

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LATE TESTIMONY

CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS CONCERNS

H.B. 2434, H.D. 1, RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.
Director of Health

February 14, 2008
10:00 am

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) appreciates the intent but offers concerns
2 about mandating this requirement on business.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** DOH estimates that the additional resources needed to plan, coordinate and
4 implement this new regulatory program would total approximately \$200,000, including 2.5 FTEs.

5 **Purpose and Justification:** As amended, this bill would give businesses an opportunity to reduce waste
6 and, in general, protect the environment, from the impacts resulting from providing their customers with
7 non-biodegradable plastic checkout bags. Specifically, the bill provides the following:

8 (1) Establishes the Plastic Carryout Bag Recycling Program (Program);

9 (2) Limits the Program to stores:

10 (A) with over 10,000 square feet of retail space and a pharmacy; or

11 (B) that are full-line, self-service retail stores with gross annual sales of \$2,000,000 or
12 more, which sell lines of dry groceries, canned goods, nonfood items, and perishable
13 goods;

14 (3) Requires qualifying stores to establish an at-store recycling program for customers to return
15 clean plastic carryout bags and purchase reusable bags; and

1 (4) Requires DOH to provide a report to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the
2 convening of the Regular Session of 2010.

3 The bill also authorizes fines and other administrative penalties for violations of these new requirements.

4 DOH generally supports the reduction of solid waste, litter, and the use of petroleum resources.
5 State policy already sets source reduction and recycling as the top two priorities for solid waste
6 management (HRS §342G-2(b)). We favor reducing plastic marine pollution because of its affect on
7 wildlife. DOH agrees that the effectiveness of current private industry initiatives should be considered
8 and evaluated. We suggest that some measure of effectiveness be set in order to gauge success. It could
9 be a target that progresses over time.

10 (This measure creates a new DOH regulatory program and authorizes fines and other
11 administrative penalties for violations of program requirements. The current measure also requires
12 DOH to partner with business to educate and inform the general public to effect the necessary behavioral
13 changes to sustain responsible activity. Adequate funding and resources will be necessary to implement
14 the new program, which, among other things, require some level of planning, coordination, auditing,
15 compliance and enforcement, outreach and education, data collection, record keeping and reporting.
16 However, we oppose funding that adversely affects priorities in the executive supplemental budget.

17 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.
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LATE TESTIMONY

RL: 2160

HB 2434 HD 1
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

House Committee on Economic Development and Business Concerns
Public Hearing – February 14, 2008
10:00 a.m., State Capitol, Conference Room 325

By
Peter Rappa, Environmental Center
Melissa Ihori, Environmental Health and Safety

HB 2434 HD 1 requires certain retailers in the state to implement an at-store plastic carryout bag recycling program. Our statement on this measure does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

Plastic bags are unsightly when they escape the waste stream and are blown about by the trade winds. They can be found in drainage ditches, up against fences, and hanging from trees from one side of the island to the other. Most of the plastic bags that end up as trash are distributed by retail outlets. This bill requires retail outlets to implement at-store plastic carryout bag recycling program. This is a good step towards controlling some of the plastic that enters the waste stream and the unsightly refuse that ends up hanging from trees. We note that this program is less drastic than the ban on the use of plastic bags for carry out retail that was enacted by the San Francisco City Council last year. It is similar to measure, AB 2449 passed in 2006 by the California State Legislature that went into effect in July 2007. California became the first state to require grocery stores, pharmacies and other large retailers to tackle the plastic bag problem. The California law requires stores to provide bins for plastic bags and to sell reusable shopping bags. Like the Hawaii bill, the California law requires that all bags must be labeled to encourage their return.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

LATE TESTIMONY



Styrophobia.com

a natural way to go...

