the climate stressors.

The Department of Transportation is also required to address climate change in its current update of the Statewide Transportation Plan.

Recognizing the current threats to Hawaii's fresh water supply, which includes impacts of climate change, Governor Abercrombie has recently endorsed the Department of Land and Natural Resources' new plan to protect priority mauka watersheds as the most cost effective and efficient way to absorb rainwater and replenish groundwater in *The Rain Follows the Forest: A Plan to Replenish Hawaii's Source of Water* (<http://hawaii.gov/dlnr/chainr/pio/nr/2011/The-Rain-Follows-the-Forest.pdf>).

OP is proposing, through the administration's bill package for 2012, a climate change adaptation policy. The purpose of this bill is to encourage collaboration and cooperation between county, state, and federal agencies, policy makers, businesses, and other community partners to plan for the impacts of climate change and avoid, minimize, or mitigate loss of life, land, and property of future generations. The bill is structured as a "Priority Guideline" to the State Planning Act, which falls under the jurisdiction of OP under Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapters 226 and 225M.

The proposed “climate change adaptation” priority guideline is intended to improve the planning process in Hawaii, increase the effectiveness of government and private actions, improve coordination among different agencies and levels of government, provide for wise use of Hawaii’s resources, and guide the future development of the state in the area of climate change adaptation. The drafting of this bill was the result of a 2-day climate change adaptation planning workshop, *Visioning Hawaii’s Adaptation to Climate Change*, held last summer with the support of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) via OP’s CZM Program, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ (USACE) Silver Jackets Initiative.

OP consulted representatives from state, county, and federal agencies, academia, NGOs, business, industry, youth, Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners, and our citizen’s advisory group, the Marine and Coastal Zone Advocacy Council, in the visioning of Hawaii’s adaptation to climate change as well as the drafting of the bill. For more information on the proposed bill and other climate change adaptation initiatives of the Office of Planning, please review our recently submitted *Final Report Relating to Global Warming pursuant to 2009 Hawaii Special Session Laws Act 20* (<http://hawaii.gov/dbedt/main/about/annual/2011-reports/2011-global-warming.pdf>).

Currently in progress are two federally funded adaptation projects that OP is working on with other partners:

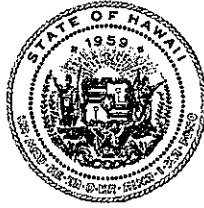
- A. *Building the Foundation for a Hawaii State Adaptation Plan* - OP and ICAP have received a grant from the NOAA’s Coastal Resilient Communities program for a series of symposia to facilitate the participation of Hawaii’s communities in the development of comprehensive, statewide plans for climate change preparedness and adaptation. This project leverages the partnerships and collaborative efforts established by the ORMP policy and working groups.
- B. Phase 1, State of Hawaii Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessment – OP has partnered with the USACE, the City and County of Honolulu, ICAP, and NOAA to develop a climate change risk and vulnerability assessment in Hawaii through the USACE’s Planning Assistance to the States Program. The project is in the early development stages of defining the scope and parameters of the assessment.

Need for an Action Plan: As detailed above, there are many climate change planning efforts going on in Hawaii. As we continue to implement the steps in *A Framework for Climate Change Adaptation in Hawaii* through various programs, initiatives, projects, and funding sources, the biggest gaps appear to be the steps that involve setting our preparedness goals; the development, selection, and prioritization of preparedness actions; and implementation of a preparedness plan, or action plan. What the state needs now is a collaborative and integrated action plan that guides state and county agencies as well as other stakeholders on how to adapt to the impacts of climate change so that the State of Hawaii can start implementing those actions and be better prepared to adapt to the changing environment.

Conclusion: The Office of Planning has found ways to help prepare the State of Hawaii for the impacts of climate change through its planning function, the CZM Program, existing mandates (such as the ORMP), and with the support of county, state, and federal agencies and other stakeholders. We prefer the Administration's Bill Relating to Climate Change (SB 2745 and companion bill HB 2483), which supports these ongoing activities.

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

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

**Before the Senate Committees on
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
&
WATER, LAND, AND HOUSING**

**Tuesday, February 07, 2012
2:45 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2021
RELATING TO THE CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE**

Senate Bill 2021 proposes to extend the existence of the Climate Change Task Force until June 30, 2014. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure and appreciates the opportunity to participate as a member of this important Task Force.

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 2021. In order to complete this mission, it is essential to extend the existence of the Climate Change Task Force until June 30, 2014.

