

**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Thursday, February 14, 2013 at 2:45 P.M.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol**

**RE: HOUSE BILL 920 HD1 RELATING TO APPEALS TO THE LABOR AND
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS APPEALS BOARD**

Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber") **expresses concern** of HB 920 HD1 Relating to Appeals to the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board.

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.

Our main concern is the language is vague and employers want to make sure fee is applied and enforced consistently and waiver should only be if no financial means to pay. We suggest that the waiver of the fee be upon approval of application to proceed in forma pauperis rather than "good cause".

We also have a concern on the establishment of a new special fund and fee without a long term financial plan. We support the resource needs of the department and suggest that general funds reduced in the last few years be restored before creating a new special fund with fees.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our views.