

**SB 2629**



**MEMORANDUM – February 5, 2008**

**To:** The Honorable Ron Menor, Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

**From:** Tim Shestek  
Director, State Affairs & Grassroots  
American Chemistry Council

**Re:** **SB 2629 & SB 2001 - OPPOSE**

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) must respectfully oppose both **SB 2629 and SB 2001**, two pieces of legislation that would prohibit the use of polystyrene foam food containers in the state of Hawaii. While we appreciate the intent of this legislation, we must oppose these bills because they (1) could have sweeping ramifications on a number of government agencies and industries that rely on polystyrene foodservice packaging to deliver food products to customers in an economically and environmentally responsible manner; and (2) they fail to recognize the important environmental and health benefits of using polystyrene foodservice products.

**STYRENE IN CONTEXT**

Polystyrene is made from the chemical styrene. Modern man has known about styrene for centuries. A naturally occurring substance, styrene is present in many foods and beverages, including wheat, beef, strawberries, peanuts and coffee beans. Also found in the spice cinnamon, its chemical structure is similar to cinnamic aldehyde, the chemical component that elicits cinnamon's flavor. It is naturally present to flavor foods, and is used as a flavoring additive to such food as baked goods, frozen dairy products, soft candy, and gelatins and puddings, with permission from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Styrene is not harmful in the very small amounts we sometimes may encounter in air or food.

Most people are exposed to styrene every day in tiny amounts that may be present in the air, or that occur in food (see 1st paragraph.) These generally are trace amounts, which were difficult to detect until recent technological advances occurred. Some people confuse styrene, which is a liquid, with polystyrene, which is a solid plastic made from polymerized styrene. Styrene and polystyrene are fundamentally different. Polystyrene is

inert and has no smell of styrene. As a polymerized form of styrene, polystyrene is not chemically the same substance as styrene. Also, any residual styrene present in a polystyrene foodservice container is so small that it does not cause negative health effects.

### **CLARIFYING MIS-STATEMENTS ABOUT POLYSTYRENE**

In justifying these bills, some have suggested that adverse health and environmental impacts can be associated with the use of polystyrene products. *These allegations are not supported by credible scientific information.*

From a health perspective, there is absolutely no "contamination" of food in polystyrene packaging. Polystyrene foodservice disposables meet stringent U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) standards for use in food-contact packaging and have been in use for over 50 years with a proven safety record. FDA, which regulates plastics used in food contact applications, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), and other highly regarded federal authorities rely not on opinions, but on the weight of validated scientific evidence. The weight of scientific evidence overwhelmingly supports the safe use of polystyrene in food contact applications.

After an exhaustive assessment of styrene's possible health and environmental effects, an important decision was made in 1994 by the government agencies Health Canada and Environment Canada. These agencies concluded that styrene is "non-toxic" for regulatory purposes. Health Canada found that styrene "does not constitute a danger to human life and health" and "does not constitute a danger to the environment on which human life depends."

Moreover, according to the Harvard Center for Risk Analysis (HCRA) report "A Comprehensive Evaluation of the Potential Health Risks Associated with Occupational and Environmental Exposure to Styrene," which was published in the Journal of Toxicology and Environmental Health, Volume 5, Number 1-2 (Part B: Critical Reviews), January-June 2002, **"The margins of exposure estimated for oral exposure to styrene from food, whether naturally occurring or as a result of migration from food packaging or other food contact items, indicate that risks are quite low and of no concern. The comparison dose used to derive the margins of exposure was obtained from a study using newborn rats, so those margins of exposure are expected to be protective of children as well as adults."**

### **HEALTH BENEFITS OF POLYSTYRENE**

Single-use foodservice products such as those made from polystyrene are an important part of our nation's modern food-safety and sanitation system. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly half of the outbreaks of food-borne disease occur in restaurants, cafeterias, schools, delis and other food service operations. Single-use foodservice packaging is a practical, economical way to reduce the potential for the adulteration of food from improperly cleaned and sanitized dishware.

