



COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
HAWAII ENERGY POLICY FORUM
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT MĀNOA

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Working Group

Legislative Briefing

January 17, 2008

Co-Chairs

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Concern about Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change

- **Now very widespread**
 - ❑ Inconvenient Truth (Jan 2006)
 - ❑ 4th IPCC Report (Feb 2007)
- **Climate change legislation and regional initiatives—US Congress, California, RGGI, New Jersey, Florida**
- **2007 Hawaii State Legislature established state policy and GHG Emissions Reduction Task Force**
- **HEPF established working group**

Act 234

- **Established policy: GHG emissions to be reduced to 1990 levels by 2020**
- **Update GHG emissions inventory**
- **Established Task Force**
 - **Develop work and regulatory scheme (December 2009)**
 - **maximum practically and technically feasible and cost-effective reductions in greenhouse gas emissions**

UH Analysis Group

- **UH faculty from UHERO and HNEI convened to support policy analysis and modeling for Task Force**
- **Faculty and staff donating time**
- **Will Work with HEPF**
- **Initial funding from HECO**
- **Working with DBEDT to dovetail efforts**
- **Seeking additional support**

UH Analysis Group

- **Identify and evaluate policy options**
 - ❑ **Assess what other states and feds are doing**
 - ❑ **Assess feasibility and impact of**
 - alternative compliance mechanisms,
 - carbon tax
 - cap and trade
 - other incentives
 - ❑ **Model the social and economic impact of options**
 - ❑ **Support updating of GHG Emissions Inventory**

EPF Working Group

- Includes UH analytical group participants and other Forum members
- Will vet results of analysis to other stakeholders
- Working with UH group to assess the impact of GHG emission reduction options on other energy priorities

Initial Conclusions

- Funding and time available only sufficient to conduct high level qualitative analysis of policy options for reducing GHG emissions
- DBEDT needs additional staff if they are going to adequately support Task Force and policy
- Legislature needs to establish mechanisms to develop “adaptation” or “hazard mitigation” measures to address impacts of climate change