

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

S.B. 2559 SD2 HD1, RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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

March 29, 2010
6:00 P.M.

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health opposes this bill because of the added burdens it
2 imposes on the department.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** The bill imposes substantial administrative duties on the department without new
4 resources. The amount of added cost is uncertain, but added costs will occur.

5 **Purpose and Justification:** Effective January 1, 2011, this bill will require all businesses in the state to
6 charge and collect an offset fee for each disposable checkout bag it provides to its customers.

7 DOH generally supports the reduction of solid waste, litter, and the use of petroleum resources.
8 State policy already sets source reduction and recycling as the top two priorities for solid waste
9 management (HRS §342G-2(b)). We favor the use of reusable shopping bags and reducing plastic
10 marine pollution because of its effect on wildlife.

11 While this bill works towards those goals, it adds significant administrative functions to the
12 DOH without adding any resources to manage them. DOH will have to manage the collection of fees
13 from hundreds of businesses, as well as conduct monitoring and enforcement activities, with no new

1 staff or other resources provided for by this bill. By contrast, deposit beverage container program
2 administration and enforcement are funded by the container fees.

3 Furthermore, the effective date of July 1, 2010, is too early for the department to attempt at a
4 transition.

5 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

**TESTIMONY OF THE
COUNTY OF KAUAI
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

**TO THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR SESSION OF LEGISLATURE**

2010

March 29, 2010

6 p.m.

**TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION OF SENATE BILL NO. 2559 SD 2 HD1, RELATING TO
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**TO THE HONORABLE REPRESENTATIVE MARCUS OSHIRO, CHAIR
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:**

My name is Donald Fujimoto, County Engineer, Department of Public Works, County of Kauai (County), testifying in opposition to Senate Bill (SB) 2559, which proposes that businesses in the State collect a 5 cent offset fee for each plastic or paper disposable checkout bag provided to a customer, allocates the offset fee back to businesses and the State general fund, and preempts our new County legislation to reduce the use of plastic shopping bags.

While we support prior versions of this bill which prohibited the distribution of non-biodegradable single use plastic bags and did not pre-empt the County's legislation, the current draft of this bill includes significant amendments which change the entire purpose and potential outcome of the original legislation.

Kauai County has already deliberated on this issue, received community input, and has passed the attached Kauai County Ordinance No. 885 which requires all retail establishments to provide only recyclable paper bags, biodegradable bags, and/or reusable bags to their customers. Under this law, retailers may elect to charge fees for bags which could be used to reimburse retailers for bag costs. Kauai County is ready to gather input to adopt our administrative rules for this new ordinance, which is scheduled to take effect on January 11, 2011.

There is a concern that the proposed bill conflicts with our ordinance, and does not prohibit the use of non-biodegradable single use plastic bags. These bags were specifically targeted for reduction in our ordinance because they have significant impacts on the environment, including contributing to unsightly litter; creating an additional burden on the landfill; endangering marine animals; and requiring the use of fossil fuels for manufacture.

Therefore, we humbly request your consideration to remove the preemption clause from this bill and request that you allow each county to enact legislation as appropriate. We believe such a change will help preserve the home rule that the Counties currently exercise. We thank the Committee for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

ORDINANCE NO. 885BILL NO. 2321, Draft 2

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING
A NEW ARTICLE 19, CHAPTER 22, KAUAI COUNTY CODE 1987,
RELATING TO PLASTIC BAG REDUCTION

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF KAUAI, STATE OF HAWAII:

"SECTION 1. Findings and Purpose. The production and use of plastic checkout bags have significant impacts on the environment, including, but not limited to: contributing to unsightly litter; creating an additional burden on the landfill; contributing to potential death of marine animals through ingestion and entanglement; and requiring the use of millions of barrels of crude oil for their manufacture.

The Council of the County of Kauai finds and declares that to preserve the health, safety, welfare and scenic beauty of Kauai, the distribution of plastic bags should be regulated and prohibited.

The purpose of this legislation is to encourage customers to bring their own reusable bags when shopping. If the customer forgets to bring their own bag, or chooses not to, this ordinance does not prevent the retail establishment from providing recyclable bags for sale. This effort will lessen the negative impact on our environment caused by plastic shopping bags. Produce bags in grocery stores will still be permissible.

SECTION 2. Chapter 22, Kauai County Code 1987, is hereby amended by adding a new Article 19 to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

ARTICLE 19. PLASTIC BAG REDUCTION

Sec. 22-19.1 Definitions.

As used in this Article, unless the content clearly requires otherwise:

"Biodegradable Bag" means a bag that (1) contains no polymers derived from fossil fuels; and (2) is intended for single use and will decompose in a natural setting at a rate comparable to other biodegradable materials such as paper, leaves, and food waste. The Department of Public Works shall promulgate rules identifying bags meeting this definition. These rules shall also set forth an application process whereby a retail establishment can obtain determination whether a bag is a biodegradable bag.

"Checkout Bag" means a bag that is provided by a retail establishment at the checkstand, cash register, point of sale or other point of departure for the purpose of transporting food or merchandise out of the establishment. Checkout bags does not include bags provided solely for produce, bulk food, or meat at a produce, bulk food or meat department within a grocery store, supermarket, produce or meat market or other similar retail establishment.

"Recyclable Paper Bag" means a bag that meets all the following requirements: (1) contains no old growth fiber; (2) is one hundred percent (100%) recyclable overall and contains a minimum of forty percent (40%) post-consumer recycled content; and (3) displays the words "Reusable" and "Recyclable" in a highly visible manner on the outside of the bag.

"Retail Establishment" means any commercial business facility that sells goods directly to the ultimate consumer, including, but not limited to, grocery stores, pharmacies, liquor stores, "mini-marts," and retail stores and vendors selling clothing, food and personal items. Retail establishments shall not include fundraisers by organizations classified under Section 501(c) of the United States Internal Revenue Code or non-incorporated community booster organizations.

"Reusable Bag" means a bag with handles that is specifically designed and manufactured for multiple reuse and is made of cloth or other machine washable fabric and/or is made of a durable material at least 2.25 millimeters thick and suitable for reuse.

Sec. 22-19.2 Mandatory Use of Recyclable Checkout Bags.

(a) All retail establishments shall provide only the following as checkout bags to customers: recyclable paper bags, biodegradable bags and/or reusable bags.

(b) Nothing in this ordinance shall preclude any retail establishment from offering checkout bags for sale to customers.

Sec. 22-19.3 Enforcement and Penalties.

(a) The County Engineer or designee will have primary responsibility for enforcement of this Article through the issuance of violation notices and requests to correct or cease the violation. The County Engineer or designee is authorized to promulgate regulations and to take any and all other actions reasonably necessary to enforce this Article, including, but not limited to, entering the premises of any affected Retail Establishment to verify compliance.

(b) Should the retail establishment fail to comply with the requirements of this Article after reasonable notice by the County Engineer or designee, the County Engineer or designee may seek administrative imposition of a fine. The owner or

legal entity holding title to the retail establishment found in violation of this Article shall be subject to civil penalties as follows: (1) \$250.00 per day for the first notice of violation, (2) \$500.00 per day for the second notice of violation within 365 days of the first notice, and \$1,000.00 per day for the third and subsequent notices of violation within 365 days of the first notice.

(c) The County Engineer or designee must afford the Retail Establishment the opportunity for hearing before a hearings officer under Hawai'i Revised Statutes Chapter 91.

Sec. 22-19.4 No Conflict with Federal or State Law.

Nothing in this Article shall be interpreted or applied so as to create any requirement, power or duty in conflict with any federal or state law.

Sec. 22-19.5 Exemptions.

Situations where compliance with the requirements of this Article would deprive a retail establishment of any rights to which it would be entitled.

SECTION 3. Severability. If any provision of this Article, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of the Article which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Article are severable.

SECTION 4. This ordinance shall take effect on January 11, 2011."

Introduced by: /s/ TIM BYNUM
/s/ LANI T. KAWAHARA

Date of Introduction:

July 22, 2009


Līhu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i

CERTIFICATE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

I hereby certify that heretofore attached is a true and correct copy of Bill No. 2321, Draft 2, which was adopted on second and final reading by the Council of the County of Kauai at its meeting held on October 7, 2009, by the following vote:


FOR ADOPTION: Bynum, Chang, Furfaro, Kawahara	TOTAL - 4,
AGAINST ADOPTION: Kaneshiro, Asing	TOTAL - 2,
EXCUSED & NOT VOTING: None	TOTAL - 0,
RECUSED & NOT VOTING: Kawakami	TOTAL - 1.

Lihu'e, Hawai'i
October 8, 2009



Peter A. Nakamura
County Clerk, County of Kaua'i

ATTEST:



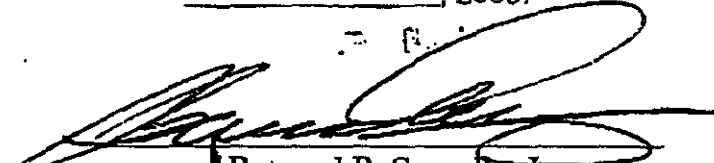
Bill "Kaipo" Asing
Chairman & Presiding Officer

DATE OF TRANSMITTAL TO MAYOR:

October 9, 2009

Approved this 12th day of

October, 2009.



Bernard P. Carvalho Jr.
Mayor
County of Kaua'i



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

TOMMY WELLS
Councilmember - Ward 6
Chairperson
Committee on Human Services

Committee Member
Health
Government Operations & Environment
Public Works & Transportation

March 25, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

I serve the residents of the District of Columbia and Ward 6 on the Council of the District of Columbia, and am also the chair for the Local Government Advisory Committee for the Chesapeake Bay. Thank you for allowing me to submit comments on Hawaii SB 2559 related to the experience in the District of Columbia with similar legislation that placed a 5-cent fee on disposable bags.