The Department supports the measure and defers to the Office of Planning for an assessment of the costs that will be necessary to implement the provisions of this bill.

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Energy and Environment, and
Water, Land, and Housing
Tuesday, February 7, 2012 at 2:45 p.m.

by

Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor

and

Maxine Burkett, Associate Professor, William S. Richardson School of Law and
Director, Center for Island Climate Adaptation and Policy
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 2021 Relating to the Climate Change Task Force

Chairs Gabbard and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs English and Solomon, and members of the committees:

As a focal point for University of Hawai'i climate expertise, the Center for Island Climate Adaptation and Policy ("ICAP") serves as a two-way conduit between the University and island communities to catalyze climate change adaptation and resiliency. ICAP supports Senate Bill 2021, which would establish a climate change task force, but recommends including a Native Hawaiian representative on the task force and appropriating adequate funds.

First, ICAP supports a climate change task force because collaboration among state and county agencies and key stakeholders would better inform and support further adaptation efforts. For example, in *Sea-Level Rise and Coastal Land Use in Hawai'i: A Policy Tool Kit for State and Local Governments* (2011), ICAP identified twenty-four policy tools that Hawai'i decision-makers could use to prepare for climate change and sea-level rise. Prioritizing and implementing these tools prudently and resourcefully, however, requires further guidance regarding sector- and region-specific impacts and vulnerabilities. The proposed task force would provide this vital information.

Second, a Native Hawaiian representative should serve on the task force to ensure consideration of Native Hawaiian expertise, viewpoints, and interests. Finally, funds exceeding \$50,000 are necessary for the task force to fulfill its crucial objectives. Although the state faces budget limitations, adequate funding ultimately would conserve state and county resources by reducing duplication among various planning efforts.

In sum, ICAP supports Senate Bill 2021, amended to include a task force member representing Native Hawaiians and adequately funded.



**Testimony to the Senate Committees on Energy and Environment and Water,
Land and Housing
Tuesday, January 31, 2012 at 2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 225, State Capitol**

**RE: SENATE BILL NO. 2021 RELATING TO THE CLIMATE CHANGE
TASK FORCE**

Chairs Gabbard and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs English and Solomon, and Members of the Committees:

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber") **opposes** S.B. 2021 relating to the Climate Change Task Force in its present form.

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.

The bill proposes to establish the climate change task force to assess the impacts of global warming and climate change trends in the State and appropriates funds for the task force.

As drafted, the bill proposes to:

1. Scope the current and potential impacts of global warming and climate change on the people, natural resources, and the economy of the State; and,
2. Scope the potential impacts of rising ocean levels as a result of climate change on the people, natural resources, and the economy of the State.

It also proposes to create a task force comprised of 8 representatives from Government; 2 representatives from environmental organizations; and 4 appointed at the discretion of the Senate President (2) and Speaker of the House (2).

Our basic opposition is based on the fact that there does not appear to be enough scientific evidence gathered that would predict when and the rate at which sea level rise would occur. This information would appear to us to be critical in developing any type of plan on how to prepare.

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii
Testimony on SB 2021
February 7, 2012

Our recommendation would be to focus on the science first and then develop the public policy based on the scientific evidence.

Finally, we would suggest that the make-up of the task force include more scientists who understand the mechanics of sea level rise, economists who can compare cost/benefits of the various responses to sea level rise, and representatives from companies experienced with large scale construction projects that are being considered in response to sea level rise.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our views.



Western States Petroleum Association

Senate Committees on Energy and Environmental and Water Land and Housing

DATE: Tuesday, February 7, 2012
TIME: 2:45 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 225
RE: SB2021: Relating to the Climate Change Task Force

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair English, Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon, and Committee Members:

I am testifying on behalf of the Western States Petroleum Association (known as WSPA). We respectfully request amendments to the language regarding the members of the Task Force, specifically Section 1(b) regarding the composition of the Task Force. We request additional language that provides the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall each appoint at least one member representing the energy industry, a business enterprise, or economic development organization. The addition of at least two members from these communities will increase the breadth of experience and knowledge of the Task Force and more fairly represent the interests of parties involved in efforts to address climate change.

WSPA is a non-profit trade association representing a broad spectrum of petroleum industry companies in Hawaii and five other western states. The purpose of SB2021 is to establish the climate change task force to continue to investigate and address the impact climate changes has on Hawaii.

Thank you for giving WSPA the opportunity to testify today.