In a 1997 microbial survey of office reusable coffee cups and preparation areas, high numbers of bacteria were found in the sink area, on counters, in cups and on dish cloths or sponges. Coliform bacteria were found in the coffee preparation areas with the highest prevalence, 80 percent in drain and sink areas and in sponges. Forty percent of drain and sink areas and 20 percent of sponges tested positive for E. Coli. In the same study, 41 percent of all reusable cups tested contained Coliform bacteria. Wiping these cups with a moist sponge or dishcloth significantly increased bacterial contamination of the cups in addition to cross contamination with E. Coli and other Coliform.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF POLYSTYRENE**

All foodservice products – regardless of the material from which they are made – require the use of various natural resources (i.e. energy, water, etc.) across their product life cycle in the manufacturing process. A 2006 Life Cycle Inventory (LCI) study by Franklin and Associates showed that polystyrene foam foodservice products, when compared to other food service containers, are very efficient in terms of minimizing air emissions, energy used in the manufacturing process and in reducing the amount of waterborne waste generated during the manufacturing process. This bill arbitrarily bans one material type without examining or considering the life-cycle impacts of polystyrene manufacturing and makes the false assumption that those products that would replace polystyrene are somehow manufactured in a vacuum without the use of any raw materials, energy, or water, or fuel to deliver the product.

### **ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF POLYSTYRENE PRODUCTS**

Polystyrene foodservice products are generally more economical to use than other disposable foodservice products and reusable food service items. The wholesale price of single-use polystyrene foodservice products is often approximately two to three times less than other single-use containers, and four to five times less than a comparable reusable foodservice item when the costs of equipment, labor, water, electricity, and detergent costs are included. This allows schools, hospitals and other institutions to make better use of their limited budgets.

### **FACTS ABOUT DEGRADABLE CONTAINERS & MARINE DEBRIS**

When considering policies to reduce litter and marine debris, some have suggested that “biobased” or “degradable containers” may be an answer. However, bio-based containers only “degrade” in a controlled composting environment – essentially a large industrial facility where temperatures can exceed 140 degrees for several days. These containers do not degrade if littered along side the road, deposited into a trash can, nor will they degrade if they make their way into a storm drain or other water body.

Furthermore, some recyclers and end-users of recycled plastic material have raised concerns over how bio-based containers pose a real and significant threat to the current plastics recycling stream.

An article written by Elizabeth Royte and published in the Smithsonian Magazine (August, 2006) raised many of these environmental issues associated with using biodegradable packaging. Royte writes "But PLA has considerable drawbacks that haven't been publicized...it turns out that there's no free lunch after all, regardless of what its container is made of..." Royte also writes "the cultivation of corn uses more nitrogen fertilizer, more herbicides and more insecticides than any other U.S. crop; those practices contribute to soil erosion and water pollution when nitrogen runs off fields into streams and rivers." One must acknowledge the environmental trade-offs associated with the use of any packaging material and whether a mandate to use one particular type of container or product will have the desired result of reducing litter and/or marine debris.

### **WORKING TOGETHER TO ADDRESS MARINE DEBRIS AND LITTER**

Though we oppose these two bills, ACC believes that all stakeholders, including our industry, grocers, retailers, and government agencies can and should play an active role in reducing litter and marine debris. Specific activities that can be undertaken include:

- Continue and expand litter cleanups organized by organizations like Keep America Beautiful.
- Increase the availability of trash, recycling and cigarette butt receptacles at public places, schools, and commercial establishments statewide.
- Promote environmental education and outreach on the impacts of marine debris and litter prevention.
- Direct all state agencies to implement a coordinated and robust statewide anti-litter campaign.

All of these activities must include the active participation of industry stakeholders, packaging manufacturers, retailers, restaurants, and the public sector if we are to be successful in reducing litter and marine debris.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. ACC looks forward to working with you to address this important public policy issue. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at 916-448-2581 or via email at [tim\\_shestek@americanchemistry.com](mailto:tim_shestek@americanchemistry.com)



# Hawaii Foam Products, LLC.

737 Umi St, Honolulu, HI 96819 Phone: (808) 847-5269 Fax: (808) 845-7754

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February 6, 2008

To: Senate Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection  
Senator Ron Menor, Chair \ Senator Gary L. Hooser, Vice Chair

By: Gilbert Yamada, Manager of Hawaii Foam Products

Re: SB 2629 Relating to Health ( Corrected Copy)

Chairs and Committee Members,

I object to this ban because we have invested over 4 million dollars and it is going to put this company out of business and all our employees out of work. This is an FDA approved product, and our supplier says that they do not add benzene in their polystyrene resin.



## HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

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



February 7, 2008

To: Committee on Energy & Environment  
Senator Ron Menor, Chair / Senator Gary L. Hooser, Vice Chair

By: Hawaii Food Industry Association  
Lauren Siebel or Richard Botti

RE: SB 2629 RELATING TO HEALTH

HFIA strongly opposes this measure because many of the products proposed to be banned are made in Hawaii that will put employees out of work.

The FDA has approved these products for their intended use, and until such time as the FDA rescinds such use, the Legislature should not be considering banning these products.

# KAHEA

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## THE HAWAIIAN-ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE

P.O. Box 270112  
Honolulu, HI 96827-0112  
(808) 524-8220  
kahea-alliance@hawaii.rr.com

To: The Senate of the State of Hawaii  
Committee on Energy and Environment

**Re: SB2629- Relating to Health- IN SUPPORT**

February 4, 2008

Aloha mai Kakou e Chair Menor, Vice-Chair Hooser and Committee Members,

KAHEA: The Hawaiian Environmental Alliance (KAHEA) is strongly in support of SB2629, a bill to ban Styrofoam containers in the State of Hawaii. We are proud to live in such times when our government is able to make wise and advanced decisions that will truly encourage and benefit a sustainable and livable island environment. KAHEA is a local non-profit organization 501(c)(3) representing an alliance of cultural and environmental groups and over 3000 members. KAHEA is concerned about both the immediate and long term effects of Styrofoam/polystyrene on the human population, marine life and the natural environment of Hawaii.

The pollution caused by Styrofoam both in landfills and burned at H-Power immediately effects the specific human populations surrounding the landfills and H-Power. On the island of Oahu the population immediately effected by such pollution is overwhelmingly impoverished and also of Native Hawaiian ethnicity- thus the effects of Styrofoam based pollution fall disproportionately upon a human population that is inadequately equipped to defend itself or to seek remediation of the pollution. Due to this unfortunate collision of the Styrofoam caused pollution disproportionately effecting a struggling Native Hawaiian population, KAHEA asks the members of the Senate to consider this as a Environmental Justice concern and afford the proper protections to the population effected. As alternatives to Styrofoam are now readily available for use in Hawaii the simplest way that the legislature can prevent the continuation of Styrofoam pollution is to ban Styrofoam and encourage a new trend of biodegradable and reusable containers.



Styrofoam litter is a blight upon our public outdoor areas. KAHEA seeks to encourage cultural traditions and individuals to safely and enjoyably access our public natural areas. Lu'au and other large family gatherings in public parks are one such cherished tradition and also tend to use large quantities of Styrofoam. KAHEA finds it prudent to help and encourage consumers to access and enjoy our island environment without simultaneously & unknowingly polluting. As alternative technology and products are now readily available to Hawaii, KAHEA strongly implores the legislature to assist in the development of such pono industry and sustainable business initiatives within the State of Hawaii. KAHEA finds it to be a truly sad state of affairs that Hawaii's consumers are forced by lack of choice, or lack of fair economic choice, to pollute the very places that they cherish. KAHEA is in close communication with our members as well as partner organizations and can clearly state that we feel confident that if the legislature sets the trend and encourages the availability of affordable non-Styrofoam choices to the local consumer that the local consumer will be relieved and appreciative of the change. Plate lunch container alternatives are available in Hawaii therefore this bill does not threaten the local culture of plate lunches! We have no hesitations in endorsing passing this bill into law!

KAHEA: The Hawaiian Environmental Alliance regards SB2629 as a truly practical and purposeful action towards a cleaner, safer environment in Hawaii. SB2629 is also a big and important step towards empowering local businesses and consumers to actively participate in truly protecting the future sustainability of Hawaii Nei.

Malama Pono,

Bryna Storch  
Community & Legislative Coordinator  
KAHEA: The Hawaiian Environmental Alliance

People Serving People



## Hawaii Restaurant Association

1451 South King St, Suite 503  
Honolulu, HI 96814  
www.hawaiirestaurants.org

Phone: 808.944.9105  
Fax: 808.944.9109  
hra@hawaiirestaurants.org

February 5, 2008

FAX TO: 808.586.6659

Please copy and send to the meeting of the Energy and Environment Committee, scheduled for Thursday, February 7, 2008 at 3:30 PM in Conference Room 414.

TO: Chairman Ron Menor  
Energy and Environment Committee  
Senate  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SB 2629 – Relating to Health / Polystyrene; Prohibition; Appropriation

Chairman Menor and Members of the Senate Energy and Environment Committee:

On behalf of the Hawaii Restaurant Association, I am writing in opposition to SB 2629 dealing with the prohibition of polystyrene food containers.