3133 Waiialae Ave. #3903 Honolulu, HI 96816

Email: info@styrophobia.com

Ph: (808) BE GREEN

Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Glenn Wakai, Vice-chair
Economic Development & Business Concerns Committee

Thursday, Feb 14, 2007

Testimony in Support of HB2434 H.D.1 with Amendments, Relating to Plastic Bags

First, I was shocked to find private entities, including powerful lobby groups such as Hawaii Food Industry Association and Retail Merchants Association included in this legislation. "The department of health, in cooperation with but not limited to the Retail Merchants Association, Hawaii Food Industry Association..." These private special-interest groups should not be referenced and certainly not associated with the State Department of Health determining performance of a bill that at best offers little more effort to reduce our plastic bag pollution, litter, and marine debris. The inclusion of this paragraph could lead a reader and taxpayer to assume that these organizations played a role in drafting or improperly influencing the latest version of this bill and that the state is encouraging collusion with special interest lobbies.

Next, there are several statements in the bill that make assumptions that just are not true or are misleading. These should be deleted and support our recommendation to return this bill to its original form:

The bill has been drastically changed from its original format and intent. It is no longer a vehicle to remove plastic bags from our stores and environment, rather a method for the plastic and retail lobbies to spin the plastic pollution problem by implying these bags are practically recyclable. In HFIA's verbal testimony in ENE committee, Mr. Botti confirmed that it is too expensive to send these bags back to the mainland for recycling. Further, we attach from HFIA's own website, confirmation that in nearly 6 months of "educating" retailers, HFIA still has no posted solution for recycling. Are we to assume HFIA expects retailers to store their recycled bags for 6 months or more while they find someone to take them?

Based on HFIA's own website and testimony, the following verbiage should be removed from the bill as inaccurate and misleading: "There are, however, plastic bags provided by retailers, dry cleaners, and other businesses that are 100 per cent recyclable. While there

exists a mechanism to divert plastic bags from landfills and recycle them into parking-lot bumpers, plastic lumber products, and more plastic bags, such a mechanism is currently underused.”

Further, HFIA has testified that the best place for these bags is the incinerator at HPower. By changing this bill to a recycling effort, with no practical way to recycle them, offers no solution to our retailers, consumers, or environment. This is further verified again from HFIA website. See attached graph showing percentage of plastic recycled. In Hawaii, these numbers are even far lower. In testimony by Reynolds recycling to the legislature 2/12/08, they stated it is barely a break even for them to deal with shipping plastic off-island for recycling – not a very appealing business argument.

The bill states “(3) Partner with business and government to educate and inform the general public to effect the necessary behavioral changes to sustain responsible activity.” The bill has no mechanism to educate the general public and therefore this objective is unrealistic with the bill as written. The bill needs a true education campaign as to the hazards of plastic bags in our environment.

The bill states it is limited to businesses which “(1) Has over ten thousand square feet of retail space and has a licensed pharmacy”. There is nothing in this bill that should require a store to have a licensed pharmacy to qualify. This should be removed.

Further, the fees proposed are insignificant in relation to the size of stores targeted and annual sales. There is no real financial disincentive to participate for these large stores.

The bill further goes on to require the following on the bags: “(1) A plastic carryout bag provided by the store shall have printed or displayed on the bag, in a manner visible to a consumer, the words "PLEASE RETURN TO A PARTICIPATING STORE FOR RECYCLING";” Again, as these bags are not currently recycled, nor can they economically or practically be recycled, the consumer is falsely led to believe they will be recycled. Burning them at HPower or placed in our landfills across the state is not recycling. The bill should be amended to read “PLEASE RETURN TO A PARTICIPATING STORE WHERE THEY WILL BE THROWN IN THE TRASH”

We strongly urge the committee to amend this bill back to its original HB2434 form and intent upon entering ENE committee, where it will make a difference in showing our respect for the land and our marine life. San Francisco can do it, so can we! We don't see Safeway in San Francisco going out of business and they have no plastic bags, imagine that! – They adapt and the world is a better place.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony,

Mike Elhoff

Styrophobia LLC

**LDPE Low Density Polyethylene**

Grocery bags, produce bags, food wrap, bread bags.

**PP Polypropylene**

Yogurt containers, shampoo bottles, straws, margarine tubs, diapers.

**PS Polystyrene**

Hot beverage cups, take-home boxes, egg cartons, meat trays, cd cases.

**OTHER**

All other types of plastics or packaging made from more than one type of plastic.