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

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Fax (808) 545-2019

nature.org/hawaii

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting the Intent of S.B. 2021 Relating to the Climate Change Task Force
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing
Tuesday, February 7, 2012, 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 10 nature preserves on 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 supports the intent of S.B. 2021 and is very grateful for the Senate's continuing leadership and support for measures to ensure that we are preparing for the inevitable effects of climate change. However, many of the actions and participants identified in this bill are already a part of the adaptation planning work now being led by the Office of Planning's Coastal Zone Management Program via its Ocean Resources Management Plan (ORMP) Working Group. If funding is available, it may be best invested at this time in supporting this ongoing effort.

Climate change is an imminent and unprecedented threat to 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. 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, and increased runoff and siltation;
- 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 groundwater systems; and
- Ocean acidification that will inhibit the growth of protective coral reefs.

We must plan and implement mitigative and adaptive measures to ensure the resilience of our natural and human systems. Two of the most effective actions we can take to help address the effects of climate change are to protect our forests and coral reefs. Healthy and diverse Hawaiian forests act like a sponge, collecting rain and moisture from passing clouds, slowly delivering fresh water into streams and aquifers, absorbing greenhouse gases, and reducing runoff and siltation into near shore waters during storm events. Healthy coral reefs that are free of non-native invasive algae and runoff are better able to withstand the effects of temperature changes and acidification, while continuing to provide food and storm protection for coastal areas.

We look forward to being a part of successful adaptation strategies in our area of expertise related to the natural environment of these islands.

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Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

PO Box 2577, Honolulu, HI 96803

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND HOUSING

February 7, 2012, 2:45 P.M.
(Testimony is 2 pages long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2021 WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Aloha Chairs Gabbard, Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

The Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, with 9,000 dues paying members and supporters statewide, ***strongly supports*** SB 2021. This bill would require a climate change task force to recommend ways Hawai'i could adapt to the future impacts of climate change.

Global climate change is perhaps the greatest threat to Hawai'i'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. 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 Hawai'i's aquifers. University of Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i's coastline, including its beaches, the world renown Waikiki resort area, the Honolulu International Airport's reef runway, the majority of Hawai'i'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.

Plainly, as we move forward, it will be necessary to examine and understand how Hawai'i will be impacted by climate change. Hawai'i is already several years behind many other states in this type of planning.

Looking to the specific language of SB 2021, the composition of the Task Force should be examined. We suggest reducing the number but attempting to keep an appropriate balance of environmentalists and scientists in the process. For example, the language creating a prior task force (the Greenhouse Task Force) 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 [director of the office of planning, or the 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 Hawai'i 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.





Honorable Committee Members,

My name is Rose Braz and I am the Climate Campaign Director for the Center for Biological Diversity, a national, nonprofit conservation organization with more than 320,000 members and online activists dedicated to the protection of endangered species and wild places. At the Center for Biological Diversity, we believe that the welfare of human beings is deeply linked to nature — to the existence in our world of a vast diversity of wild animals and plants. Because diversity has intrinsic value, and because its loss impoverishes society, we work to secure a future for all species, great and small, hovering on the brink of extinction. We do so through science, law and creative media, with a focus on protecting the lands, waters and climate that species need to survive.

The Center for Biological Diversity's Climate Law Institute

The Center's Climate Law Institute was founded to confront global warming, which poses the greatest threat in human history to the natural systems that sustain life. Specifically, the Climate Law Institute:

- Sets legal precedents to firmly establish the fact that *existing* environmental laws require analysis, regulation, avoidance, and mitigation of greenhouse gas and global warming impacts;
- Advocates to shift national endangered species conservation strategies to address the overarching threat of global warming;
- Aims to change the dominant public-lands management regime from resource extraction to global warming adaptation, including sustaining wildlife populations, providing clean water, sequestering carbon, and increasing the extent of public lands;
- Works to develop new laws to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate global warming impacts on biodiversity — laws that build on our successful foundation of environmental law instead of rolling it back.

We do this work through strategic litigation, scientific petitions to protect species, administrative and policy advocacy and public education, grassroots organizing, and outreach.