The Hawaii Restaurant Association supports the intent of this bill in protecting Hawaii's environment. However, the time line of January 1, 2010, prohibiting restaurants from using polystyrene, polystyrene foam, or styrofoam as packaging for prepared food, may present a hardship for many of Hawaii's restaurants, who are small "mom-and-pop" businesses. While manufacturers continue to research and develop affordable alternatives that require less energy to produce, yet deliver the same levels of quality, heat protection, and cost, we recommend that the time line be reconsidered.

Mahalo,

Gail Chew  
Executive Director

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# Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

PO Box 2577, Honolulu, HI 96803

808.537.9019 hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org

## SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008, 3:30 P.M.

(Testimony is 1 page long)

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2629 AND SB 2001

Chair Menor and members of the Committee:

The Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, with 5500 dues paying members statewide, supports the intents of SB 2629 and SB 2001, eliminating the use of polystyrene foam food containers. Polystyrene containers are manufactured from a non-renewable, non-biodegradable material. This material is imported into the state and then burned (contributing to greenhouse gas pollution) or landfilled (for all practical purposes, forever).

Alternatives exist to polystyrene containers and are already in use. A potential exists for using local, biodegradable resources to provide food container needs, increasing Hawaii's self-sufficiency and decreasing the environmental burden of our lifestyles. While some of these alternatives are more expensive than the ubiquitous polystyrene containers, economies of scale from increases in volume and competition will help reduce the price over the phase-in period in these measures.

Please remember, Hawai'i is faced with a solid waste crisis on most islands, O'ahu in particular. A study completed for the City by consulting group R.W. Beck, the "2006 Waste Characterization Study" (available online at [www.opala.org](http://www.opala.org)), reveals some shocking facts about Oahu's solid waste situation. Since the last waste characterization study in 1999, the trash from Oahu households increased by 30.2% from 316,491 tons annually in 1999 to 412,016 tons in 2006 (R.W. Beck, "2006 Waste Characterization Study," April 2007, at 3-11). The population increased by roughly 3% over the same period (878,906 to 906,000)—*meaning waste generation from households increased 10 times faster than population growth.* The proliferation of polystyrene foam food containers significantly contribute to this problem.

While the Sierra Club supports these measures, we believe they could be amended somewhat to achieve the same desired outcome. For one, the polystyrene prohibition need not be a stand-alone chapter in Hawaii Revised Statutes; it should be more properly inserted into the existing HRS 342G (integrated solid waste management) or HRS 342H (solid waste pollution).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Testimony before the:  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT  
Thursday, February 7, 2008 - 3:30 P.M. – State Capitol Room 414

Re: Support & suggested amendments for SB 2629 – RELATING TO HEALTH

Aloha Chair Menor, Vice-Chair Hooser and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of SB2629 (Relating to Health), which proposes to ban the use of polystyrene foam (styrofoam) food service-ware products in the State of Hawaii.

World Centric, located in Palo Alto, CA and a leading provider of biodegradable food service disposable products encourages you to ban the use of expanded polystyrene (EPS) products (“Styrofoam”).

The amount of Styrofoam being used and thrown away every year is astounding, given the harmful health and environmental impacts of using and disposing it. According to EPA 2005 report, about 910 thousand tons (approx. 100 billion items) of Styrofoam in the form of disposable cups, plates, trays etc. end up in landfill every year.

Even though the adverse health effects of Styrofoam due to leaching are well documented by studies completed back in 1972<sup>[1]</sup> and 1976<sup>[2]</sup>, Styrofoam is still widely used in restaurants, cafeterias and schools. These studies show that leaching from Styrofoam may lead to benzene and styrene exposure. Benzene, a known carcinogen, has been determined to cause leukemia, skin scaling, plastic anemia and possibly even death.<sup>[3]</sup> Styrene, acknowledged as a possible carcinogen, is linked to chromosomal and lymphatic abnormalities and neurotoxic effects.<sup>[4]</sup> Why is styrene & benzene still being allowed to be ingested and absorbed into the bloodstreams of so many Americans on a daily basis?

In addition to the health effects, Styrofoam is a major environmental pollutant and hazard.