DISPOSING OF PLASTIC

Is plastic trash choking the Earth with Styrofoam® cups and fast-food plates? Not really. That's just another misconception. By

weight, plastics make up about 11 percent of America's municipal solid waste. In comparison, paper makes up about 35 percent.

Of course, plastics are generally very lightweight. When plastics are buried in a landfill, they occupy about 25 percent of the space. Putting plastics into landfills is not always the best disposal method. There are two other alternatives: recycling and incineration.

These methods recover some of the value from the plastic. Recycling recovers the raw material, which can then be used to make new plastic products. Incineration recovers the chemical energy, which can be used to produce steam and electricity. Landfilling plastics does neither of these things. The value of landfilled plastic is buried forever.

RECYCLING PLASTICS**ANOTHER look
PLASTICS RECYCLING IN AMERICA**

Today, Americans recycle only 5 percent of all the plastics produced in this country. Why aren't we recycling more? There is no simple answer.

Part of the issue in recycling plastics is the cost. To remain competitive in the global marketplace, manufacturers usually choose the cheapest option for making products. New plastic resin, or virgin resin, often costs less than recycled plastic. Until recently, when the U.S. experienced massive hurricanes, virgin resin was cheaper than recycled plastic. After the hurricanes in 2005, supplies of oil and natural gas--the building blocks of virgin resins--became limited and more expensive. Prices for virgin resin soared, and the demand for recycled plastics increased.

Another important consideration is human behavior. Surveys conducted by Proctor & Gamble and other companies show that while most people expect their plastic to be recycled, they won't go out of their way or pay a few cents more to buy products made of recycled plastic.

There are success stories in plastics recycling, nonetheless. Soft-drink bottles made of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) can be melted down and made into carpet, t-shirts, stuffing for

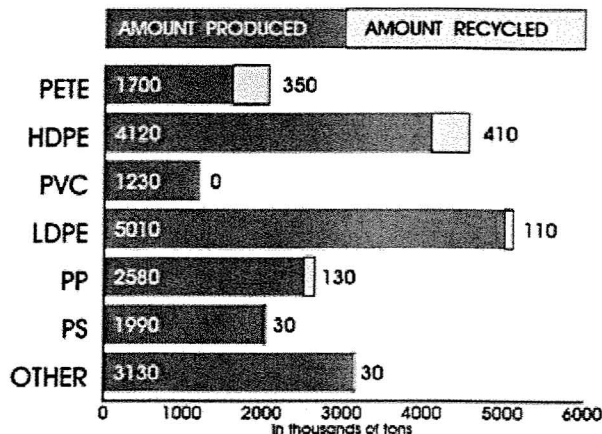
Recycling plastics is easy. First, you should learn what types of plastics can be recycled and only give your collector those types of plastics.

Resist the temptation to slip plastics that recyclers don't want into the recycling bin. Plastics have different formulations and should be sorted before they are recycled to make new products. Mixed plastics can be recycled, but they are not as valuable as sorted plastics because the recycled plastic's physical properties, such as strength, may vary with each batch.

Once you know what kinds of plastics your recycler wants, you should follow the wash and squash rule—rinse the container and squash it. You may leave the paper labels on the container, but throw away the plastic caps. Plastic caps are usually made from a different type of plastic than the container and cannot be easily recycled.

ski jackets, or molded into bottles again. In 1999, Ford Motor Company used more than 60 million 2-liter plastic soda bottles (7.5 million pounds) to make grille reinforcements, window frames, engine covers and trunk carpets for its new vehicles.

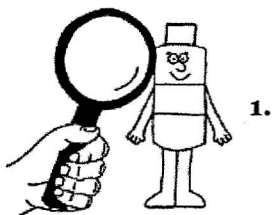
PLASTICS PRODUCED/PLASTICS RECYCLED



In recent years, several plastics recycling companies have closed their doors. They claimed they could not sell their products at a price that would allow them to stay in business. Thanks to the relatively low cost of petroleum today, the price of virgin plastic is so inexpensive that recycled plastic cannot compete. The price of virgin resin is about 40 percent lower than that of recycled resin.

