Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Working Group

Legislative Briefing

January 17, 2008

Co-Chairs

Carl Freedman and Michael Hamnett
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