- **Styrofoam does not biodegrade.** It is composed of a-biotic material that does not break down easily in natural environments.
- **Styrofoam pollutes our landfills, waterways, groundwater and the ocean.** It breaks into small pieces and gets ingested by marine animals, birds and fish.
- **Styrofoam is derived from petroleum** – a non-renewable resource.
- **Styrofoam is not easily recyclable.** Most cities do not offer curbside pickup and, cost of recycling Styrofoam makes it prohibitive for recyclers to recycle it.
- **Styrofoam is hazardous to incinerate.** Studies show that incinerating Styrofoam results in emissions of over 90 hazardous substances. These chemicals cause health problems to residents nearby.

Numerous parents and voters have urged legislators to ban the use of Styrofoam trays, plates and cups in schools. Please vote to ban the use of expanded polystyrene food service disposable products.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Aseem Das  
Executive Director  
World Centric

[1] K. Figge, "Migration of Additives from Plastic Films into Edible Oils and Fat Stimulants," Food Cosmet Toxicol, December 10, 1972, Vol. 6, pages 815-828.

[2] B.J. Dowty, J.L. Laseter, and J. Storet, "The Transplacental Migration and Accumulation in Blood of Volatile Organic Constituents," Pediatric Research, Vol. 10, pages 696-701, 1976.

[3] Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry. Department of Health and Human Services. "ToxFAQs for Benzene" August 2007. <- <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts3.html> ->

[4] Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry. Department of Health and Human Services. "ToxFAQs for Benzene" August 2007. <- <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts53.html> ->

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**SUSTAINABLE**  
ISLAND PRODUCTS

Testimony before the:  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT  
Thursday, February 7, 2008 - 3:30 P.M. – State Capitol Room 414

Re: Support & suggested amendments for SB 2629 – RELATING TO HEALTH

Aloha Chair Menor, Vice-Chair Hooser and Members of the Committee:

As the founder of Sustainable Island Products, a distribution company that exclusively sells biodegradable food & drink to-go supplies in Hawaii, I submit that there is a prevailing shift in the market for single use disposables. Serving Hawaii County and other islands, and with a growth rate of over 20% per month, we have a customer base that is committed to transitioning away from products that are toxic to humans, creatures and the environment. The public not only wants safer products (as seen by their adoption of them) but is willing to invest extra capital to support the cause of Sustainability for our islands.

Single use disposables are used more per capita in the State of Hawaii than in any other state. The import or manufacture of these products will inevitably continue.

The question I would ask is which of the following scenarios you would support:

- Would you have toxic products that require petroleum to produce and that pollute our bodies, landfills and environment?
  - Toxic to landfill, toxic to burn.
- Would you have safe products that can be manufactured here on our islands, employ people in the process, and that can be returned to soil as compost after their use?
  - Safe to landfill, safe to burn.

I am writing in strong support of SB2629 (Relating to Health), which proposes to ban the use of polystyrene foam (styrofoam) food service-ware products in the State of Hawaii.

Over 100 municipalities across the United States, including San Francisco, Berkeley, Oakland, and Portland, have recognized the threats posed by styrofoam, and have successfully enacted measures to regulate or prohibit the use of this product. For example, San Francisco's Department of the Environment estimates a 80% compliance rate with the ban enacted just last year, without having issued a single citation! Much of the success in achieving this compliance is attributed to an aggressive effort to educate and inform the public.

I urge this Committee to consider amending SB2629 to include certain provisions provided for in SB2001 (Relating to Solid Waste), also before this Committee. These amendments include: 1) Funding this measure through the Environmental Response Revolving Fund instead of out of the General Fund; 2) Implementing a public education campaign modeled after successful efforts such as in San Francisco; 3) Not exempting coffee cups from this ban; 4) Encouraging DBEDT & DOA to explore the possibility of manufacturing sustainable alternatives to styrofoam within the State using locally grown sugarcane.

I hope you will support SB2629 (with the recommended amendments), and the future of our beautiful but fragile paradise.

Sincerely, Jesse Law

Sustainable Island Products

PO Box 10006, Hilo, HI 96721

808-333-7534

## testimony

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**From:** fragzter@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 06, 2008 5:26 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** SB2629 TESTIMONY (ENE Hearing - 02/07/08 - 3.30pm)

Aloha,

I am an Oah'u resident of five years and in Portland for this one year taking a teacher training course. I plan a return to the Islands because I believe in so many aspects of their being - the beauty, the culture, the people, the history, etc.

