

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

2545

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 26 2010

RE: S.B. No. 2559
S.D. 2

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
President of the Senate
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2010
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations, to which was referred S.B. No. 2559, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to require businesses in the State to distribute only reusable or biodegradable checkout bags.

Worldwide production of single-use, plastic grocery bags is estimated to be over five hundred billion each year. Most end up in landfills where they can last for a thousand years. Except for those bags that are recycled and the approximately five per cent that are burned in garbage-to-energy plants each year, the remaining plastic bags that have ever been made are still in the environment. Plastic bags kill an estimated one hundred thousand marine animals each year. Taxpayers spend as much as seventeen cents per plastic bag to subsidize the recycling, collection, and disposal of plastic bags.

Your Committee finds that reducing the number of plastic bags produced and used annually will protect marine and animal species, reduce costs related to waste disposal, reduce fossil fuel consumption for their production, and reduce the non-biodegradable litter cluttering our oceans and beaches.

Your Committee recognizes that there may be several solutions to this problem, including requiring retailers to charge for bags. This method has successfully reduced single-use, plastic bag usage



by eighty per cent in businesses and nations that have implemented the change. Your Committee would like to explore this concept in the future.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2050 for the purpose of facilitating further discussion; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive changes for the purposes of style and clarity.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2559, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2559, S.D. 2.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary and
Government Operations,




BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI, Chair



The Senate
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State of Hawaii

Record of Votes
Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations
JGO

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:
SB 2559, SDI	ENE, JGO	2/23/10
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____		
The Recommendation is:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311	<input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313		
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)
Nay	Excused	
TANIGUCHI, Brian T. (C)	✓	
TAKAMINE, Dwight Y. (VC)		
BUNDA, Robert		
GABBARD, Mike	✓	
NISHIHARA, Clarence K.		✓
SLOM, Sam		✓
TOTAL	2	1
Nay	1	2
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted		
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 		
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy		

*Only one measure per Record of Votes