As you may know, I introduced legislation in the District of Columbia last year – the Anacostia River Cleanup and Protection Act of 2009 – which was driven by a desire to create a cleaner Anacostia River and to reclaim it for our communities. Last June, the Council of the District of Columbia unanimously passed the Anacostia River Cleanup and Protection Act of 2009. It was a proud day for the District and a statement of our shared hopes for the Anacostia River.

The Anacostia River – long noted as one of America's top ten dirtiest rivers – is a little over 8 miles long. It spans Montgomery and Prince George's counties in Maryland, as well as the District of Columbia and nearly 20,000 tons of trash entering the Anacostia River each year. From the first ever comprehensive study of trash in the River, we learned that **disposable plastic bags make up nearly 50% of the trash in the tributaries and more than 20% of the trash in the River's main stem.**

Contrary to what many people believe, the bags are not free. Our citizens pay for trash cleanup along the rivers, pay for recycling programs, and spend millions of dollars for trash removal and disposal in landfills. These are important efforts, but they have not substantially reduced the pollution in our river. They only target the trash once it's already been created – rather than trying to reduce trash at its source.

The District's new law is doing just that: the District's 5-cent fee went into effect on January 1st of this year. Within the first few weeks, large stores reported a drop of more than 50% in their customer's carryout bag usage. In many cases, the drop was even more significant. One store owner, who was originally opposed to the initiative, recently wrote about the law's success: her customer's disposable bag use has dropped 80-90% and she is now finding significant reductions in her own overhead costs for her business.

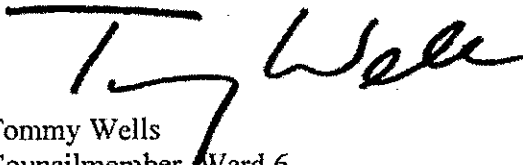
Customers have adapted to the change quickly. The 5-cent fee has proved to be what it was intended – a price to get into your head and not your wallet. It allows the consumer to decide if they need a disposable bag. It also no longer hides the cost of a disposable bag in the goods we purchase and gives a choice to the consumer.

The Anacostia River Cleanup and Protection Act also requires a public education campaign and reusable bag distribution to residents, with emphasis on reaching low-income residents and seniors. So far, 23,560 bags have been distributed; the bags have been distributed at outreach events, through WIC for seniors and the Office of Aging, to utility assistance recipients, through Council events and at grocery stores through partnerships with the private sector, in particular CVS and Giant.

Finally, I have been impressed, even surprised, by the degree of broad constituent support for this initiative. Support comes not only from environmental leaders, but also from senior groups, soup kitchens and small businesses. They stood with us in support of the 5-cent fee because they believed all residents care about cleaning the Anacostia River and can make daily choices that impact the trash in our waterways. The social inequity of a river clogged with trash running through many of our low-income communities was cause enough to make shared action the highest priority.

We are proud of this law in the District and what it will do for the Anacostia River. I urge you to make the same choice for Hawaii.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tommy Wells". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "T".

Tommy Wells
Councilmember, Ward 6



For the Protection of Hawaii's Native Wildlife
HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY

850 Richards Street, Suite 505, Honolulu, HI 96813-4709

Phone/Fax: (808) 528-1432; hiaudsoc@pixi.com

www.hawaii-audubon.com

March 27, 2010

Committee on Finance

Representative Marcus B. Oshiro, Chair

Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

Hearing: Monday, March 29, 2010; 6:00 P.M., Conference Rm. 308

Re: SB2559, SD2, HD1 - Relating to Environmental Protection

Testimony in Support

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and members of the Committee on Finance. On behalf of the Hawaii Audubon Society, we offer this testimony in support of SB2559, SD2, HD1, which would require businesses in the State to collect a 5 cent offset fee for each plastic or paper disposable checkout bag provided to a customer.

The Hawaii Audubon Society was founded in 1939, and is Hawaii's oldest conservation organization. The Society's primary missions are the protection of Hawaii's native birds, wildlife, and habitats, as well as, our aquatic and coastal resources. This includes preventing various types of waste including plastic bag litter from entering Hawaii's ecosystems.

A direct consequence of this waste is the deleterious impact it has on our island protected species, including the marine birds like the Short-Tailed Albatross, as well as, marine reptiles such as the Hawaiian Green Turtle. Both species often mistake plastic bags, and parts of bags, as food and ingest them.

In 2001, the United States Environmental Protection Agency estimated that somewhere between 500 billion and a trillion plastic bags are consumed worldwide each year. Millions of these plastic bags end up outside of landfills. The use of plastic bags has resulted in a dramatic increase in the amount of sacks found floating in oceans where they choke, strangle, and starve wildlife.

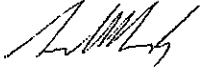
We would point out that governments across the world have successfully reduced plastic bag use, either through plastic bag bans, or through fees or taxes. The following countries have all taken measures to reduce their plastic bag usage in an effort to protect their precious natural resources and valuable coastlines: Ireland, China, Tanzania, Taiwan, Australia, Italy, and South Africa. Cities throughout the world have also banned plastic bags including San Francisco, Manhattan Beach, Malibu, Los Angeles, Edmunds (WA), Outer Banks (NC), District of Columbia, Mexico City, Rio de Janeiro and Mumbai. Here in our state of Hawaii, Maui and Kaua'i County passed their own bans, and the Big Island came very close.

We believe the offset fee will accomplish two things: 1) for the short term, it will raise revenues, and 2) in the long term, it will change people's behavior and curtail plastic bag waste from entering our ecosystem.

SB2559, SD1, HD1, is a well balanced, practical measure that will go a long way in improving and protecting our unique ecosystems. We would urge you to pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony here today.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Massengale", written in a cursive style.

George S. Massengale, J.D.
Legislative Analyst



HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (HFIA)

1188 Bishop St., Suite 608, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone (808)533-1292 - Fax (808)599-2606 - Email: hawaiifoodind@aol.com

Monday, March 29, 2010 @ 6:00 p.m. in CR 308

To: House Committee on Finance
Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

By: Richard C. Botti, President
Lauren Zirbel, Government Relations

Re: SB 2559 SD2 H1 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Chairs & Committee Members:

We support the concept of SB 2559 SD2 HD1, as a means of encouraging consumers to reduce the use of one-way bags of both paper and plastic, degradable and compostable, by retail establishments. We are convinced it will work, based on consumer response to many of our retail grocery stores now offering customers a nickel credit for every customer bag used to carry their purchases from the store. The consumer response has been overwhelming with consumers asking that their purchases be placed in as many bags as they can justify, to maximize their return in nickels. This measure reverses the procedure, where the customer will either bring in their own bags, or ask that their purchases be placed in as few bags as possible. This however can be expected to lead to other problems, where the bags can't hold the purchase, creating an increase in damaged goods, and possible injuries, especially if the bag is very heavy.

We suggest modification of the measure to place the collection of the fee from the wholesaler or importer of the bags to eliminate a substantial amount of the cost that would be required by both retailers and government, as it would eliminate upwards to two thousand retailers from paying the fee to less than a hundred importers or suppliers paying the fee directly to the State. This would also eliminate the slow down at each check stand to determine how many bags must be charged out to the customer, and creating an audit trail for each bag sold. Retailers are advising us that for a supermarket, it will require an additional check stand to be open to address the slow down in service. This along with the accounting required will more than eat up the retailer retaining a few cents for each bag to cover their costs. The proposal we suggest would eliminate the retailer's cost, reduce time, and accomplish the same purpose, but will require consumer education.

We have precedence on this method with the glass Advance Disposal Fee that has been in effect since 1994. It was designed to simplify collection, payment, and auditing. It does this because payment is based on case lots rather than by individual items, and is at the wholesale level rather than the retail level.

§342G-82 Advance disposal fee. (a) Every glass container importer shall pay to the department an advance disposal fee. The fee shall be imposed only once on the same glass container and shall not be assessed on drinking glasses, cups, bowls, plates, ashtrays, and similar tempered glass containers. For the period beginning September 1, 1994, the fee shall be one and one-half cents per glass container. Beginning October 1, 2004, the glass advance disposal fee shall only apply to glass containers that are not glass deposit beverage containers.

(b) The legislature shall have exclusive authority over all matters subject to this chapter.

(c) No county shall impose or collect any assessment or fee on glass containers for the same or similar purpose that is the subject of this chapter. [L 1994, c 201, pt of §2; am L 2002, c 176, §9]

While this method would substantially reduce the administrative process by both retailers and government, it does create one challenge, in that it will require an educational program to assure that consumers are aware of the added costs.

Bags are just the beginning of addressing the issue of our landfills becoming landfills. Just about everything we purchase is packaged. It is all one-way packaging to assure our products are safe, secure, sanitary, and un-tampered. The tens of thousands of products ranging from cereal to computers create waste. We recently submitted a brochure to Legislators with the caption "We live in an oilfield, yet we call it waste," concluding that "The Problem is the Solution."

Hawaii being a non-contiguous state, we must think out of the box, and realize that when we recycle by shipping plastic, paper, glass, and other items back to the Mainland, China, or another foreign country it cost lots of money and labor, while we continue to pay top dollar to import oil. If we can turn the thousands of tons of packaging into energy, we use energy that comes in free as packaging. Especially with plastic, shrink wrap, and polystyrene that has a Btu about double that of the coal we import to generate electricity. While Oahu has HPOWER as a Waste to Energy (WTE) facility, the Neighbor Islands do not, and must.