As an early childhood teacher I help guide the developing characters of on young children into what I hope will become successful, collaborative, contributing members to a safe, healthy, and sustainable Hawaiian Islands.

That future can be given the validation with the removal of styrofoam in Hawaii.

Quite honestly, it is a shame our Islands lag in their capitalist-environmental protection. We should be the leaders of Oceania.

Please do all your best to enact SB2629 into law.

Sincerely,  
Jeffrey Friedman  
fragzter@yahoo.com

Portland, OR

## testimony

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**From:** shanahfaith@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 05, 2008 2:47 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** SB2629 TESTIMONY (ENE Hearing - 02/07/08 - 3.30pm)

Testimony before the:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT Thursday, February 7, 2008 - 3:30 P.M. - State Capitol Room 414

Re: Support & suggested amendments for SB 2629 - RELATING TO HEALTH

Aloha Chair Menor, Vice-Chair Hooser and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of HB2495 (Relating to Solid Waste), which proposes to ban the use of polystyrene foam (styrofoam) food service-ware products in the State of Hawaii.

As the Student Sustainability Coordinator at UHM I believe the State has the opportunity to demonstrate a commitment to sustainable practices in Hawaii by banning this unnecessary contaminant that clutters the beaches and parks and is clogging land fills.

The students at UHM who believe in sustainability and have participated in the Hawaii 2050 process need to believe that the government is willing to take action and stand behind the promise of improvement. This is a great opportunity to ban a product that benefits no one in Hawaii and sends dollars to mainland companies while the rubbish remains here. This would open the opportunity for a local, sustainable substitute possibly made of bamboo which could be sold at an equal or even reduced rate if done properly. Biodegradable substitutions in mainstream use would be the feedstock for a profitable industrial composting plant which could also accommodate curb side compost pick up. This is not a dream, this occurs in cities such as Toronto, Canada.

Please take the important first step in reducing the waste stream and supporting local, sustainable business by supporting HB2495. The students and young people will thank you in the future.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Shanah Trevenna  
Student Sustainability Coordinator  
sustainablesaunders.hawaii.edu  
trevenna@hawaii.edu  
808-772-1874

Sincerely,  
Shanah Trevenna  
shanahfaith@gmail.com

Honolulu, HI



**testimony**

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**From:** Leslie Corpuz [leslie@kingneel.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 06, 2008 8:25 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** BILL: SB2629

**BILL: SB2629**

Please be courageous and help to push this bill through. I am not an alarmist like most of the members of the various environmental groups. But, I have lived in this beautiful state for 33 years and I believe life as we have known it here is slipping away from us.

Unless we all start looking at the bigger picture and taking the high road on issues that concern our island home, those issues will become more desperate and harder to deal with down the road.

I read in the newspaper the other day that despite our recycling efforts here, the amount of landfill has increased. Something isn't working the way it should. Let's put some legislation behind the effort to reduce the need for landfill and protect our beautiful home state. And, in the process of doing that, we will also be reducing the amount of chemicals and carcinogens in our lives.

Leslie Corpuz

4280 Salt Lake Blvd., #J72

Honolulu, HI 96818

Testimony before the:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT Thursday, February 7,  
2008 - 3:30 P.M. – State Capitol Room 414

Re: Support & suggested amendments for SB 2629 – RELATING TO HEALTH

Aloha Chair Menor, Vice-Chair Hooser and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in strong support of SB2629 (Relating to Health), which proposes to ban the use of polystyrene foam (styrofoam) food service-ware products in the State of Hawaii.

As a PhD marine scientist with nearly 15 years of professional and scientific research experience in marine science and conservation, I strongly urge you to consider this bill. Plastics, styrofoam, and other persistent marine debris are pervasive throughout our oceans. Peer-reviewed scientific research (see [www.algalita.org](http://www.algalita.org)) suggests that in \*every\* location in the Pacific where researchers have snorkeled with plankton nets for 15 minutes, they have found plastic. This is unacceptable. Plastics and marine debris are a human issue, and a very international one. Restoration of our oceans starts with better practices on land.

Over 100 municipalities across the United States, including San Francisco, Berkeley, Oakland, and Portland, have recognized the threats posed by styrofoam, and have successfully enacted measures to regulate or prohibit the use of this product. For example, San Francisco's Department of the Environment estimates a 80% compliance rate with the ban enacted just last year, without having issued a single citation! Much of the success in achieving this compliance is attributed to an aggressive effort to educate and inform the public.