HOW PLASTIC IS RECYCLED

A recycling plant uses seven steps to turn plastic trash into recycled plastic:



Inspection

Workers inspect the plastic trash for contaminants like rock and glass, and for plastics that the plant cannot recycle.

Because recycled plastic is more expensive, people aren't exactly lining up to buy it. Surveys conducted by Procter & Gamble and others show that while most people expect their plastic to be recycled, they won't go out of their way or pay a few cents more to buy a bottle made of recycled plastic. Recyclers say plastics recycling won't be profitable until we close the loop by creating more demand for recycled plastics.

Soft-drink bottles, however, are one success story in plastics recycling. Made of polyethylene terephthalate (PETE), they can be melted down and made into carpet, t-shirts, stuffing for ski jackets, or molded into bottles again. When a soft-drink bottle is recycled into another soft-drink bottle, the loop is closed.



2. Chopping and Washing

The plastic is washed and chopped into flakes.

Hawaii Food Industry Association
Plastic Bag Recycling Program
In partnership with:

progressive **bag** alliance

*Best manufacturing practices.
Environmental leadership.
Sound public policy.*

www.hawaiiifood.com



PLEASE RECYCLE
CLEAN, DRY PLASTIC BAGS HERE

At-Store Plastic Bag Recycling Collection Toolkit

For Grocers and Other Retailers

Setting Up Plastic Bag Collection Bins

The first step in setting up bag collection bins is to determine the size, location and type of collection bin you need. It is important to obtain and use bins that deter contamination. Good signage is key. Make sure that the bin mouth has limited access, but is not too small, and that consumers are able to read the sign and recognize that the bin is for bags only – not garbage. It is good to place the signage close to the bin opening and use transparent bins to help with quality control.

Bin Location

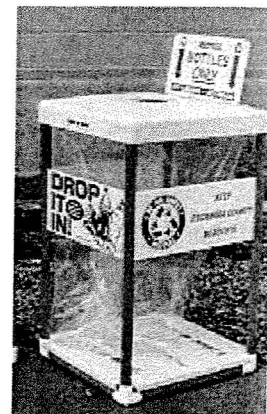
The bins should be placed in a visible area of your store – preferably near the front entrance. Be sure to keep in mind that the bins need to be durable enough to withstand ongoing floor cleaning in a high-traffic area, and that bins should be placed in protected areas unless they are designed to be placed outdoors.

Link-A-Bag Systems

Open Frame Racks in place of conventional bins have proven to be effective in maintaining quality. This type of collection bin involves a rack-style support that holds a clear polyethylene plastic bag. The company claims that the clear bag reinforces the fact that the receptacle is for recyclables only, thus reducing contamination. Packs of bags and custom graphics space are available. We currently have these bins on Maui available at no cost on a firsts come first get basis.

Signage

The most critical aspect for program success is to have clear signs on the recycling bins that direct the customer to the bins and instruct on what bags to place in the bins. All plastic bag collection bins should be properly



labeled "Recycle Your Plastic Shopping Bags Here" or "Recycle Plastic Shopping Bags Only" and should be lined with a clear polyethylene plastic bag to ease collection. In general, signage must clearly and simply communicate to consumers what you want them to do. It is helpful to have the signage on the top of the bin or close to the opening to maximize visibility.

Provide specific instructions, such as:

- Please recycle clean, dry plastic bags here
- Empty bags and turn them inside out
- Do NOT include receipts or other debris
- Place all your empty plastic bags into one bag
- Please include: plastic shopping bags, grocery bags, plastic newspaper bags, plastic drycleaning bags, all clean, clear bags labeled with ♻️ or ♻️
- Do NOT include: food wrap (e.g. Saran Wrap), plastic bags or other film that has had direct contact with food or organic material
- Thank you for recycling!

Sample sign are below. We need further consensus on signage that will include everyone involved, and what the theme should be. In the meantime, the necessary information is included in the signage shown.

What to do with the bags collected at your store:

We are currently working on this solution. In the meantime, it will be necessary for you to store the bags in a location that will keep them dry and free of soot.