This measure has the dual purpose of reducing one-way bags, while generating much needed revenue for our bleeding budget that the Legislature has to balance. We have no problem with this, as we well understand what balancing a budget means for survival. We do however need to look beyond the two or three year period of our poor economy and create a law that will use these revenue to support Waste To Energy facilities in each county, once we are out of the economic crunch we are in. We are recommending that the measure be written to reflect this goal as a baseline for the future sustainability of Hawaii as a main method of reducing our reliance on oil for the generation of electricity, while addressing our landfill problems.

The HD1 version of the bill creates a 3 cent fee to the State, with 2 cents to cover the retailer's costs. We guesstimate that each one cent of fee would generate upwards to \$10 million in revenue. Of course as the reduction of bags occurs, so will the revenue, which is the original intent of this proposal in the first place. With our suggestion, the retailer's portion would not be necessary, as the fees would become a part of the wholesale cost of the bags.



Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

HEARING Monday, March 29, 2010
 6:00 pm
 Conference Room 308
 State Capitol, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: SB2559, SD2, HD1, Relating to Environmental Protection

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

Retail Merchants of Hawaii (RMH) is a not-for-profit trade organization representing 200 members and over 2,000 storefronts, and is committed to support the retail industry and business in general in Hawaii. The retail industry is one of the largest employers in the state, employing 23% of the labor force.

RMH supports the intent of SB2559, SD2, HD1, which requires businesses in the state to charge and collect a 5-cent off-set fee for each disposable checkout bag provided to a customer.

Undeniably, this proposal is a practical, viable and preferred option to an outright ban on single-use checkout bags and places the responsibility for the careless discard and misuse, or the wise re-use and management, of these items on the ultimate consumer.

Hawaii's retailers unquestionably support the broadest use of reusable tote bags as the ultimate solution for the environment, and have been proactive in providing these for our customers. However, we do know that consumers' acceptance and use of reusable bags will not be universal, affordable or practical at all times. This measure allows us to provide options as demanded by our customers.

While we remain concerned with the additional cost at the grocery level to our residents who have the least resources, we are hopeful that consumers will accept this fee as an investment in our environment rather than a burden, and embrace the usage of reusable bags.

We ask your consideration to include dry cleaner, door hanger and newspaper bags in the program in the near future. As the genesis of this legislation is concern with the impact of plastic materials on our environment, vis a vis, our oceans, marine life and landfills, we believe that these types of plastic bags have the propensity to cause the same harm as single-use checkout bags.

Thank you for your attention and for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Carol Pregill', is written in black ink.

Carol Pregill, President

RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII
1240 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 215
Honolulu, HI 96814
ph: 808-592-4200 / fax: 808-592-4202



March 28, 2010

To: Members of the House Finance Committee

From: Tim Shestek
Senior Director, State Affairs
American Chemistry Council

Re: **SB 2559 SD 2 HD 1 - OPPOSE**

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) must respectfully oppose SB 2559 SD2, HD 1 that would impose a \$0.05 "offset fee" for each retail bag provided to customers by businesses.

Though we support the intent of reducing bag litter and waste, we believe that the most environmentally responsible and economically sustainable solution to addressing this issue is a comprehensive program aimed at recycling these bags so that they may be used as feedstock in the production of other products, such as new bags, pallets, containers, crates, and pipe. Recycling policies have been recently adopted by the State of California, New York, Rhode Island, and Chicago and many voluntary initiatives are underway in other jurisdictions.

As you may know, recycling of plastic bags is growing fast in the United States. In 2008 over 832 million pounds of plastic bags and wraps were recycled, representing a 28 percent increase in only a few years. According to EPA data, recycling of polyethylene bags and wraps reached 12 percent in 2007.

When the City of Seattle, WA was considering a similar "bag tax" proposal, a fiscal analysis stated the city's Department of Executive Administration's (DEA) costs "would also include approximately \$250,000 to DEA to administer the fee."¹

You may also be interested in knowing that Seattle voters overwhelmingly rejected a consumer bag charge, and the California State Assembly Appropriations Committee earlier this year held two pieces of legislation (AB 68 and AB 87) that would have required certain grocers and retailers to impose a per bag consumer charge.

ACC would welcome the opportunity to partner with the State of Hawaii, the grocery and retail industry, recyclers, and other interested stakeholders to enhance and/or develop a system that effectively and efficiently helps to recycle these products. Our industry is involved in many

¹ <http://clerk.ci.seattle.wa.us/~public/fnote/116251.htm>

similar programs in California, Washington State, Illinois, and Philadelphia to name just a few and it is our view that a per bag fee as proposed in SB 2559 SD 2 HD 1 is unnecessary. Furthermore, this language does not take into consideration that many consumers do not have the luxury of carrying reusable bags with them at all times. For instance, those that rely solely on public transportation may be disadvantaged as it may be difficult for them to constantly carry reusable bags.

Finally, this legislation fails to recognize that many consumers reuse their plastic bags for other household duties such as waste can liners or for pet waste. One unintended consequence of this legislation could force consumers to purchase new plastic bags to replace the retail bags they previously reused.

As stated above, ACC believes the most appropriate policy is to work collaboratively with industry, retailers, and others to promote recycling of these products instead of imposing a new charge on consumers, especially during these difficult economic times.

Thank you in advance for the opportunity to provide these comments. Should you have any questions or comments, please contact me at 916-448-2581 or via email at tim_shestek@americanchemistry.com. You may also contact ACC's Hawaii based representatives Red Morris or John Radcliffe at 808-531-4551.



Conservation Council for Hawai'i

Testimony Submitted to the House Committee on Finance
SB 2559 SD 2 HD 1 Relating to Environmental Protection
Hearing: Monday, March 29, 2010 6 pm Room 308

In support of SB 2559 SD 2 HD 1

Aloha. Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports SB 2559 SD 2 HD 1, which requires businesses in the State to charge and collect an offset fee of five cents for each disposable checkout bag that is provided to customers.

This bill encourages more residents and visitors to use reusable bags. This would reduce the number of sea turtles and other marine wildlife that are killed or harmed by ingesting disposable plastic bags. Sea turtles ingest plastic bags, mistaking them for food, and may suffer a gruesome death. The ingested bag may get trapped in the turtle's gut, prevent food from going down, lead to absorption of toxins, and reduce the absorption of nutrients from real food. Trapped food decomposes, leaks gases into the body cavity, and causes the turtle to float. The turtle then slowly starves to death or succumbs to other secondary life-threatening conditions, such as a boat strike.

This bill would also result in reducing the number of disposable bags we use, and the energy needed to manufacture, ship, and discard them. This saves the people and the government money, and contributes to a more sustainable way of living on these islands. Americans go through more than 100 billion plastic bags each year, yet less than 5% are ever recycled. Let's make a positive change and end this wasteful practice any longer.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Marjorie Ziegler



Hawai'i's Voice for Wildlife – *Ko Leo Hawai'i no na holoholona lohiu*

Telephone/Fax 808.593.0255 • email: info@conservehi.org • web: www.conservehi.org
P.O. Box 2923 • Honolulu, HI 96802 • Office: 250 Ward Ave., Suite 212 • Honolulu, HI 96814
President: Maura O'Connor * Treasurer: Kim Ramos * Secretary: Douglas Lamerson
Directors: Madelyn D'Enbeau * Maka'ala Ka'aumoana * Hannah Springer
Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler



March 26, 2010

House Committees on FIN

RE: Strong Support for Senate Bill 2559 – Relating to the Environment

Dear Chair Oshiro and Committee Members,

My name is Stuart Coleman, and I am the Hawaii Coordinator of the Surfrider Foundation. With more than 4000 dues-paying members across the state, the Hawai'i Chapters of the Surfrider Foundation strongly support passage of SB2559, a bill designed to address the harms of non-biodegradable single-use plastic and paper check out bags that are degrading the environment and harming marine life. Millions of sea birds, fish, sea turtles and marine mammals die each year due to entanglement and ingestion of plastics.

This bill will encourage people to switch to reusable tote bags and improve Hawaii's natural environment. Imposing an offset fee also provides a practical and economical solution that will:

1. Encourage people to bring reusable bags and protect the environment;
2. bring revenue to the state's general fund and help local stores save money by buying fewer plastic bags;
3. help the counties cut costs in having to clean up these toxic tumbleweeds (Maui Country paid more than \$200,000 in cleanup costs.);
- and 4. extend the life of our landfills by years.

Governments across the world have successfully reduced plastic bag use, either through plastic bag bans or fees. Maui and Kaua'i County passed their own bans, and the Big Island came very close. The following countries and cities have all taken measures to reduce their plastic bag usage in an effort to protect their precious natural resources and valuable coastlines: Ireland, China, Tanzania, Taiwan, Australia, Italy, South Africa, San Francisco, Manhattan Beach, Malibu, Los Angeles, Edmunds (WA), Outer Banks (NC), District of Columbia, Mexico City, Rio de Janeiro and Mumbai. Within the first year of imposing a fee, Ireland's plastic bag use dropped 90%. Eventually, all governments and people will realize how economically wasteful and environmentally damaging single-use plastic bags are. Will our state be a leader or a latecomer in this movement?

The Hawaii Chapters are supporting HB2125 because Surfrider's mission is to preserve the health of our oceans and the quality of our beaches. Plastic bags that end up in the ocean or on our coastlines not only endanger sea turtles, seabirds, and marine mammals, but they also adversely affect the entire marine food web. Because plastic does not biodegrade, plastic waste never truly disappears; it only breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces. These "micro-plastics" attract toxic chemicals and pollutants in the water and are often consumed by fish and filter feeders that mistake them for food. Because plastics cannot be digested, they concentrate these pollutants in the fish as they make their way up the food chain and into our seafood. So this is a human health issue as well as an environmental hazard.