I urge this Committee to consider amending SB2629 to include certain provisions provided for in SB2001 (Relating to Solid Waste), also before this Committee. These amendments include: 1) Funding this measure through the Environmental Response Revolving Fund instead of out of the General Fund; 2) Implementing a public education campaign modeled after successful efforts such as in San Francisco; 3) Not exempting coffee cups from this ban; 4) Encouraging DBEDT & DOA to explore the possibility of manufacturing styrofoam alternatives within the State using locally grown sugarcane.

Presently, Hawaii has the opportunity to become the first state to prohibit the use of styrofoam as a food service-ware product. The cost of alternatives to styrofoam (i.e. 9 cents more for a plate-lunch or 2 cents more for a cup of coffee) is definitely reasonable when attempting to promote a more sustainable and eco-

conscious Hawaii. Ultimately, it may take a few extra cents, to make some sense, and I hope you will support SB2629 (with the recommended amendments), and the future of our beautiful but fragile paradise.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,  
Janna Shackeroff  
js4@duke.edu

Honolulu, HI

Handwritten notes in the bottom right corner, including the number "11" and other illegible scribbles.

## testimony

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**From:** eeck62@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 05, 2008 10:18 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** SB2629 TESTIMONY (ENE Hearing - 02/07/08 - 3.30pm)

Testimony before the:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT Thursday, February 7, 2008 - 3:30 P.M. - State Capitol Room 414

Re: Support & suggested amendments for SB 2629 - RELATING TO HEALTH

Aloha Chair Menor, Vice-Chair Hooser and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in strong support of SB2629 (Relating to Health), which proposes to ban the use of polystyrene foam (styrofoam) food service-ware products in the State of Hawaii.

Our landfills are full and our beaches are trashed with styrofoam. What more can I say. Why keep up this destruction of the environment and our beautiful islands when there are other options such as biodegradable containers?

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,  
Erik Eck  
eeck62@yahoo.com

Kailua, HI

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT Thursday, February 7,  
2008 - 3:30 P.M. – State Capitol Room 414

Re: Support & suggested amendments for SB 2629 – RELATING TO HEALTH

Aloha Chair Menor, Vice-Chair Hooser and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in strong support of SB2629 (Relating to Health), which proposes to ban the use of polystyrene foam (styrofoam) food service-ware products in the State of Hawaii.

Over 100 municipalities across the United States, including San Francisco, Berkeley, Oakland, and Portland, have recognized the threats posed by styrofoam, and have successfully enacted measures to regulate or prohibit the use of this product. For example, San Francisco's Department of the Environment estimates a 70% compliance rate with the ban enacted just last year, without having issued a single citation! Much of the success in achieving this compliance is attributed to an aggressive effort to educate and inform the public.

I urge this Committee to consider amending SB2629 to include certain provisions provided for in SB2001 (Relating to Solid Waste), also before this Committee. These amendments include: 1) Funding this measure through the Environmental Response Revolving Fund instead of out of the General Fund; 2) Implementing a public education campaign modeled after successful efforts such as in San Francisco; 3) Not exempting coffee cups from this ban; 4) Encouraging DBEDT & DOA to explore the possibility of manufacturing styrofoam alternatives within the State using locally grown sugarcane.

Presently, Hawaii has the opportunity to become the first state to prohibit the use of styrofoam as a food service-ware product. The cost of alternatives to styrofoam (i.e. 9 cents more for a plate-lunch or 4 cents more for a cup of coffee) is definitely reasonable when attempting to promote a more sustainable and eco-conscious Hawaii. Ultimately, it may take a few extra cents, to make some sense, and I hope you will support SB2629 (with the recommended amendments), and the future of our beautiful but fragile paradise.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,  
heidibetter  
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5585 kalaniana'ole hwy  
honolulu, HI

**The following 187 individuals submitted a form letter identical to the previous testifier strongly supporting the bill and suggesting an amendment.**

