



# Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

*The Voice of Business*

## Testimony to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

Tuesday, February 7, 2017 at 9:00 A.M.  
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

LATE

### RE: SENATE BILL 620 RELATING TO TAXATION

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** SB 620, which amends the definition of "business" in the State's general excise tax law.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 1,600+ 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 members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

Currently, many internet-based retailers and vendors unfairly benefit from the State's inability to enforce the Use Tax against individual purchasers. The result is often lost revenue by the State and lost sales by conventional and "brick and mortar" retailers, many of which provide employment opportunities for our residents. This bill amends the definition of "business" in the State's general excise tax law and could help eliminate this tax gap. We believe that measures such as these provide fairness and equity for all businesses.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.