SURFRIDER FOUNDATION • HAWAII CHAPTERS
2121 ALGAROPA ST., #1107 • HONOLU, HI 96826
(808) 942-3841 • www.surfrider.org/oahu • scoleman@surfrider.org

Single-use plastic bags also have hidden costs that hit our wallets, and everyone pays for these so-called “free” bags. Taxpayers spend as much as \$0.17 on each plastic bag they receive because they have to subsidize the recycling, collection, and disposal of these toxic plastic bags. Retailers spend as much as \$0.05 per bag (a price which is incorporated into the price of food and goods, then passed on to consumers) when they provide a consumer with a “free” plastic bag. States, cities, and counties together spend about \$4.41 per capita, per year on general litter abatement.¹ By reducing the amount of plastic bags, this money will be better spent.

We ask that you remove the preemption section from the bill because the people of Kauai and Maui worked hard to ban disposable plastic checkout bags, and we should not interfere with their positive actions. With the fee bill, most consumers will quickly transition to using reusable bags, and our environment will benefit tremendously. Some consumers will continue to use disposable plastic bags, and the State will reap the rewards of the fees, which will more than pay for the program; so it’s a win-win situation. Mahalo for your time and consideration and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Stuart H. Coleman
Hawaii Coordinator
Surfrider Foundation
808-942-3841

¹ “The True Cost of Single-Use Bags,” by Heal the Bay. Available at: www.healthebay.org

Honorable Marcus Oshiro, House Committee on Finance

Subject SB2559 SD2 HD1

Testimony of Zero Waste Kauai Zero Waste Kauai, a local, grassroots, community action group promoting sustainable waste management practices, and representing over 70 active recycling advocates, and hundreds of citizens in our information and education network, has major concerns regarding the latest version of HB 2559.

Following the lead of their constituents the elected representatives of both Maui and Kauai County have passed County ordinances banning single use plastic bags, now, at the request of the Retail Food Industry the legislature is trying to overturn the public's wishes. The preemption clause should be deleted.

While the intent of the proposed legislation is to significantly reduce the use of single use plastic bags, the fee is inadequate to stimulate the needed change. When a bag full of groceries costs \$10 to \$20 adding 5 cents to the price will not result in a significant reduction in plastic bags ending up in our environment. The fee should be set, at a minimum, at 15 cents per bag - 20 cents would be much better.

In addition, "fees" are supposed to be targeted surcharges, used to fund programs dealing with the inherent problem. None of the money collected is earmarked for expanding recycling, litter control or marine clean-up efforts. In fact the bulk of the fee would remain with the Retailer with the balance going to the General Fund. In fact no funds are even earmarked to cover the costs of implementing and managing an expensive monitoring and regulatory program. At least 50% of the "fee" should be directed to support County recycling efforts, litter clean-up and marine pollution mitigation programs.

A ban is a simple, straight forward, logical solution. Kauai and Maui have enacted bans. If the legislature can't enact a statewide ban, nor establish a fee program that is adequate to address the problems with plastic bags, then they should shelve this bill and try again later.

Thank You;
John Harder, Chair Zero Waste Kauai

March 26, 2010

State House Finance Committee
State of Hawaii
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Ben Shafer
52.210 Kamehameha Highway
Hauula, Hawaii 96717

RE: Strongly support SB 2559
March 29, 2010 Room 308 6:00 pm

Aloha Chairperson Marcus Oshiro, Vice Chairperson Marilyn Lee and Members of the House Finance Committee;

I strongly support Senate Bill 2559 because disposable checkout bags unnecessarily degrade Hawai'i's precious environment. This Bill is an easy way for the State to significantly decrease the amount of waste it produces. Similar laws have been passed worldwide and proven to be very successful.

I support this bill, which encourages people to use reusable bags and protects marine life. Please remove section §342H-E (Preemption) from the bill so that the counties may also regulate disposable checkout bags. The people of Kaua'i and Maui worked very hard to ban disposable plastic checkout bags in their counties. We should not let SB 2559 interfere with their positive action

Reusable bags are affordable and readily available throughout Hawaii. This legislation will be the incentive necessary to encourage the community to commit to using reusable bags whenever possible. Moreover, this bill will allow the state and businesses to benefit from every disposable bag distributed. This bill is an easy way for the state to earn some money. Please push this Bill forward.

Respectfully submitted,

Aloha members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Mariya Gold, I currently live in Manoa, and I strongly support Senate Bill 2559 because disposable checkout bags just don't make sense. Why not reuse the bazillion bags we already have. Disposable checkout bags are an unnecessary burden on our already fragile environment. Disposable checkout bags not only pollute our land and water, but have contributed to the deaths of millions of sea birds and marine mammals each year due to entanglement and ingestion. This bill allows the State of Hawaii to considerably decrease the amount of waste it produces, and in doing so, essentially the whole world benefits. Similar laws have been passed worldwide and proven to be very successful.

Reusable bags make sense. They are readily available, very affordable, and by using them we are contributing to a more sustainable, less polluted, healthier environment worldwide. This legislation is essential to providing the necessary incentive to encourage the community to commit to using reusable bags whenever possible. Furthermore, with this bill, the state and businesses will benefit financially from such environmentally friendly actions. Sounds like a no-brainer to me. Help make the world a better, more beautiful, sustainable, healthy place to live, and make money while doing it. Count me in! Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Aloha,

Mariya Kai Gold
2419 Ferdinand Ave
Honolulu, HI 96822
mariyakai@gmail.com
808-220-9297

TO: Rep. Oshiro, Chair
Rep. Lee, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Finance

DATE: Friday, March 26, 2010

FROM: Natalie Iwasa
1331 Lunalilo Home Road
Honolulu, HI 96825
808-395-3233

HEARING: 6 p.m., March 29, 2010

SUBJECT: SB 2559, SD2, HD1 Relating to Environmental Protection – **Oppose**

Aloha Representatives,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to this bill and its related amendments which would require businesses to charge a fee for providing certain plastic bags to customers, remit part of that fee to the state and report the balance of that fee as income. While I support efforts to reduce the amount of trash, I think there are better ways of accomplishing that than charging fees. For example, rewarding people for using cloth bags by offering a few cents back on their purchases, educating people about the impact loose bags have on the environment and creating additional opportunities for reusing and recycling bags will accomplish a reduction in consumption of plastic bags without the negative impacts of increasing administrative costs for businesses and the state.

Following are examples of the consequences of similar plastic bag fees in other places:

- From the Washington Post January 23, 2010 – “Parking lots feature impromptu juggling acts as determined fee-avoiders teeter to their cars with heaping armloads of loose groceries. And people are stockpiling reusable shopping bags -- and routinely forgetting to take them shopping.”
- From the American Chemistry Council, *The Truths Behind Ireland's Plastic Bag Tax* – “The plastic bag tax resulted in more plastic bags being used in Ireland after the tax than before it.¹ This was due to the fact that people still had to use plastic bags for things like garbage.

– “Retailers in Ireland have reported negative impacts of the bag tax, including the loss of in-store carrying devices and increased shoplifting.”

Please vote “no” on this bill.

¹PIFA, 2004 (also validated by the Scottish Parliament ERDC Committee – Economic and Rural Development Committee) PIFA/Mike Kidwell Associates 2006

Aloha members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Jenny Nakamoto from Honolulu, HI, and I strongly support Senate Bill 2559 because disposable checkout bags unnecessarily degrade Hawai'i's precious environment. This Bill is an easy way for the State to significantly decrease the amount of waste it produces. Similar laws have been passed worldwide and proven to be very successful.

Reusable bags are affordable and readily available throughout Hawaii. This legislation will be the incentive necessary to encourage the community to commit to using reusable bags whenever possible. Moreover, this bill will allow the state and businesses to benefit from every disposable bag distributed. This bill is an easy way for the state to earn some money. Please push this Bill forward. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Aloha,

Jenny Nakamoto

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Monday, March 29, 2010

TIME: 6:00 P.M.

PLACE: Conference Room 308, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

RE: SB 2559 SD2 HD1

Aloha House Finance Committee members,

I am writing in strong support of SB 2559 SD2 HD1 because the irresponsible use of disposable plastic bags is an unnecessary contributing factor to environmental pollution. Plastic bags are, of course, only one of MANY plastic products that are littering our beaches, adding to our landfills and accumulating in the oceans to the severe detriment of marine life worldwide. It will take a long time to rectify this but eliminating plastic bags is a simple measure which can be effected quickly and easily. A 5-cent charge on each disposable plastic bag will not only raise people's awareness of the negative consequences their use but will contribute much-needed funds to the state's empty coffers until the weaning process is complete.

Kindly remove the preemptive section (Paragraph 342H-E) of the current bill so as not to interfere with or penalize those counties that have already made positive advances toward banning the use of these plastic checkout bags.

Please do your part to promote the health of our island and our planet.

Mahalo nui loa,
Lois Cain

Aloha,

My name is Cherub Silverstein; I am an educator and active community volunteer. I support Senate Bill 2559, which places a fee on the use of disposable plastic bags. Plastic bags do not degrade; instead they become miniscule pieces of plastic leaching toxins into the environment and into the animals that eat them. Follow those animals up the food chain, and humans are ingesting plastic particles at alarming rates. I support this bill because it will encourage the use of reusable bags while protecting the environment and our health. Please remove section §342H-E (Preemption) from the bill so that the counties may also regulate disposable checkout bags. The people of Kaua'i and Maui worked very hard to ban disposable plastic checkout bags in their counties. We should not let SB 2559 interfere with their positive action.