Jono Blodgett  
Bryan Bushley  
LillyBelle Deer  
Mark Duda  
Don Najita  
Connie Leamont  
Matilda Tompson  
Laura LaFrance  
Ashley Lukens  
Jeremy Cann  
Sara Bolduc  
Aaron Feinberg  
Bran-D F.H.  
Joy Silver  
Darlene Rodrigues  
Sunny Greer  
Kari Kennard  
Eleta Trejo-Cantwell  
Monica LaBriola  
Elizabeth Louis  
Vija Sehgal  
David Le Mignant  
Maria Pia Chapparo  
Jennifer Littenberg  
Nicol Dunn  
Crystal Thornburg  
Joseph Brider  
Kristin Bryant  
Devan Rosen  
Eliza Kim  
Rachel Lau  
Alana Pakkala  
Diana Bernal  
Donna Rohr  
Meaghan Sheehan  
Kimberley Weersing  
Kamana Kealoha Kalani Sloat

Jeff Schulberg  
Patricia Duffin  
Linda Pizzitola  
Michelle Walker  
Heather Williams  
Shimona Quazi  
Cherise Aqua-Andrews  
Adriann Gin  
Elaine Tadaki  
John Moses  
Melissa Barker  
Shira Patz  
Janice Willaimson  
Lizabeth Kashinsky  
Linda Silva  
Sherryl Royce  
Andrew Purves  
Melissa Horimoto  
Denise Nakamura  
Minako May  
Anne Geertman  
Alicia Miller-Moylan  
Gary Campbell  
Lance Ogoshi  
Val Loh  
Ani Martirosian  
Dan Sailer  
John Paul Lam  
Amanda McCann  
Lindsay Hermann  
Cara Lawler  
Beth McDermott  
Kimberley Umeda  
Eric Brandt  
Cheryl Kinoshita  
Jaylon Baykal  
Creighton Litton

Jiwnath Ghimire  
Richard Pender  
Ericka Ehrhorn  
Shawzy Cann  
Erin Brown  
Gillian Culff  
Mary Moran  
Dayle Bethel  
Stacy Wagner  
Blake Hendrickson  
Didier Dumas  
Jamie Eversweet  
Jessica Yuen  
Myah Ely  
Mary Godwin  
Travis Le  
Irene Mehau  
Aarin Gross  
Peggy van den Broek  
Catherine Wilson  
Justin Guedon  
Marian Chau  
Everett Ohta  
Mary Babcock  
Michelle Vu  
Michael Foley  
Thomas Pickett  
Evan Silberstein  
Terry Yamamoto-Edwards  
Amy Hubbard  
Kim Macy  
Paul Clark  
Eliza Ilano  
Michelle Blake  
Kaleopono Norris  
Julie Parish  
Holly Schunk  
Randall Blake  
Wendy Lagareta  
Joyce Yamase  
Ryan Keesey  
Gerrit Pang

Lee Roy  
Hulilau Wilson  
Carolyn Arnold  
Denby Fern  
Laura Davis  
Elizabeth Dunne  
Cathi Ho  
Li`ula Kotaki  
Dave Langen  
Chris Santos  
John Kittinger  
Cameron Black  
Matt Colley  
Monique Yuen  
Joseph Rosenbaum  
Mary Sky Schoolcraft  
Jill Davenport  
Lisa Iwamoto  
Kara Butler  
Carolynn Bell-Tuttle  
Ashley Vaughan  
Lynda Wallach  
Erica Kobayashi  
Kristin Bacon  
Michele McKay  
Natalia Richardson  
Michele McKay  
Natalia Richardson  
Barbara Cooney  
Kate Bryant-Greenwood  
Sean Casey  
Robert O'Neill  
Siobhan Ni Dhonacha  
Kent Sakoda  
Kenton Harsch  
Emily Lam  
Amarisa Marie  
Brooke Moreno  
Varsabhanavi Graves  
Elizabeth Lavolette  
Marisa Watanabe  
Marina Holt

Naomi Brown  
Brian Shoen  
Dean Otsuki  
Sarah Trask  
Robert Lavolette  
Rebekah Spraitzar  
Kouji Kobayashi  
Mathew Espinosa  
Rachel Weyenberg  
Castle Sinicrope  
Ginger Roberts  
Allison Jackson  
Andrea Woods  
Marjorie Cabico  
Claudia Portocarrero

Darryl Pellegrini  
Phillip Raab  
Karla Meek  
Jordan Yamada  
Jacquelyn Tryon  
Nara Takakawa  
Mackynze Snyder  
Lorraine Alwaise  
Timothy Fern  
Sunny Massad  
Shanti McCarter  
Sharon Twigg-Smith  
Phoebe Hwang  
Jonathan Hutchinson