

**Testimony to the House Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business  
Thursday, January 26, 2011 at 8:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 312, State Capitol**

**RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 2145 RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Choy, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports the passage of HB 2145** relating to Economic Development for further discussion.

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.

This measure proposes to establish a state policy to complete or facilitate completion of ten (10) priority projects by December 31, 2023.

The purpose of the bill is to allow provide for economic development by having the state set a policy to complete or facilitate completion of ten (10) priority projects by December 31, 2023.

Having identified priority projects to complete within a given time will provide a level of commitment and accountability to other large government funded projects. In addition, priorities change as the elected officials change. Perhaps including incentives to have the projects completed under budget or faster than planned; or penalties for not completing the projects once they have been initiated should also be considered.

We look forward to continued discussion on this measure. Thank you for this opportunity to express our views.