LATE TESTIMONY

wakai1-Karen

From: Windward Ahupua`a Alliance [info@waa-hawaii.org]
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2008 12:27 AM
To: EDBtestimony
Subject: HB 2434 HD1 - Relating to Environmental Protection

Shannon Wood, *Interim President*
Windward Ahupua`a Alliance
 P.O. Box 6366
 Kane`ohe, HI 96744
 Phone: 808/247-6366 ext. 2#
 Cell: 808/224-4496

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS CONCERS

Rep. Kyle Yamashita, Chair
Rep. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

HB 2434 HD1 - RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Strongly Support

PUBLIC HEARING

10 am

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Conference Room 325

SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

The *Windward Ahupua`a Alliance* supports **HB 2434 HD1** because it will help reduce the impacts of jamming the landfills with one type of solid waste which will take decades, if not centuries, to decompose. Burning plastic in *H-Power* facilities is not the best way to handle it because the residual ash needs to be disposed off properly and, besides, no one wants to have a landfill in the neighborhood.

We also must remember that *H-Power* at best only burns about 70% of our solid waste. The rest sits in a landfill along with the ash. Furthermore, the other three counties do not have *waste-to-energy* facilities.

We need to **REDUCE** as well as **RE-USE**, **RECYCLE** and **RECLAIM**.

Like so many folks, we have animals whose waste we need to dispose of properly. Even though this is an intermediate re-use of plastic bags, they still go into the garbage can and then into the landfill or *H-Power* after that.

About a year ago, I started researching corn-based "plastic" which decompose within months as a substitute for petroleum-based materials thinking that I could buy these products for garbage can liners and pet waste disposal and use cloth bags for shopping. Up to that point, I'd bought into the retailers' arguments that it was too expensive to use anything but regular plastic and that it would drive up costs.

It turns out that these corn-based products when purchased in very large quantities by supermarket chains would wind up costing no more than two cents - depending upon the manufacturer - per bag. That is certainly affordable and definitely makes much more sense than shipping our solid waste across the Pacific Ocean - thus increasing our greenhouse gas emissions by as much as 5% when the *State of Hawai`i* is working towards significant reductions over the next 15 years.

We know that you are going to hear moans and groans from various retailers, but the fact is most people are well aware of what is happening to our planet and want to **reduce** as well as **recycle, re-use, and reclaim**.

We do have one major concern about the bill as it is currently written. It focuses on size and stocked items only rather than on gross volume. That means chains such as *7-Eleven* where even their small stores generate upwards of \$7000 a day in sales not including gasoline will be exempt from this requirement. How do we get them included?

One other amendment to sweeten the deal slightly would be to eliminate the **GET** paid by all retailers and their suppliers on these bags so that there is a small but important incentive for them to do the right thing.

We urge that you pass **HB 2434 HD1** with this amendment and urge the Committee to look for ways to include high volume/small footprint outlets whose plastic bags litter the land.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

LATE TESTIMONY

wakai1-Karen

From: Dennis [familypools@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2008 8:19 PM
To: EDBtestimony
Subject: Plastic bags

I was a key man on the marine mammal rescue team for the New York Zoological Society- for a number of years. Many of the marine mammals and turtles that we rescued, later died directly because their digestive systems were completely clogged by plastic shopping bags. I am also a lifetime sailor and scuba instructor. I have seen thousands of plastic bags floating 100's of miles offshore. Plastic bags will also kill coral. I would gladly support anything that can be done to eliminate them. There are very viable alternatives, as I am sure you are aware.

We live in Hawaii and millions of tourist dollars are spent here because of our beautiful oceans, reefs, marine animals and beaches. Plastic bags are easily one of the biggest threats that I know of. I would be glad to testify in person or do anything that I can do to help the cause.

Dennis Aubrey
Mililani
375-4043

LATE TESTIMONY

wakai1-Karen

From: MaliaCross@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2008 9:20 PM
To: EDBtestimony
Subject: re; plastic bags

Aloha, I've already bought my reusable grocery bags, and they work great. There's no excuse for continuing a practice that polutes and causes so much harm to marine life, and the environment. Years from now, our great, great, great grandchildren will question our indifference to our planet. They will wonder why we were so slow in taking steps to reduce our "carbon imprint" on the planet. Please vote to pass legislation that begins to address this problem. We are all guilty of being negligent, and naive when it comes to recycling. Let's make Hawaii the poster state, in the forefront of a clean, green, and safe place to live.