Mahalo for your time,

Cherub Silverstein

Weston Yap
934 8th Ave
Honolulu, HI 96816

March 28, 2010

State of Hawaii
Representative Marcus R. Oshiro
Chair
House Finance Committee

Dear Representative Marcus Oshiro, Representative Marilyn Lee, and members of the House Finance Committee:

This is a letter in support of Senate Bill 2559 for a fee on use of plastic bags.

My name is Weston Yap and I live in Kaimuki. I strongly support Senate Bill 2559 because disposable checkout bags pollute our streets and beaches often after just one use. My family and friends have greatly increased our use of cloth bags.

This is also an opportunity for the State of Hawaii to earn additional revenue in this tough economy.

Similar laws have been passed worldwide and proven to be very successful. My sister lives in the San Francisco, CA area and she finds Reusable bags are affordable and convenient.

Thank you for considering support for this Bill.

Aloha,

Weston Yap

E-mail: wesyap@yahoo.com

Phone: 808-673-8528

Honorable Marcus Oshiro, House Committee on Finance

Subject SB2559 SD2 HD1

Following the lead of their constituents the elected representatives of both Maui and Kauai County have passed County ordinances banning single use plastic bags, now, at the request of the Retail Food Industry the legislature is trying to overturn the public's wishes. **The preemption clause should be deleted.**

While the intent of the proposed legislation is to significantly reduce the use of single use plastic bags, the fee is inadequate to stimulate the needed change. When a bag full of groceries costs \$10 to \$20 adding 5 cents to the price will not result in a significant reduction in plastic bags ending up in our environment. **The fee should be set at \$0.20/bag**

In addition, "fees" are supposed to be targeted surcharges, used to fund programs dealing with the inherent problem. None of the money collected is earmarked for expanding recycling, litter control or marine clean-up efforts. In fact the bulk of the fee would remain with the Retailer with the balance going to the General Fund. In fact no funds are even earmarked to cover the costs of implementing and managing an expensive monitoring and regulatory program. **At least 50% of the "fee" should be directed to support County recycling efforts, litter clean-up and marine pollution mitigation programs.**

A ban is a simple, straight forward, logical solution. Kauai and Maui have enacted bans. **It works.**

Respectfully submitted,

Carl J. Berg, Jr. Ph.D.

Aloha members of the House Finance Committee:

Americans consume 100 billion plastic bags each year, yet less than one percent is recycled. The people of Oahu consume an estimated 300 million bags or more annually, most of which end up in our landfills or burning in the H-Power Plant. Plastic litters our beaches, exacts a toll on our environment, and costs cities enormous amounts of money for clean up.

We strongly encourage you to pass SB2559 SD2 HD1, which requires businesses to collect a five-cent offset fee for disposable plastic and paper checkout bags, with two cents allocated to the business and three cents allocated to the general fund. It will reduce the consumption of single-use plastic bags while bringing in money for our state and saving our counties money in clean-up costs. This bill effectively addresses the issue of plastic pollution by positively changing consumer behavior and decreasing external costs.

Let us make Hawaii the first state in the country to impose a fee on plastic and paper checkout bags. The people of Kaua'i and Maui have already banned disposable plastic checkout bags in their counties. As such, please remove amendment HRS342 H-E, which would preempt the powers of any county to regulate the use of disposable checkout bags. Kaua'i and Maui have worked very hard to implement their bans. We should not let this bill interfere with their positive actions.

Please pass SB2559 SD2 HD1 to promote the use of reusable bags and protect the environment. Specifically, we ask that the Committee remove preemption amendment HRS342 H-E so that counties can also regulate the use of disposable checkout bags.

Aloha,

Eryn Reyes
Michele Leong
Adam Chang
Fawn Koopman

Aloha members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Richard Moore from Honolulu, Hawaii, and I strongly support Senate Bill 2559 because disposable checkout bags unnecessarily degrade Hawai'i's precious environment. This Bill is an easy way for the State to significantly decrease the amount of waste it produces. Similar laws have been passed worldwide and proven to be very successful.

Reusable bags are affordable and readily available throughout Hawaii. This legislation will be the incentive necessary to encourage the community to commit to using reusable bags whenever possible. Moreover, this bill will allow the state and businesses to benefit from every disposable bag distributed. This bill is an easy way for the state to earn some money. Please push this Bill forward. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Aloha, Richard Moore

Rep. Marcus Oshiro

From: Brad Parsons [mauibrad@hotmail.com]
it: Thursday, March 18, 2010 1:30 PM
melecoleman@gmail.com; carolphilips1@gmail.com
Subject: Latest Proposed Amendments for SB 2559 bag fee bill by the Finance Committee

Carol and Mele, you two are the only two who have emailed back quickly about this other than all the hardcore people that I already know on Kauai and Oahu who are on this topic. The following is the latest thinking on this. Notice the two amendments or changes are different than the letter that I sent last night. A lawyer here on Kauai has been saying we need to be explicit about no preemption, not just take mention of it out of the bill. This is what I will re-submit. There are others who only believe in a bag ban and want to kill this bill already, none of them are on Oahu. I am not in their camp. I believe in the following letter.

Aloha, Brad

Aloha Representatives:

The Hawaii single use bag fee bill SB 2559's intent was totally changed over the past day to a preemption bill of already passed County ordinance plastic bag bans on the request of **only 1 testifier**, the HFIA with this one sentence request,

"If the Legislature does decide to go with SB 2559, SD2 Proposed HD1, we do request that a pre-emption of county ordinances be included to avoid having different laws for different counties."

Before the Finance Committee, if this bill is scheduled, we recommend the following 2 changes to the bill:

1. Amend the bill to change to:

§342H-E Preemption. *The provisions of this part shall not preempt the powers of any county to regulate the use of disposable checkout bags.*

2. Amend the bill to change to:

§342H-B Distribution of disposable checkout bags; offset fee. *(a) Beginning January 1, 2011, all businesses in the State shall charge and collect an offset fee of ten cents for each disposable checkout bag that is provided to customers ...*

This as much as doubles the revenue to the State, will actually reduce single-use bag use, and respects the Counties that have already passed ordinances dealing with single use bags; otherwise without these changes, this bill should be deferred.

Mahalo,
Brad Parsons,
Aloha Analytics

The New Busy is not the old busy. Search, chat and e-mail from your inbox. [Get started.](#)

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 26, 2010 7:40 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: canton1010@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Carol Anton
Organization: Individual
Address: 5210 Likini St Honolulu, HI
Phone: 808-836-0956
E-mail: canton1010@aol.com
Submitted on: 3/26/2010

Comments:

Aloha members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Carol Anton from Honolulu, and I strongly support Senate Bill 2559 because disposable checkout bags unnecessarily degrade Hawai'i's precious environment. This Bill is an easy way for the State to significantly decrease the amount of waste it produces. Similar laws have been passed worldwide and proven to be very successful.

Reusable bags are affordable and readily available throughout Hawaii. This legislation will be the incentive necessary to encourage the community to commit to using reusable bags whenever possible. Moreover, this bill will allow the state and businesses to benefit from every disposable bag distributed. This bill is an easy way for the state to earn some money. Please push this Bill forward. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
sent: Friday, March 26, 2010 11:16 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: steina003@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Amy Stein
Organization: Individual
Address: 1020 Aoloa Pl. 109 B Kailua, Hi
Phone: 808 382-5209
E-mail: steina003@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/26/2010

Comments:

Aloha members of the House Finance Committee, My name is Amy Stein from Kailua, and I strongly support Senate Bill 2559 because disposable checkout bags unnecessarily degrade Hawai'i's precious environment. This Bill is an easy way for the State to significantly decrease the amount of waste it produces. Similar laws have been passed worldwide and proven to be very successful.

Reusable bags are affordable and readily available throughout Hawaii. This legislation will e the incentive necessary to encourage the community to commit to using reusable bags whenever possible. Moreover, this bill will allow the state and businesses to benefit from every disposable bag distributed. This bill is an easy way for the state to earn some money. Please push this Bill forward. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Aloha, Amy Stein

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 28, 2010 8:14 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: vorn79@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: veronica trujillio
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: vorn79@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2010

Comments:

My name is _____Veronica Trujuillio_____ from _____HI____, and I strongly support Senate Bill 2559 because disposable checkout bags unnecessarily degrade Hawai'i's precious environment. This Bill is an easy way for the State to significantly decrease the amount of waste it produces. Similar laws have been passed worldwide and proven to be very successful.

Reusable bags are affordable and readily available throughout Hawaii. This legislation will be the incentive necessary to encourage the community to commit to using reusable bags whenever possible. Moreover, this bill will allow the state and businesses to benefit from every disposable bag distributed. This bill is an easy way for the state to earn some money. Please push this Bill forward. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Aloha, Bianca

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 28, 2010 8:15 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: bia_wahine@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: bianca acosta
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: bia_wahine@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2010

Comments:

My name is __Bianca Acosta____ from _HI____, and I strongly support Senate Bill 2559 because disposable checkout bags unnecessarily degrade Hawai'i's precious environment. This Bill is an easy way for the State to significantly decrease the amount of waste it produces. Similar laws have been passed worldwide and proven to be very successful.

Reusable bags are affordable and readily available throughout Hawaii. This legislation will e the incentive necessary to encourage the community to commit to using reusable bags whenever possible. Moreover, this bill will allow the state and businesses to benefit from every disposable bag distributed. This bill is an easy way for the state to earn some money. Please push this Bill forward. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Aloha, _____

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 28, 2010 8:57 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: fawnjk@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Fawn Jade Koopman
Organization: Individual
Address: Makiki, HI
Phone:
E-mail: fawnjk@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 3/28/2010

Comments:

Aloha members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Fawn Koopman, and I strongly support Senate Bill 2559 because disposable checkout bags unnecessarily degrade Hawai'i's precious environment. This Bill is an easy way for the State to significantly decrease the amount of waste it produces. Similar laws have been passed worldwide and proven to be very successful.

