



**Testimony to the House Committee on Water, Land & Ocean Resources
Friday, January 27, 2012
9:00 a.m.
State Capitol - Conference Room 325**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 1730 RELATING TO THE LAND USE COMMISSION

Chair Chang, Vice Chair Har, and members of the committee:

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber") opposes HB 1730 relating to the Land Use Commission.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, representing more than 1,000 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 Chamber questions the need for H.B. No. 1730 which proposes to prohibit members of the land use commission from voting on action taken by the commission if there is a conflict of interest.

Chapter 84-14 HRS already contains a provision that prohibits an employee from taking any official action directly affecting a business or other undertakings in which the employee has a substantial financial interest.

It is unclear at this time why a similar prohibition is being required for members of the Land Use Commission. If the ethics laws need to be revised, we believe the appropriate revisions should be made to Chapter 84 HRS.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our views.