Thank you for your consideration,
Malia Cross, LPN
maliacross@aol.com
444 Nahua st. #810
Honolulu, Hi. 96815

The year's hottest artists on the red carpet at the Grammy Awards. [AOL Music takes you there.](#)

LATE TESTIMONY

wakai1-Karen

From: val loh [vallohfoto@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2008 7:33 PM
To: EDBtestimony
Cc: berg1-Liz
Subject: Testimony supporting HB 2434 HD 1

Dear State Representatives:

Please support HB 2434 HD 1 banning plastic bags in Hawai'i. If a big city like San Francisco can do it, we can too!

Plus, we live on tiny islands in the middle of a huge ocean, and our landfills are all full already. Please make a difference and stand up to pressure from commercial interests!

Mahalo and best wishes,
~ Valerie Loh
2552 Peter St.
Honolulu, HI 96816

Looking for last minute shopping deals?
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LATE TESTIMONY



25 Makunui Ave., Suite 102., PMB 282 • Kailua, HI 96734 • Phone/Fax: (808) 262-0882 E-mail: htf@java.net

February 14, 2007

Testimony via email

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS CONCERNS

Rep. Kyle Yamashita, Chair
Rep. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

HB 2434 HD1
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Committee Chair and members:

Hawaii's Thousand Friends, a statewide non-profit land use organization, supports HB 2434 HD1 that requires certain retailers in the State to implement an at-store plastic carryout bag recycling program.

Introduced a little over twenty-five years ago it is estimated that over 500 billion plastic bags are used and discarded annually. A single plastic bag is made of high-density polyethylene (HDPE) a.k.a. petroleum and takes approximately 1,000 years for one plastic bag to biodegrade.

According to the Center for Marine Conservation plastic bags are among the 12 items of debris found most often in beach cleanups. While in the environment plastic bags suffocate marine animals that mistake a bag for food and once on the ocean floor they suffocate living coral stopping reefs from being formed or growing.

The U.S. is behind other countries such as Ireland, Bangladesh and Taiwan that limit plastic bags. But many Hawai'i retailers will oppose this bill citing that the increased cost of replacing plastic bags with biodegradable bags will be passed on to the consumer. Well, the consumer is already paying a high cost in litter that must be cleaned up, threats to marine life and the environment and reduction of landfill space. Maui County appropriates \$180,000 each year just to have workers pick up plastic bags.

Without action such as HB 2434 HD1 that will help stop pollution from plastic bags what legacy are we leaving our children's children and the earth's land and marine environment?

LATE TESTIMONY



HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

820 Mililani St., Suite 810, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone (808) 533-1292 - Fax (808) 599-2606 - Email LISHawaii@aol.com



February 14, 2008

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS CONCERNS

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair

Rep. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

By: Richard C. Botti, President
Hawaii Food Industry Association

Re: HB 2434, HD1 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Chairs & Committee Members:

We support this measure as being a compromise in finding a solution to address the challenge of flying bags.

We ask that the measure include a means for stores to be allowed to opt-out if it can be shown that it would create a hardship. This can be accomplished with language as follows:

Hardship Exemption: A retailer may apply to the department for a hardship exemption upon demonstrating a physical and/or financial hardship based on specific criteria established by the department.

Such hardship may be based on the physical location of the retailer, or other criteria established by the department.

We also wish to express our concerns with the potential contamination that is sure to result when retailers choose to utilize compostable or biodegradable bags as a marketing tool to address the environmental aspect of bags. While we do not want to discourage their use, the concern is that if all bags are white, and consumers deposit biodegradable and/or compostable bags in plastic recycling containers at stores accepting bags for recycling, they will contaminate the mix, and the load may be rejected. This issue could be resolved voluntarily if compostable and biodegradable bags were each different colors so that they could be identified. Stores using these bags could accept the bags in separate receptacles. Compostable bags could be sent to a commercial compost facility. We do not have an answer for biodegradable bags.

