



**Testimony to the House Committee on Pandemic & Disaster Preparedness  
Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 10:30 A.M.  
Written Testimony**

**RE: HCR 71 / HR 60, REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO  
CONDUCT A STUDY ON BUSINESS LIABILITY PROTECTIONS RELATED TO COVID-  
19-RELATED CLAIMS.**

Chair Ichiyama, Vice-Chair Eli, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** HCR 71 and HR 60 which requests the Legislative Reference Bureau to conduct a study on business liability protections related to COVID-19-related claims.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 2,000+ 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 members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

The virus known as SARS-CoV-2, which is responsible for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, has deeply impacted Hawaii's public health and economy. Despite these difficulties, the development and distribution of vaccines give new hope for a future free of the crushing social and economic effects of the virus. Unfortunately, for many who remain on the front lines and continue to serve our communities during this pandemic, the threat of unfair litigation continues to loom.

As the Administration strives to reopen schools, protect our health and strengthen our economy, critical protections are needed to help safeguard educational institutions, healthcare providers, businesses and non-profit organizations from unfair lawsuits.

As such, the Chamber supports these resolutions and also asks for consideration to incorporate language that asks Governor David Y. Ige to issue an Executive Order that limits civil liability similar to other states such as Arkansas<sup>1</sup>, Mississippi<sup>2</sup> and Tennessee<sup>3</sup>, to name a few.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://governor.arkansas.gov/images/uploads/executiveOrders/EO\\_20-33.pdf](https://governor.arkansas.gov/images/uploads/executiveOrders/EO_20-33.pdf)

<sup>22</sup> <https://governorreeves.ms.gov/wp-content/uploads/Executive-Order-1503-Extending-Liability-Protections.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://publications.tnsosfiles.com/pub/execorders/exec-orders-lee58.pdf>