Reusable bags are affordable and readily available throughout Hawaii. This legislation will be the incentive necessary to encourage the community to commit to using reusable bags whenever possible. Moreover, this bill will allow the state and businesses to benefit from every disposable bag distributed. This bill is an easy way for the state to earn some money. Please push this Bill forward.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2010 9:22 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: dmching@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Deborah M. Ching
Organization: Individual
Address: 1090 Ala Napunani Street Honolulu, HI
Phone: 834-4070
E-mail: dmching@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 3/29/2010

Comments:

I strongly support Senate Bill 2559 because disposable checkout bags unnecessarily degrade Hawai'i's precious environment. This Bill is an easy way for the State to significantly decrease the amount of waste it produces. Similar laws have been passed worldwide and proven to be very successful.

Reusable bags are affordable and readily available throughout Hawaii. This legislation will be the incentive necessary to encourage the community to commit to using reusable bags whenever possible. Moreover, this bill will allow the state and businesses to benefit from every disposable bag distributed. This bill is an easy way for the state to earn some money. Please push this Bill forward. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2010 9:38 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: lrngtoofly@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Blanche Niksich
Organization: Individual
Address: Waipahu, HI
Phone:
E-mail: lrngtoofly@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/29/2010

Comments:

Aloha members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Blanche from Waipahu, and I strongly support Senate Bill 2559 because disposable checkout bags unnecessarily degrade Hawai'i's precious environment. This Bill is an easy way for the State to significantly decrease the amount of waste it produces. Similar laws have been passed worldwide and proven to be very successful.

Reusable bags are affordable and readily available throughout Hawaii. This legislation will be the incentive necessary to encourage the community to commit to using reusable bags whenever possible. Moreover, this bill will allow the state and businesses to benefit from every disposable bag distributed. This bill is an easy way for the state to earn some money. Please push this Bill forward. The next thing I would like to see addressed is the styrofoam containers used for coffee and carry out.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Aloha, Blanche

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2010 10:02 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: lizspradlin@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Categories: Agenda 5

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Elizabeth Spradlin
Organization: Individual
Address: 1511 Nuuanu Honolulu, HI
Phone: 808-547-5723
E-mail: lizspradlin@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/29/2010

Comments:

I strongly support Senate Bill 2559 because disposable checkout bags unnecessarily degrade Hawai'i's precious environment and add to our hard waste island wide uselessly. This Bill is an easy way for the State to significantly decrease the amount of waste it produces. Similar laws have been passed worldwide and proven to be very successful.

Reusable bags are affordable and readily available throughout Hawaii. This legislation will be the incentive necessary to encourage the community to commit to using reusable bags whenever possible. Moreover, this bill will allow the state and businesses to benefit from every disposable bag distributed. This bill is an easy way for the state to earn some money. Please push this Bill forward. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Aloha, Elizabeth Spradlin

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
sent: Monday, March 29, 2010 3:31 PM
to: FINTestimony
Cc: abensley@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Adam Bensley
Organization: Individual
Address: 3553 Pinao Street Honolulu, HI
Phone: (919)215-7068
E-mail: abensley@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 3/29/2010

Comments:

Aloha members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Adam Bensley from Manoa, and I strongly support Senate Bill 2559 because disposable checkout bags unnecessarily degrade Hawai'i's precious environment. This Bill is an easy way for the State to significantly decrease the amount of waste it produces. Similar laws have been passed worldwide and proven to be very successful.

Reusable bags are affordable and readily available throughout Hawaii. This legislation will be the incentive necessary to encourage the community to commit to using reusable bags whenever possible. Moreover, this bill will allow the state and businesses to benefit from every disposable bag distributed. This bill is an easy way for the state to earn some money. Please push this Bill forward. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Aloha, Adam Bensley

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 27, 2010 12:40 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: lornaut@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lorna Uehara-Tilton
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: lornaut@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/27/2010

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
sent: Friday, March 26, 2010 8:03 PM
to: FINTestimony
Cc: carolphilips1@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Carol Philips
Organization: Individual
Address: 66-008 C Kamehameha Hwy Haleiwa, Hawaii 96712
Phone: 808-637-2977
E-mail: carolphilips1@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/26/2010

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Chair Oshiro and Committee Members,

I'm a life long resident of the State of Hawaii and a former professional bodyboarders. I'm writing in strong support of this measure because plastic leaves a footprint that never goes away. Rather it breaks up into smaller and smaller pieces and ends up in our food chain. Restricting the mindless ease that most of us have when shopping and using single use plastic bags will help reduce the amount of plastic that ends up in our eco system.

It would also be helpful if you could amend the legislation as follows:

1. Amend the bill to change to:

§342H-E Preemption. The provisions of this part shall not preempt the powers of any county to regulate the use of disposable checkout bags.

2. Amend the bill to change to:

§342H-B Distribution of disposable checkout bags; offset fee. (a) Beginning January 1, 2011, all businesses in the State shall charge and collect an offset fee of X cents for each disposable checkout bag that is provided to customers ...

Thank you for your consideration on this important matter.

Sincerely,
Carol Philips

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 26, 2010 8:32 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: kauaibrad@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brad Parsons
Organization: Aloha Analytics
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: kauaibrad@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/26/2010

Comments:
Aloha Representatives:

While we agree with the original intent of SB 2559, this bill's intent was completely changed and sullied under it's last revisions to primarily that of a preemption bill of already passed County ordinance plastic bag bans on the request of only 1 testifier, the with this one sentence request,

"If the Legislature does decide to go with SB 2559, SD2 Proposed HD1, we do request that a pre-emption of county ordinances be included to avoid having different laws for different counties."

No other testimony, out of the 100 plus testimonies in total on this bill, asked for this change.

Therefore, before the Finance Committee, we recommend the following changes to this bill:

1. Amend the bill to change to:

§342H-E Preemption. The provisions of this part shall *not* preempt the powers of any county to regulate the use of disposable checkout bags.

2. Amend the bill to change to:

§342H-B Distribution of disposable checkout bags; offset fee. (a) Beginning January 1, 2011, all businesses in the State shall charge and collect an offset fee of *ten cents* for each disposable checkout bag that is provided to customers...

3. Regarding:

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2010.

Amend the bill to change to a more realistically implemented effective date of a few months later than July 1, 2010.

The above amendments as much as double the revenue to the State, will actually reduce wasteful and polluting single-use bag use, and respects the Counties that have already passed ordinances dealing with single use bags.

therwise, without the change to clarify and negate preemption, this bill should be deferred.

Mahalo,
Brad Parsons,
Aloha Analytics

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 26, 2010 9:10 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: ben.sullivan@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ben Sullivan
Organization: Individual
Address: 4896 Z Kua Road Kalaheo, HI
Phone: 808 332 0385
E-mail: ben.sullivan@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 3/26/2010

Comments:

I oppose this bill as currently written. The State should not pre-empt Counties from implementing plastic bag bans as this bill currently does. It should be within our rights to determine more stringent environmental controls as we may desire in the individual Counties. Further, a \$.05 fee is simply too low to discourage use of plastic bags. As written, this bill appears to be a poorly disguised and desperate effort to raise revenue for the State. Re-write the bill to meet the original intent or kill it and tax us in a more straightforward way.

Mahalo,

Ben Sullivan
Lawai

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
sent: Saturday, March 27, 2010 12:12 AM
to: FINTestimony
Cc: ddruz@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: David S Druz
Organization: Individual
Address: PO Box 976 Haleiwa, HI
Phone: 808 638-8032
E-mail: ddruz@aol.com
Submitted on: 3/27/2010

Comments:

- * Please support SB 2559 SD 2 HD 1 (fee on disposable checkout bags).
- * I support this bill, which encourages people to use reusable bags and protects marine life.
- * Please remove section §342H-E (Preemption) from the bill so that the counties may also regulate disposable checkout bags. The people of Kaua'i and Maui worked very hard to ban disposable plastic checkout bags in their counties. We should not let SB 2559 interfere with their positive action

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 27, 2010 7:31 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: hulababe65@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Gloria Winterlin
Organization: Individual
Address: 1020 Koko Kai Place Honolulu, Hi
Phone: 808-347-8821
E-mail: hulababe65@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/27/2010

Comments:

I support the SB2559 bill because it will help keep Hawaii clean. The cost of all the trash here on the island will only escalate if we don't do something now. Tourism is the biggest money maker and with that comes the job of keeping the environment clean for everyone to enjoy. We all want a clean Hawaii.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Friday, March 26, 2010 8:00 PM
fo: FINTestimony
Cc: t_smitty2@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM
Attachments: Please pass SB2559 to reduce our negative impact on the marine environment.doc

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: trevor smith
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: t_smitty2@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/26/2010

Comments:

Please remove section 342H-E as well, do not preempt the hard work other counties have done.

Please pass SB2559 to reduce our negative impact on the marine environment, landfills, and the land. This bill is good for generating government funds as well.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 27, 2010 7:34 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: katyek@mac.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Katherine Killebrew
Organization: Individual
Address: 2140 Aha Niu Place HI
Phone: 808 734-3499
E-mail: katyek@mac.com
Submitted on: 3/27/2010

Comments:

Aloha Members of the House Finance Committee, Please support this important bill. it's a step in the right direction to ridding our island home of plastic pollution. If steps aren't taken now, there will be no paradise for visitors and residents alike to enjoy let alone our keiki.