We also have some stores that currently use colored plastic bags. This issue may have to be addressed, but only if we have compostable and/or biodegradable bags in the market place.

LATE TESTIMONY

wakai1-Karen

From: Cjmacphoto@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2008 11:48 PM
To: EDBtestimony
Subject: Plastic bag testimony

Plastic checkout bags in stores have become a habit and not a necessity. And it's a habit that can be amended. A bill to ban plastic checkout bags may be a small gesture but it is important and is one we, the citizens can build on. We can no longer afford the consequences of not acting, (i e banning plastic checkout bags) esp being an island and all the enviornmental limitations that come w/ being an island.
Use your green intelligence. Every step we take now affects our future.

Best,
Chris McDonough

The year's hottest artists on the red carpet at the Grammy Awards. Go to AOL Music.
(<http://music.aol.com/grammys?NCID=aolcmp00300000002565>)

LATE TESTIMONY

wakai1-Karen

From: Erin P Woods [woodse@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2008 8:46 AM
To: EDBtestimony
Cc: jcusick@hawaii.edu; annemarie.aque@gmail.com
Subject: Call for testimony supporting HB 2434 HD 1

We've all been to the beach before or on a hike, away from the muck of the city and then there it is: the plastic bag. It's rolling along the beach, surfing the waves, hiding in tree tops. It's always around. The plastic bag is a versatile traveler and a dangerous one. It does not biodegrade; it does not breakdown. It just remains as is, perhaps torn into pieces, but still remains a plastic bag, going wherever the wind may take it.

Plastic bags must be banned in Hawaii. There are far too many polluting the beautiful environment of Hawaii. Banning plastic bags will help "Keep Hawaii, Hawaii." Reusable cloth bags are an awesome alternative to plastic bags. A one time purchase can serve one person for years. Reusable cloth bags are a small step towards a more sustainable Hawaii, as they help cut down on the amount of product consumed (plastic bags). People can even design their own bags to fit their personality!

Some people may think, "but I just wanted to run into the store quickly and I do not have my bag, what do I do now that plastic bags are banned?" Reusable bags could be rented from stores. So at the checkout, a person who does not have their bag may rent one from the store, and return it later, much like renting a movie. It is not difficult to live without plastic bags.

Plastic bags must be banned now from Hawaii, so the natural beauty of this unique place may be preserved!

I support HB2434 HD1!

Yours truly,

Erin Woods
Environmental Studies Student
University of Hawaii at Manoa
Phone: 410 507 0611
Email: woodse@hawaii.edu

LATE TESTIMONY

wakai1-Karen

From: Tsai Linda [Tsai.Linda@bcg.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2008 5:36 AM
To: EDBtestimony
Cc: Christine Tsai
Subject: Plastic Bags

Dear Committee on Economic Development and Business Concerns,

I'm writing to support any efforts to reduce/eliminate the use of plastic bags in grocery stores and stores like Wal Mart. Other nations and cities have done this, and I feel that Hawaii should also be a leader in this area.

Hawaii residents need some additional incentives to remember to purchase and use canvas bags. I myself own about 10 of them, and use them when I remember, but a tax on plastic bags would really help me to understand the environmental impact of these bags and help me to reduce their use.

Some businesses and some residents may resist this change, but there are times when the government needs to do what's best for all of us on this island, and not be swayed by convenience issues and old habits. These bags are a real danger to our fragile ecosystem when they wind up in the ocean and they create unnecessary waste in our landfills. Over time, businesses will see a reduction in their costs as customers begin to no longer expect "free" bags with every purchase.

Please take a leadership position and help our residents reduce the use of disposable plastic bags.

Kind regards,

Linda Tsai
1504 Ihiloa Loop
Honolulu, HI 96821
808-754-5849

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2/14/2008

wakai1-Karen

From: tommasino@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2008 9:17 AM
To: EDBtestimony
Subject: re: HB 2434 HD 1

Dear Lyla Berg,

I would like to let you know that I support the ban of plastic bags in the State of Hawaii. I feel that we must do what we can to help our existing overflowing land fills. Plastic bags produce a hazard to our existing marine life in Hawaii. I feel making a recycle plastic program is just a band aid on a much larger issue, but I guess the majority of the public must become more self aware about our in-pack on our environment. I am unhappy that the ban of plastic bags was revised to a recycling plastic bags program but a little change is better than nothing. Once the public becomes more aware perhaps this issue can again be brought up for revision.