Among our achievements, the Center's climate program has:

- Won the first-ever Endangered Species Act listing for global warming-threatened species — two Florida-coast corals — and “threatened” status for the polar bear.
- Won a key victory on greenhouse gas vehicle emissions when the nation’s highest court sided with the Center and our partners and struck down the Environmental Protection Agency’s refusal to regulate carbon dioxide as a pollutant under the Clean Air Act.
- Forced the Bush administration to publicly acknowledge for the first time, in December 2006, the scientific connection between greenhouse gas emissions and species endangerment in response to our petition to gain Endangered Species Act protection for the polar bear.
- In August 2007, won a landmark case challenging federal suppression of climate science. Under the Global Change Research Act of 1990, we argued that the Bush administration must complete a research plan and scientific assessment of climate change impacts in the United States. The court agreed, ordering the government to produce the overdue reports by May 2008.
- Filed the first-ever petition for protection of an endangered species from global warming under state law when we asked California to protect the American pika, directly threatened with habitat loss due to climate change.
- Along with 350.org, petitioned the U.S. EPA to set a national, science-based pollution cap of 350 ppm for CO2 under the Clean Air Act.

The Center’s Clean Air Cities Campaign: Connecting local and federal action.

One of our more recent efforts is the Center’s Clean Air Cities Campaign. If we want clean air and a healthy climate, we have to cut greenhouse gas pollution. Significant progress in the international climate talks does not seem likely in the immediate future, neither does new legislation from our current Congress. So more and more, we are turning to cities, towns, state and regions to undertake the urgent action on climate so desperately needed. This is one reason why the Center launched “Clean Air Cities,” a nationwide campaign urging cities around the United States to call on the Obama administration and the EPA to use the Clean Air Act to make significant reductions in greenhouse gas pollution.

The Clean Air Act is our current best hope to curb greenhouse gas pollution nationally. But the Act is under significant attack from the fossil fuel industry and its allies in Congress. Cities and states can be a powerful voice for prompting action in Washington

So far, ten cities have passed resolutions: Albany, N.Y.; Berkeley, Santa Monica, Arcata, Oxnard and Richmond, Calif.; Seattle, Wash.; Pittsburgh, Pa., Tucson, Ariz. and Boone, N.C. Meanwhile, Morgantown, W.Va.; Minneapolis, Minn., and Aspen, Colo., among others are moving forward in the resolution process.

Other local, state and regional efforts

The Center works closely with our partners at Kyoto USA. While the U.S. government struggles with a political response to the need to reduce greenhouse gas pollution, a growing number of States have formed regional alliances that are establishing limits on greenhouse gas emissions. And local efforts, often driven by citizen advocacy, are encouraging people, businesses, schools, religious institutions, and local governments to look for ways to reduce their carbon emissions.

Thanks to the efforts of ICLEI's Local Governments for Sustainability, more than 600 U.S. cities have measured their greenhouse gas emissions and are implementing policies to reduce them, while realizing significant financial benefits to city coffers in the process.

With the support of KyotoUSA, Berkeley officially endorsed the Kyoto Protocol in January 2005. Subsequently, Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels successfully petitioned the US Conference of Mayors to endorse his "Climate Protection Agreement" (CPA), a statement that embraces the emissions reductions targets outlined in the Kyoto Protocol. As of January 2012, nearly 1,100 U.S. mayors have signed the CPA.

Many cities and local governments in the country are developing and executing Climate Action Plans to lay out a strategy, including specific policy recommendations, that they use or will use to address climate change and reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. EPA has compiled a list of such action plans nation-wide.
<http://www.epa.gov/statelocalclimate/local/local-examples/action-plans.html>

And many states have created Climate Change Task Forces to help develop and implement their State Climate Action Plans.

The Pew Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES) maintains a database of current State Action Plans. But here are a few examples of Climate Change Task Force entities.

Climate Change Steering Committee for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Board of Directors

On April 11, 2007, the Board of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) adopted Resolution R31-07, creating a regional climate change initiative. In its resolution, the Board stated: "The failure to reduce greenhouse gases can undermine the quality of life in our region and its economic and environmental sustainability." The Board action called for creating a regional climate change program that would include developing a greenhouse gas inventory, setting regional goals, identifying best practices for reducing emissions, advocating policies at the federal and state levels, making recommendations on regional climate change policy, and recommending a structure to guide COG's efforts in the future.