Thank you,
Katherine Killebrew

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 27, 2010 7:36 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: julytoots59@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Treva Greig
Organization: Individual
Address: 3166 Alika Avenue Honolulu, HI 96817
Phone: 8082919433
E-mail: julytoots59@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/27/2010

Comments:

To be a supporter of sustainable change in the world Hawaii should encourage the use of reusable bags and charge for plastic bag usage. Please support us in having a sustainable planet.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Saturday, March 27, 2010 9:53 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: Reba2727@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Maria ferotti
Organization: Individual
Address: 1 Jarret white Rd box 269 TAMC
Phone: 808-375-6778
E-mail: Reba2727@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/27/2010

Comments:

This bill will not only help Hawaii, it will help the rest of the world.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Saturday, March 27, 2010 1:52 PM
fo: FINTestimony
Cc: rob@electronicinsight.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Robert Barreca
Organization: Individual
Address: 3535 Maluhia St Honolulu
Phone: 808-224-1905
E-mail: rob@electronicinsight.com
Submitted on: 3/27/2010

Comments:

I support this bill because it reduces the waste that we create in Hawaii as well as helps protect honu, whales, sea birds, and other marine life from ingesting plastic and/or getting entangled in it.

I also urge you to please remove section §342H-E (Preemption) from the bill so that the counties may also regulate plastic bags. The people of Kaua'i and Maui worked very hard to ban disposable plastic checkout bags in their counties. We should not let SB 2559 interfere with their positive action.

Hawaii has the most amazing and unique environment in the nation and we should show other states that we are a leader in its protection.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 27, 2010 5:13 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: judie@aloha.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Judie Hoepfner
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: judie@aloha.net
Submitted on: 3/27/2010

Comments:

I don't believe this bill will make any difference in the use of plastic bags. Maui and Kauai have totally banned single use plastic bags. This bill will interfere with the wishes of citizens in two counties. Please shelve this bill until you can come up with something meaningful - like a complete ban.

Aloha,

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
sent: Saturday, March 27, 2010 5:24 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: brian@beruna.org
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brian Russo
Organization: Individual
Address: 1508 Kewalo St Honolulu, HI
Phone: 808 271 4166
E-mail: brian@beruna.org
Submitted on: 3/27/2010

Comments:

This is overdue. Opposition from business that will somehow reduce sales is nonsense. People will still shop as much; it will merely incentivize them to use reusable totes.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 27, 2010 5:38 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: kenzen808@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ken Sentner
Organization: Surfrider Foundation
Address: 2499 Kapiolani, Apt.2209 Honolulu 96826
Phone: 551-4142
E-mail: kenzen808@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/27/2010

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
sent: Saturday, March 27, 2010 9:47 PM
to: FINTestimony
Cc: jessdozr@me.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jessica Dozier
Organization: Individual
Address: 92-1290 Kuamu St Kapolei, HI
Phone: 808-341-1724
E-mail: jessdozr@me.com
Submitted on: 3/27/2010

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 27, 2010 7:36 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: fireneverfading@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kimo Clark
Organization: Individual
Address: 147 E. Makaukau Lp Wailuku, Hi
Phone: 8082983351
E-mail: fireneverfading@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/27/2010

Comments:

I support this bill. I'm tired of seeing white plastic bags stuck in the trees, floating in the ocean and on our beaches.

Kimo Clark

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
sent: Saturday, March 27, 2010 10:18 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: skeesmith@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Erin Smith
Organization: The Throwdowns LLC
Address: 287 Alaume Street HI
Phone: 808 250-1683
E-mail: skeesmith@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/27/2010

Comments:

Aloha members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Erin from Kihei, and I strongly support Senate Bill 2559 because disposable checkout bags unnecessarily degrade Hawai'i's precious environment. This Bill is an easy way for the State to significantly decrease the amount of waste it produces. Similar laws have been passed worldwide and proven to be very successful.

Reusable bags are affordable and readily available throughout Hawaii. This legislation will be the incentive necessary to encourage the community to commit to using reusable bags whenever possible. Moreover, this bill will allow the state and businesses to benefit from every disposable bag distributed. This bill is an easy way for the state to earn some money. Please push this Bill forward. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Aloha, Erin Smith

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Saturday, March 27, 2010 5:13 PM
fo: FINTestimony
Cc: judie@aloha.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Judie Hoepfner
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: judie@aloha.net
Submitted on: 3/27/2010

Comments:

I don't believe this bill will make any difference in the use of plastic bags. Maui and Kauai have totally banned single use plastic bags. This bill will interfere with the wishes of citizens in two counties. Please shelve this bill until you can come up with something meaningful - like a complete ban.

Aloha,

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Saturday, March 27, 2010 5:21 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: jenaries23@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jennifer Milholen
Organization: Individual
Address: Crater Rd. Honolulu, HI
Phone:
E-mail: jenaries23@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/27/2010

Comments:

Aloha members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Jennifer Milholen from Kaimuki, and I strongly support Senate Bill 2559 because disposable checkout bags unnecessarily degrade Hawai'i's precious environment. This Bill is an easy way for the State to significantly decrease the amount of waste it produces. Similar laws have been passed worldwide and proven to be very successful.

Reusable bags are affordable and readily available throughout Hawaii. This legislation will be the incentive necessary to encourage the community to commit to using reusable bags whenever possible. Moreover, this bill will allow the state and businesses to benefit from every disposable bag distributed. This bill is an easy way for the state to earn some money. Please push this Bill forward. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Aloha,

Jennifer Milholen

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Saturday, March 27, 2010 9:52 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: zlute@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Zach Lute
Organization: Individual
Address: 92-1290 Kuamu St Kapolei, HI
Phone: 808-341-1550
E-mail: zlute@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/27/2010

Comments:

My name is Zach Lute from Kapolei, and I strongly support Senate Bill 2559 because disposable checkout bags unnecessarily degrade Hawai'i's precious environment. This Bill is an easy way for the State to significantly decrease the amount of waste it produces. Similar laws have been passed worldwide and proven to be very successful.

Please remove section §342H-E (Preemption) from the bill so that the counties may also regulate disposable checkout bags. The people of Kaua'i and Maui worked very hard to ban disposable plastic checkout bags in their counties. We should not let SB 2559 interfere with their positive action.

Reusable bags are affordable and readily available throughout Hawaii. This legislation will be the incentive necessary to encourage the community to commit to using reusable bags whenever possible. Moreover, this bill will allow the state and businesses to benefit from every disposable bag distributed. This bill is an easy way for the state to earn some money. Please push this Bill forward. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Aloha,
Zach Lute

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 28, 2010 10:38 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: melecoleman@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mele Coleman
Organization: Individual
Address: 6247 Miloli'i Place Honolulu, HI
Phone: 808 2858581
E-mail: melecoleman@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2010

Comments:

Aloha members of the House Finance Committee, I strongly support SB2559. Although I prefer that the preemption language be removed from the bill because Maui and Kauai County should be able to keep their ban in place, I know that the majority of Hawaii's population lives on Oahu and that the statewide five cent fee will significantly decrease the amount of waste Hawaii produces while also helping businesses and the state deal with the tough economic situation.

I have just spent the past week in Toronto for my spring break from law school at UH and there is a five cent fee here on all bags provided to consumers. There are little signs at the cash registers and the businesses ask if you'd like a bag. Most people here bring their own bags and a small percentage of people purchase bags. The fee works great here, as well as many other places around the world. Hawaii should take advantage of this opportunity to be the first state to follow this progressive trend. There is no better time than now, please make the right decision, this bill is a win-win.

Mahalo for your time and consideration. Please move this bill forward, minus the preemption language.

Mele Coleman

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 28, 2010 11:05 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: brimohi@msn.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brian Emmons
Organization: Individual
Address: 1755 Waiola St Honolulu HI
Phone: (808)947-0155
E-mail: brimohi@msn.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2010

Comments:

My name is Brian Emmons from Honolulu, and I strongly support Senate Bill 2559 SD2 HD1 because disposable checkout bags unnecessarily degrade Hawai'i's precious environment. This Bill is an easy way for the State to significantly decrease the amount of waste it produces. Similar laws have been passed worldwide and proven to be very successful. Please remove section #342H-E (Preemption) from the bill so that the counties may also regulate disposable checkout bags. The people of Kaua'i and Maui worked very hard to ban disposable plastic checkout bags in their counties. We should not let SB 2559 interfere with their positive action I support this bill, which encourages people to use reusable bags and protects marine life. Reusable bags are affordable and readily available throughout Hawaii. This legislation will be the incentive necessary to encourage the community to commit to using reusable bags whenever possible. Moreover, this bill will allow the state and businesses to benefit from every disposable bag distributed. This bill is an easy way for the state to earn some money. Please push this Bill forward. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Aloha, Brian Emmons
1755 Waiola St
Honolulu HI 96826

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 28, 2010 11:33 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: chuckt5@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Charles Taylor
Organization: Environmental Law Society, William S. Richardson School of Law
Address: 1936 S. King St Honolulu, HI
Phone: 706-313-2253
E-mail: chuckt5@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2010

Comments:

Aloha House Finance Committee members,
I fully support SB2559 and think it is one of the most important environmental bills this year. Plastic bags are not only a nuisance, but they are also a human and animal health hazard. Plastics never really "biodegrade", but rather break into smaller and smaller particles until you can no longer see them. Then they have the potential to pass up the food chain and into the fish we eat. Our beautiful oceans are becoming clogged with plastics and we owe it to future generations to stop this plastic build up in our oceans. Hawaii can be a leader and set an example for the rest of the country to follow. Bag fees work! Studies have shown that a 5 cent fee drastically reduces plastic bag use. Please pass SB2559.