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LATE TESTIMONY

wakai1-Karen

From: Ryne Masuda [ryne8o8@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2008 10:21 AM
To: EDBtestimony
Cc: Mr. Corson; Mr. Toyama; Joy Sensei
Subject: Testimony in Support of House Bill 2434

To: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Glenn Wakai, Vice- Chair
Committee on Economic Development and Business Concerns

From: Ryne Masuda, Grade 11, student at Pacific Buddhist Academy
Date: February 14, 2008
Subject: Support of HB 2434 H.D.I, Relating to Environmental Protection

Have you ever driven along not only beaches but many other places in Hawaii and noticed litter all around? The litter is comprised of old tires, car batteries, recyclables, wrappers of all types and, most of all, plastic grocery bags. For this reason, I am in favor discouraging the use of plastic grocery bags in Hawaii.

I am aware that "there exists a mechanism to divert plastic bags from landfills and recycle them into parking-lot bumpers, plastic lumber products, and more plastic bags such as mechanism is currently underused" as stated in the House Bill 2434. However, I personally feel that the State of Hawaii should ban these plastic grocery bags. One reason is that when tourists from all around the world come to visit Hawaii, they expect it to be a very pristine and beautiful place and not a place where there is litter all over the place. This is especially true with plastic grocery bags littering the beaches. According to news reporter Brooks Baehr from KGMB9 in on article titled "Plastic Bags May be Banned", he states that plastic bags are convenient, but the average bag is used for only twelve minutes. After that, they become an environmental issue. According to Suzanne Frazer's perspective, co-founder of Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawaii, she points out that "Yes, it will break into smaller and smaller pieces, but it won't ever go away. It's just going to turn into like plastic dust and be easily ingested by animals".

By passing House Bill 2434, Hawaii consumers would have to resort to other alternatives. One result would be looking into using biodegradable bags made from corn, or use inexpensive, environmentally friendly, re-useable cotton or nylon bags when going grocery shopping. As a matter in fact, even though there isn't a ban on plastic grocery bags, some supermarkets are encouraging consumers to use re-usable grocery bags and even giving them a small discount for it on their total bill.

Please take these suggestions into consideration, I feel banning plastic grocery bags will greatly benefit the future of the State of Hawaii. I urge the committee to pass House Bill 2434. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

2/14/2008

LATE TESTIMONY

wakai1-Karen

From: Alyson Matsuoka [alyson.matsuoka@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2008 9:58 AM
To: EDBtestimony
Cc: Mr Cassens; Mr. Corson; Rev. Al
Subject: Testimony and Support of HB 2434

To: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Glenn Wakai, Vice- Chair
Committee on Economic Development and Business Concerns

From: Alyson Matsuoka, Grade 10, student at Pacific Buddhist Academy

Date: February 14, 2008

Subject: Support of HB 2434 H.C.I., Relating to Environmental Protection

I strongly support HB 2434, which preserves the beauty of the environment. It is an important measure that will have a tremendous impact on the future of our island. This is a bill that would not only decrease the amount of trash on Oahu, but will also encourage our fellow citizens to make use of every opportunity to recycle that presents itself.

Recently, I did research on the Waimanalo Landfill. After reading about the hardships that the people of Waianae endured, I have come to realize that time is of the essence and something must be done. According to www.midweek.com, only 28 percent of Hawaii's residents recycle. This is unacceptable. If this trend continues, I think the landfill will have no other option but to expand. That would be horrendous.

The people of Oahu need this bill because it encourages a practice that will be beneficial to our island. Not only will recycling help decrease the volume of garbage in the landfill, but it will also teach our citizens a valuable lesson. It may seem as though this problem is unsolvable, but, with the right encouragement, we can find a solution. It will enhance our understanding of the expression "you have to start somewhere." If recycling can somehow be incorporated into our everyday lives, people will see change.

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