By adopting R31-07, the metropolitan Washington region joined more than 35 states and 200 local governments that are taking actions to mitigate and prepare for climate change. Resolution R31-07 established a Climate Change Steering Committee (CCSC) to guide the initiative. The committee's initial work, which began in May 2007, focused on examining climate initiatives in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia, as well as among its 21 member local jurisdictions. Between May 2007 and October 2008 this work included:

- Reviewing the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, as well as local assessments of potential impacts in the Mid-Atlantic region;
- Preparing a report cataloguing best practices and greenhouse gas reduction activities already underway in the region;
- Evaluating a wide range of potential regional greenhouse gas reduction goals, and reaching consensus on an aggressive sequence of reduction targets starting in 2012;
- Examining state and federal legislation;
- Preparing advocacy positions primarily focused on enhancements to local and regional roles and resources to support local and regional initiatives;
- Endorsing the Cool Capital Challenge, a grassroots effort to jumpstart emission reductions in the region;
- Reviewing a wide range of measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- Preparing a regional Climate Change Report; and
- Recommending a committee structure to guide COG's efforts in the coming years.

New York State Sea Level Rise Task

The New York State Sea Level Rise Task Force was created by an act of the New York State Legislature (Chapter 613 of the Laws of New York) in August 2007. The steering committee, comprised of state agency staff and representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), coordinated the work of five work groups: Community Resilience, Ecosystems and Natural Resources, Infrastructure, Legal and Public Outreach. Each work group included representatives from academia, businesses, NGOs, environmental justice and community groups, and federal, state and local agencies. They issued a detailed report which included a public review of the sea level rise projections, the Task Force process and an early draft of the report and recommendations. Throughout the process, participation of stakeholders and their thoughtful comments improved the quality of the report.

Wisconsin Task Force on Global Warming

In 2007, Governor Doyle convened a Task Force on Global Warming. In July 2008, this task force approved an extensive set of policy recommendations to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases in three steps, culminating in a 75% reduction by 2050 from a 2005 baseline. The Task Force report outlined these policy recommendations, which included many significant actions such as:

- Expanding the state's existing energy conservation and efficiency programs

- Adopting California vehicle standards for greenhouse gases
- Developing an emission cap and trade program
- Establishing a formal process to track progress, evaluate existing policies and recommend adjustments

The Wisconsin Legislative Council prepared summary documents related to the Task Force recommendations, including: An information memo summarizing the Task Force recommendations.

Conclusion

The evidence of climate change is all around us and the threats to Hawaii are particularly severe. Every day, new stories and scientific studies pour in documenting impacts of climate change we're already experiencing. The message is clear: Climate change is not an abstract problem for the future. Climate change is happening now, we are causing it, and the longer we wait to act, the more we lose and the more difficult the problem will be to solve.

The Earth's surface is growing ever hotter. The decade from 2000 to 2010 was the warmest on record, and 2005 and 2010 tied for the hottest years on record.

Extreme weather events such as droughts, floods and blizzards are striking with increased frequency, with sometimes deadly consequences for people and wildlife.

Millions of people are suffering from climate-related health impacts, and hundreds of thousands of people each year die climate-related deaths from excessive heat, extreme weather and climate change-exacerbated pollutants and disease.

Many animals and plants are losing their habitats and food sources, struggling to move poleward and upward to keep pace with climate change, shifting the timing of their breeding and migration, and disappearing as populations die out.

The oceans have become 30 percent more acidic due to their uptake of human-produced carbon dioxide, which is harming ocean life from shellfish to corals as they struggle to build the shells and skeletons they need to survive.

Climate change is reducing food security as crop growth and yields diminish; droughts, floods and changes in snowpack are disrupting water supplies.

The world's ice is rapidly melting away, raising sea level, threatening water supplies and jeopardizing ice-dependent animals like the polar bear. Arctic summer sea ice is half the area and thickness it was several decades ago, alpine glaciers are in near-global retreat, and the giant Greenland and west Antarctic ice sheets are melting at an accelerating pace.

Global sea level rose at an average rate of 3.3 millimeters per year in recent decades (1993 to 2006), and in some regions of the world it is rising even faster, threatening wildlife on coasts and low-lying islands as well as 40 percent of the world's population that lives within 60 miles of the coast. The small island nation of Tuvalu in the South Pacific has already started evacuating its people because of rising sea levels.

As early as the 1850s, scientists began predicting that greenhouse gases from burning fossil fuels would eventually lead to the warming of the Earth's surface. Scientists began detecting the fingerprints of climate change in the 1980s, and the impacts have been increasing for more than 20 years. In 2011, the immediacy and urgency of climate change is undeniable.

Creating the Climate Change Task Force proposed in SB2021 is one small step the state of Hawaii can take action right now and we strongly support your vote of yes on SB2021.



