



GOV. MSG. NO. 805

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

July 10, 2009

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President
and Members of the Senate
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Madam President and Members of the Senate:

I am transmitting herewith SB 266 SD2 HD2 CD1, without my approval, and with the statement of objections relating to the measure.

SB266 SD2 HD2 CD1

A BILL FOR AN ACT
RELATING TO GLOBAL WARMING.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Lingle", written over a horizontal line.

LINDA LINGLE

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

July 10, 2009

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS TO SENATE BILL NO. 266

Honorable Members
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State of Hawaii

Pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, I am returning herewith, without my approval, Senate Bill No. 266, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to Global Warming."

The purpose of this bill is to establish a "Climate Change Task Force" to assess the impacts of global warming and climate change trends in the State and to appropriate \$50,000 from the Tourism Special Fund for fiscal year 2009-2010 and the same amount for fiscal year 2010-2011 for this purpose.

This bill is objectionable because it appropriates funds from the Tourism Special Fund at a time when we are least able to afford it. Moneys in the fund must be prioritized for programs that generate revenue, such as tourism marketing and promotion, rather than task forces that are designed to study issues but rarely produce tangible results.

There is already wide-ranging research and recommendations available from global and national organizations on the issue of climate change. We cannot afford to use our limited resources, particularly at this time, to create a task force whose main purpose is to study an issue that we already know much about.


Further, there is already an active Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Task Force in the State whose work is

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS
SENATE BILL NO. 266
Page 2

underway. Although the intended purposes of these two task forces may differ, their goal of improving the environment by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and its impact is the same. It should be noted that some of the same members of the existing task force may be asked to join the new task force created by this bill, and, therefore, would be required to share time and resources on what is ultimately the same issue. Given the economic difficulties our state is enduring, it is inefficient and shortsighted to ask professionals in the public and private sector to duplicate their work.

For the foregoing reasons, I am returning Senate Bill No. 266 without my approval.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Lingle", written in a cursive style.

LINDA LINGLE
Governor of Hawaii

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO GLOBAL WARMING.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that global warming poses
2 a serious threat to the economic well-being, public health,
3 natural resources, and environment of Hawaii. The potential
4 adverse effects of climate change include a rise in sea levels,
5 resulting in the displacement of businesses and residences and
6 the inundation of Hawaii's freshwater aquifers, damage to marine
7 ecosystems and the natural environment, extended drought and
8 loss of soil moisture, an increase in the spread of infectious
9 diseases, and an increase in the severity of storms and extreme
10 weather events.

11 On February 2, 2007, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate
12 Change, a body established by the United Nations, released its
13 fourth assessment of the predicted impacts of global climate
14 change. The panel predicted temperature rises of up to eleven-
15 and-a-half degrees Fahrenheit by 2100 and a sea level rise of up
16 to twenty-three inches, with an additional 7.8 inches possible



1 if current melting of the ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica
2 continues.

3 Climate change will have detrimental effects on some of
4 Hawaii's largest industries, including tourism, agriculture,
5 recreational, commercial fishing, and forestry as well as
6 Hawaii's fragile and unique natural resources. Accordingly, the
7 State needs to be prepared to understand and respond to the
8 effects of climate change. While the legislature has taken
9 actions to address the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
10 through the passage of Act 234, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007,
11 strategies to focus on adaptation need to be investigated and
12 implemented.

13 SECTION 2. Climate change task force; objectives;
14 membership. (a) The climate change task force is established
15 within the office of planning, for administrative purposes only.
16 The task force shall have the following objectives:

17 (1) Scoping the current and potential impacts of global
18 warming and climate change on the people, natural
19 resources, and the economy of the State, including
20 impacts on:

21 (A) The visitor industry;



- 1 (B) Intrastate and interstate air and sea
- 2 transportation of cargo and persons;
- 3 (C) Existing buildings and the public utilities
- 4 infrastructure;
- 5 (D) The health of the people of the State; and
- 6 (E) Native plants, animals, and ecosystems;
- 7 (2) Scoping the potential impacts of rising ocean levels
- 8 as a result of climate change on the people, natural
- 9 resources, and the economy of the State, including
- 10 impacts on:
- 11 (A) The visitor industry;
- 12 (B) Shoreline erosion;
- 13 (C) Intrastate and interstate air and sea
- 14 transportation of cargo and persons;
- 15 (D) Existing buildings and the public utilities
- 16 infrastructure;
- 17 (E) The health of the people of the State; and
- 18 (F) Native plants, animals, and ecosystems;
- 19 (3) Estimate the costs to the State of the adverse effects
- 20 associated with climate change and rising sea levels;
- 21 and



1 (4) Make recommendations to the legislature and the
2 governor on measures that would address or mitigate
3 the near- and long-term effects of climate change.

4 Such measures may include:

- 5 (A) Protecting against shoreline erosion;
6 (B) Maintaining the visitor industry;
7 (C) Relocating or armoring the transportation
8 infrastructure, such as airports, highways, and
9 ports;
10 (D) Implementing restrictions on construction in
11 areas at risk for sea level rise and inundation;
12 (E) Improving or hardening the public utilities
13 infrastructure, including communication lines,
14 power generation systems, water supply systems,
15 and wastewater treatment and disposal systems;
16 (F) Preparing for health emergencies and impacts to
17 established emergency management systems; and
18 (G) Preserving the health, biodiversity, and
19 resilience of terrestrial, freshwater, and marine
20 ecosystems.

21 (b) The climate change task force shall comprise the
22 following:



- 1 (1) The director of the office of planning or the
2 director's designee, who shall act as chairperson;
- 3 (2) The deputy director of the department of health's
4 environmental health administration or the deputy
5 director's designee;
- 6 (3) The director of transportation or the director's
7 designee;
- 8 (4) The chairperson of the board of land and natural
9 resources, or the chairperson's designee;
- 10 (5) The vice-director of civil defense of the department
11 of defense or the vice-director's designee;
- 12 (6) One member appointed by each of the mayors of Hawaii,
13 Honolulu, Kauai, and Maui counties;
- 14 (7) Three members appointed by the president of the
15 senate, of whom one shall be from an environmental
16 organization;
- 17 (8) Three members appointed by the speaker of the house of
18 representatives, of whom one shall be from an
19 environmental organization;
- 20 (9) The director of the Center for Island Climate
21 Adaptation and Policy at the University of Hawaii at
22 Manoa; and



(10) One member from the Joint Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research to be appointed by its administrative board.

Members of the task force shall be exempt from section 26-34, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for expenses necessary for the performance of their duties, including travel expenses.

(c) The task force shall:

(1) Submit a preliminary report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2010; and

(2) Submit a final report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2011.

(d) The office of planning shall provide administrative and clerical support required by the task force.

(e) The task force shall cease to exist on June 30, 2011.

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the tourism special fund the sum of \$50,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009-2010 and the same sum or so much



1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2010-2011 for the
2 purposes of this Act.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the office of
4 planning for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2009.

