



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

March 28, 2017

SENATE COMMITTEES ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
and
PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
and
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON

SCR 98/ SR 42: REQUESTING STATE AND COUNTY AGENCIES TO UPDATE ADMINISTRATIVE
RULES TO ADOPT ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION STANDARDS THAT ARE AT LEAST AS
STRINGENT AS THE FEDERAL STANDARDS AS OF JANUARY 1, 2016, OR JANUARY 1, 2017,
WHICHEVER ARE MORE STRINGENT.

Room 224
2:46 pm

Aloha Chairs Kim, Nishihara, and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Ruderman, Wakai, and Riviere,
and Members of the Committees:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau **has the following concerns** regarding SCR 98/ SR 42 that would preemptively enshrine current federal protections for the environment into Hawaii state administrative rules.

There is no question that Hawaii's lands and waters are unique and delicately balanced resources and must be protected. For that reason, many of our State laws and regulations are in fact, already more stringent than those provided in the federal analogues and would not be affected if the new Trump administration weakens federal standards.

However, we do have concerns for example, about how this proposed resolution would comport with those federal standards that are currently in litigation awaiting judicial review, or where new scientific evidence sheds new light on a particular area, warranting further discussion and assessment.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our concerns about this measure.



LATE

46-063 Emepela Pl. #U101 Kaneohe, HI 96744 · (808) 679-7454 · Kris Coffield · Co-founder/Executive Director

**TESTIMONY FOR SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 98/SENATE
RESOLUTION 42, REQUESTING STATE AND COUNTY AGENCIES TO UPDATE
ADMINISTRATIVE RULES TO ADOPT ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
STANDARDS THAT ARE AT LEAST AS STRINGENT AS THE FEDERAL
STANDARDS AS OF JANUARY 1, 2016, OR JANUARY 1, 2017, WHICHEVER ARE
MORE STRINGENT**

Senate Committee on Government Operations

Hon. Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

Hon. Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

Hon. Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair

Hon. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Hon. Mike Gabbard, Chair

Hon. Gil Riviere, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 28, 2017, 2:46 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 224

Honorable Chair Kim, Chair Nishihara, Chair Gabbard, and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing IMUAlliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 350 members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in strong support of SCR 98/SR 42, requesting state and county agencies to update administrative rules to adopt environmental protection standards that are at least as stringent as the federal standards as of January 1, 2016 or January 1, 2017, whichever are more stringent.

After assuming office, President Donald Trump appointed Scott Pruitt to serve as Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Prior to his appointment, Pruitt spent six years, as Oklahoma Attorney General, waging war against the EPA's climate and clean air initiatives. His efforts were often coordinated with the fossil fuel industry, which gave him nearly \$300,000 in campaign contributions during his political career.

Distressingly, Pruitt, like Trump, rejects the overwhelming scientific consensus that manmade climate change is real and largely caused by burning coal, oil, and natural gas. Pruitt has vehemently denounced the Paris Agreement, which aims to advance the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change by:

“(a) Holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change;

(b) Increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production;

(c) Making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.”

The agreement has been described as an incentive for and driver of fossil fuel divestment, with the global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions an ultimate goal of ratifying nations.

Finally, Pruitt has endorsed and declared that President Trump will sign an executive order Tuesday—the date that this resolution is being heard—to roll back the Obama Clean Power Plant initiative, which aims to curb greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired power plants. While Pruitt believes the order will bring back lost coal and manufacturing jobs and result in lower electricity rates for Americans, the demand for coal has been waning, in recent years, given the abundance of natural gas. More importantly, the 2015 Clean Power Plan rule was designed to strengthen clean energy generation by setting standards for power plants—particularly coal-burning power plants—and goals for states to cut carbon dioxide pollution. In attempting to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from electrical power generation by 32 percent within twenty-five years relative to 2005 levels, the Clean Power Plan rule would create thousands of clean energy jobs nationwide.

Hawai’i is the nation’s leader in clean energy, having set a goal of becoming 100 percent renewable reliant by 2045. Just as we have with public policy at home, we must take a stand to ensure that federal governance protects our planet from the industrial processes and corporate gluttons that threaten its survival. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this resolution.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Executive Director
IMUAlliance