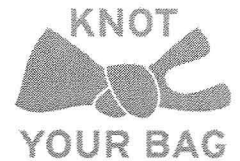




## HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

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# LATE Testimony



The right way to trash plastic bags

Friday, February 8, 2008

To Committee on Health

By: Hawaii Food Industry Association  
Lauren Zirbel or Richard Botti

RE: HB 2680 RELATING TO FOOD

HFIA strongly opposes HB 2680.

Aspartame is used in over 6,000 products. The FDA has approved its use on multiple occasions. Numerous foreign and international regulatory agencies have likewise approved it. No regulatory body has found it potentially harmful. Many health-related organizations endorse its use, particularly as a tool to manage caloric and carbohydrate intake and to combat obesity.

In April 2006, the National Cancer Institute released the results of its own study involving more than 500,000 people and showing no adverse health results arising from the use of aspartame.

Banning the most commonly used artificial sweetener on the market will juristically alter the availability of many well loved nutritional supplements, yogurts, drinks and basic food products consumers have come to rely for weight management and blood sugar control.

This scientifically unwarranted ban will have broad and fast negative implications for commerce. We strongly urge the legislature to rethink this brash measure.

# HB2680

Aloha,

My name is Nancy Flynn Ravelo.

I am the mother of six and have seven grandchildren. I have been in the healing arts field for over thirty years. Fortunately for me, I have eaten natural foods since 1970. I discovered how much better I felt eating foods that were without artificial additives. I was truly disgusted the first time I sipped a diet soda. The taste was so horrible. I couldn't understand how anyone could enjoy it. You have reports from experts about the health dangers caused by this additive.

You are hearing from people who are not being paid to speak out against aspartame. We are giving freely of our time to help protect our children, who are innocently chewing gum handed to them from loving family members. Hawaii's children have high rates of behavior disorders. Why? Ask yourself why? Do we care about our children?

Remember we the supporters of this bill are giving freely of our time and effort. We are asking you to stand strong and weigh the facts. If you are an aspartame consumer I am asking you to find out for your self. Get off aspartame for two weeks and see if you feel better. If you don't use it, ask a friend who does, to help you with this experiment. This will help you have a first hand experience with the argument.

Mahalo nui loa,  
Nancy Flynn Ravelo