WINDWARD AHUPUA'A ALLIANCE

From the Peaks of *Na Ko'olau* to the Outer Reefs

*Community-Based Planning
Sustainable Economic Development
Restoration, Preservation, Protection & Public Access
Educational & Cultural Programs*

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

*Sen. Mike Gabbard, Chair
Sen. J. Kalani English, Vice Chair*

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND HOUSING

*Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Sen. Malama Solomon, Vice Chair*

2:45 pm
Tuesday, February 7, 2012
Conference Room 225

SB 2021 - RELATING TO THE CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE STRONGLY SUPPORT

The *Windward Ahupua'a Alliance* works to educate & inform residents, visitors, businesses, policymakers at all three levels of government, and the media about supporting renewable energy standards to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to mitigate the impacts of global warming & rising sea levels around the world.

Several years ago, I took an underground tour of the Waikiki sewer system which made me very much aware of how important it is for everyone who lives and works here in Hawai'i to understand what has to be done NOW to deal with rising sea levels.

Several years before that eye-opening experience, I came to the *2005 Legislature* to request that policy-makers start addressing climate change issues; however, it wasn't until Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth* was released in the spring of 2006 that (CFL) bulbs starting turning on over people's heads in places like this building - and even in Washington, D.C.

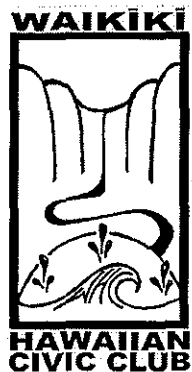
This bill's predecessor was ACT 20 - Special Session 2009; however, the *Former Fifth Floor Occupant* not only vetoed the bill, but also she refused to release the funding even after her veto was over-ridden. As a result, nothing happened.

So here we are AGAIN - but I think this time we won't have to deal with another round of veto over-riding.

Shannon Wood, *President*

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Waikiki Hawaiian Civic Club

February 7, 2012

To: Chair Mike Gabbard, Comm. on Energy and Environment
Vice Chair Kalani English, Comm. on Energy and Environment
Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Comm. On Water, Land & Housing
Vice Chair Malama Solomon, Comm. On Water, Land & Housing

From: Malia Nobrega, President, Waikiki Hawaiian Civic Club

Re: **Support SB 2021 Relating to the Climate Change Task Force with amendments**

Hearing: Senate Comm. on Energy and Environment and
Comm. On Water, Land, and Housing
Tuesday, February 7, 2012 at 2:45 p.m.

Waikiki Hawaiian Civic Club supports Senate Bill 2021, which would establish a Climate Change Task Force. We can't wait yet another year to try to coordinate ourselves. We need to act now and we feel that this task force is a step forward in the right direction. Native Hawaiians are already witnessing the effects of climate change on different parts of our lives including our cultural practices.

We propose an amendment to include an additional member to the task force and it would read-

A member of the Native Hawaiian community, residing in the State of Hawaii, who has a demonstrated background in:

(A) Traditional and customary use of Native plants, animals, and ecosystems;

(B) Indigenous and traditional knowledge; and

(C) Climate change adaptation and policymaking

who is appointed by the governor from a list of nominees submitted by Native Hawaiian organizations.

Waikiki HCC also feels that appropriate funding is needed to ensure the success of the Climate Change Task Force.

We are ready to kokua to make this a success.

For more info visit us at- waikihcc.org

Testimony for ENE/WLH 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2021

Conference room: 225

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Thorne Abbott

Organization: CoastalZone.com

E-mail: Thorneabbott@yahoo.com

Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

Testimony for ENE/WLH 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2021

Conference room: 225

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Byron W. Baker

Organization: Individual

E-mail: patbak1@hawaiiantel.net

Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

Climate change is an urgent matter that demands our immediate attention. I recommend an early reporting date, permanent status and a focus on tangible harm that will stem from rising sea levels, droughts, heat waves and dangerous storms. I also recommend that the agency have permanent status and adequate funding for vigorous, ongoing work.

Testimony for ENE/WLH 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2021

Conference room: 225

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Wynnie Hee

Organization: Individual

E-mail: anthuriumz@hotmail.com

Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

This is a good start. Our nation is doing almost nothing substantial to reverse climate change and global warming. So we need to prepare for the changes and bad effects.

Testimony for ENE/WLH 2/7/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2021

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Michele Nihipali
Organization: Individual
E-mail: nihipalim001@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2012

Comments:

SB2021 will approve funds for a task force to address the effects of climate change and global warming on Hawaii. This is a good beginning in planning for the future now.

I support this bill.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.