Mahalo,
Charlie Taylor

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
sent: Sunday, March 28, 2010 11:43 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: cuvintu@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jeremiah Demster
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: cuvintu@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2010

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 28, 2010 12:35 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: ross.buffomante@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: ross buffomante
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: ross.buffomante@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2010

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 28, 2010 1:09 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: good.designworks@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: pamela burrell
Organization: Apollo Kaua'i
Address:
Phone: 808-639-8161
E-mail: good.designworks@hawaiiantel.net Submitted on: 3/28/2010

Comments:
Honorable Marcus Oshiro, House Committee on Finance,

Subject SB2559 SD2 HD1

While the intent of the bill is admirable, I feel it falls short in two main areas:

1. PREEMPTION We on Kaua'i have worked hard to pass a bill that bans the use of single use bags. I feel we, as a county, will achieve our waste reduction goals faster and simpler by using this method. Please do not undermine our bill or that of Mau'i County.
2. BAG FEE. 5 cents? Are you kidding me? I do not feel that would make anyone change their behavior when they can easily buy that plastic bag that we are trying to eliminate. This makes no sense to me.

Ireland, in 2002, started with a fee of 15 cents and that fee would buy a compostable or recycled paper bag. Also the fee/tax is used to promote environmental issues.

I also wonder if all the bookkeeping splitting up these fees would be worth it. (especially 5 cents). and why should the retail establishment be "rewarded" for providing plastic bags? I feel this needs some more thought.

If you insist on a fee, consider AT LEAST 15 cents and have the retail establishment provide compostable bags. (then they can cover their costs and the state can make some much needed money)

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Pamela Burrell, co-chair Apollo Kaua'i

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 28, 2010 7:27 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: caytes@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Catherine Gibson
Organization: Individual
Address: Heulu Street Honolulu, HI
Phone: 808-347-4972
E-mail: caytes@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2010

Comments:

Most consumers are aware that plastic bags litter our land and pollute our ocean, but fail to decline to use plastic bags because it is a normal part of a sales transaction. Consumers need to be reminded of the detrimental and ugly effect of plastic on our environment and community. Five cents per bag is a scant amount to pay but will be a powerful tool in deterring the unnecessary use of plastic. Please pass the bill, and let Hawaii be a leader in this vital movement. Thank you!

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 28, 2010 10:32 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: babashoffmaryjane@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mary Jane David Babashoff
Organization: Individual
Address: 760 S. Kihei Rd # 302 Kihei HI
Phone: 951-255-5531
E-mail: babashoffmaryjane@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2010

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2010 7:58 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: dlching@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Donna L. Ching
Organization: Individual
Address: 2212-A Wilder Ave Honolulu, HI
Phone: 944-4070
E-mail: dlching@aol.com
Submitted on: 3/29/2010

Comments:

- * Please support SB 2559 SD 2 HD 1 (fee on disposable checkout bags).
- * I support this bill, which encourages people to use reusable bags and protects marine life.
- * Please remove section 167.342H-E (Preemption) from the bill so that the counties may also regulate disposable checkout bags. The people of Kaua'i and Maui worked very hard to ban disposable plastic checkout bags in their counties. We should not let SB 2559 interfere with their positive action Mahalo! Donna

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2010 8:59 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: surfrideroahu@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Tim Tybuszewski
Organization: Individual
Address: 731 10th Avenue Honolulu
Phone:
E-mail: surfrideroahu@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/29/2010

Comments:
Aloha,

My name is Tim and I strongly support SB 2559. The establishment of a fee to use single use plastic bags has been used in several cities throughout the world and in each instance there has been a large reduction in the use of the bags.

However please remove section §342H-E that overrides the ban that has already been approved for Maui and Kauai. The people of these islands have worked hard on getting their legislation passed and there is no need to require Maui and Kauai counties to take a step backwards in order for Oahu and all the other islands to move forward.

Thank you for your time.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Monday, March 29, 2010 9:25 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: hula~~maui~~@verizon.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Merrill Kaufman
Organization: Individual
Address: 6699 Makena Rd Kihei, Hawaii
Phone: 808 280 3163
E-mail: [hula~~maui~~@verizon.net](mailto:hulamaui@verizon.net)
Submitted on: 3/29/2010

Comments:

Please support this bill on behalf of Hawaii's environment. Please consider the number of plastic bags on our trees, roadways and in our oceans. This is an important measure which many are passionate about.

Mahalo

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 28, 2010 11:43 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: cuvintu@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jeremiah Demster
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: cuvintu@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2010

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 28, 2010 3:43 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: brian.mackintosh@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brian Mackintosh
Organization: Individual
Address: 1650 Piikoi St., 802 Honolulu, HI
Phone:
E-mail: brian.mackintosh@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2010

Comments:

Passing this bill to reduce the number of plastic bags used in Hawaii would prevent the needless waste associated with their use, help to reduce the degradation to our environment, and set Hawaii apart as an environmentally conscious, desirable location in which to live and do business. Please pass the bill.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 28, 2010 4:25 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: jburmeister33@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jillian Burmeister
Organization: Individual
Address: 5360 Malu Pl HI
Phone: 951 7754739
E-mail: jburmeister33@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2010

Comments:

Aloha members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Jillian Burmeister and I am resident of the Kahala area of Oahu. I strongly support the SB2559 bill because it will help protect the islands of Hawaii by lowering plastic bag waste. I believe that if we pass this bill that we can highly reduce the amount of plastics used in this state. In order to protect our environment and give back to the land that has given us so much we must make an effort to reduce this waste and protect the land for our future.

Mahalo for your time and consideration

Jillian

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2010 10:10 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: psgegen@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Pat Gegen
Organization: Individual
Address: 4015 Waha Road Kalaheo, HI 96741
Phone: 808-635-2081
E-mail: psgegen@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/29/2010

Comments:

Honorable members of the Finance Committee:

I oppose SB2559 as it is currently written for a number of reasons: 1.) 5 cents is not enough to create any sort of significant behavior change, 2.) The money proposed is not earmarked for any sort of environmental / recycling effort to directly remedy the problems created by single use bags, and 3.) Most significantly, Please do not propose a regulation that is regressive compared to the ordinances banning petroleum based single use bags on Kauai and Niihau - the citizens of these counties have been heard by their county councils and followed through with meaningful legislation - PLEASE DO NOT TAKE THIS AWAY!!!

Thank You for this opportunity to testify.
Pat Gegen

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
sent: Monday, March 29, 2010 11:39 AM
to: FINTestimony
Cc: lindaclarebrady@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Categories: Agenda 5

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Linda Brady
Organization: Individual
Address: 633 Liholiho Street Wailuku, HI
Phone: 214-1450
E-mail: lindaclarebrady@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/29/2010

Comments:

This bill promotes environmental health and ethical behavior. I support it completely.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
sent: Monday, March 29, 2010 11:12 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: marybethhamilton@mac.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM
Attachments: Support_for_SB2559.doc

Categories: Agenda 5

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Marybeth Hamilton
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: marybethhamilton@mac.com
Submitted on: 3/29/2010

Comments:

Please pass SB2559 which imposes a fee for disposable check-out bags. It's clear that these bags are bad for the environment in many ways. This small fee would be enough of an incentive (or deterrent depending on how you look at it) to encourage Hawaii residents to remember to bring their reusable bags. Thank you for your time and consideration of the future of our islands.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2010 10:28 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: malexander@goodsill.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Categories: Agenda 5

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Michael H Alexander
Organization: Individual
Address: 98-627 Kuini Street Honolulu HI 96701
Phone: 808-721-3587
E-mail: malexander@goodsill.com
Submitted on: 3/29/2010

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
sent: Monday, March 29, 2010 11:06 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: miyan@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Categories: Agenda 5

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brent & Miya Paul
Organization: Individual
Address: Honolulu, Hawaii
Phone:
E-mail: miyan@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/29/2010

Comments:

Please support SB 2559! It is time the State of Hawai'i places restrictions on waste that is harmful to our natural resources. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2010 11:41 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: JennMarr808@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jenn Marr
Organization: Individual
Address: 1088 Bishop Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: 808-224-1558
E-mail: JennMarr808@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/29/2010

Comments:

I support the ban on plastic bags, because we need to keep our ocean free of plastics and I like to eat fish.

Sincerely,
Jenn Marr

Hearing on SB 2559, SD2 HD1
March 29, 2010, 6pm

To: Chair Oshiro, Vice-Chair Lee, and members of the Finance Committee

From: Robbie Adams, Concerned Citizen

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2559

Dear Honorable Members of the Committee:

Thank you very much for scheduling a hearing for this important bill. The simple fact is that people just do not need so many disposable bags.

By charging five cents for every disposable checkout bag that stores distribute, people will be encouraged to bring reusable bags to shop. And until people stop using disposable bags altogether, three cents will go to the general fund and two cents will go to the businesses from this five-cent fee.

Changing peoples' behavior can be difficult, but people will get used to the change. The benefits to our marine life, the removal of these bags from our landfills, and the reduction of fossil fuels used to make and import these bags, all trump the convenience of always having them available.

Therefore, I support SB 2559 and I hope that you will pass this measure. I would suggest that an increase in the fee be added in the coming years to 10 cents per bag in 2015 and 20 cents per bag in 2020. This will encourage shoppers to bring their own reusable bags even more.

Thank you again for hearing this bill and for taking the time to read my testimony.

Sincerely,

Robbie Adams

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Saturday, March 27, 2010 11:52 AM
fo: FINTestimony
Cc: carmat97@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2010 6:00:00 PM SB2559

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Carolyn
Organization: Individual
Address: Ewa Beach, HI
Phone:
E-mail: carmat97@aol.com
Submitted on: 3/27/2010

Comments:

I support the proposed fee for plastic bags. I think it is a good idea for everyone.