

**SB2559**

**SD1**



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MĀNOA

RL: 2263

SB 2559 SD1  
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations  
Public Hearing – February 23, 2010  
10:00 a.m., State Capitol, Conference Room 016

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

SB 2559 SD1 requires retailers in the State to distribute only recyclable, reusable, or biodegradable checkout bags. Our statement on this measure does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

This legislation encourages the use of recyclable and biodegradable plastic and paper bags by large retail outlets. The use of biodegradable plastic or paper bags may be an overall plus for the environment; however, there are still many problems with reliance on recyclable or biodegradable plastic and paper bags. First of all, providing a recyclable bag is no guarantee that a consumer will in fact recycle it and providing a biodegradable bag does not ensure that this bag will be composted. An EPA study indicates that only about 5 percent of plastic bags used in the nation are recycled.

Biodegradable plastic bags break down best under specific conditions, usually as part of a composting program. If these composting programs do not exist, then these bags may end up in a landfill. If buried in the landfill where the mix of oxygen and water may not be optimal, they may take years or even decades to degrade. Furthermore, although these bags may eventually biodegrade in a landfill, they will not biodegrade in usable compost, but will likely be contaminated by other materials present. Even composted correctly, these bags take up to 18 months to degrade. If they escape into the environment, they can still hang around for months caught in trees, blocking drainage ditches or ending up in the nearshore waters.

Use of reusable cloth bags addresses the problems caused by the use and handling of single use plastic bags without the down sides of the biodegradable bags. The problem is getting people to switch to using reusable bags. Ireland seems to have found a way to do this. In 2002

they passed the first country wide plastic bag tax. The aim of the tax was not to raise revenue, though it did raise 9.6 million in its first year, but to change people's behavior. In that area it was a great success. The tax resulted in a 90 percent drop in the use of plastic bags, from 1.2 billion annually to about 230,000 today. Hawaii would do well to look into implementing a similar program.

Another way to proceed is to copy the City of San Francisco. The San Francisco City Council banned the use of plastic bags for carry out retail in 2007. The ordinance is the first such law in any city in the United States and has been drawing global scrutiny to see how it works. The city banned hard-to-recycle plastic bags in grocery stores, and so far, that translates into 5 million fewer plastic bags every month.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.



Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair  
Senator Dwight Takamine, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary & Government Operations  
State Capitol, Honolulu, HI 96813

HEARING Tuesday, February 23, 2010  
10:00 am  
Conference Room 016

RE: **SB 2559, SD1, Relating to Environmental Protection**

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Takamine and Committee Members;

Retail Merchants of Hawaii (RMH) is a not-for-profit trade organization representing 200 members statewide and over 2,000 storefronts, and is committed to supporting the retail industry and business in general in Hawaii.

**RMH strongly opposes SB 2559, SD1** which requires retailers in the state to distribute only reusable or biodegradable checkout bags.

Hawaii's retailers absolutely support initiatives to preserve and protect our environment. The solution to the plastic bag issue is not prohibition of recyclable bags, but in the **wise management** of this resource, i.e., the "**reduce, reuse and recycle**" principle. We unquestionably encourage the broadest use of reusable tote bags as the ultimate solution, and have been proactive in providing these for our customers. However, we do know that consumers' acceptance and use of these bags will not be universal or practical at all times and the industry must provide an alternative.

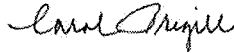
Plastic bags provided by retailers today are recyclable, and many retailers provide convenient recycle bins at their locations. The stated purpose of this bill is to reduce the production of waste via a reduction in the use of single-use plastic checkout bags, yet the focus is specific to the bags provided by certain businesses at checkout and ignores the multitude of plastic bags available for sale. Our customers report that they reuse their plastic grocery bags for everyday household tasks like lining waste baskets and sanitary cleaning up after pets. If these free bags are not available, consumers undoubtedly will purchase plastic bags for these uses.

As iterated in the description of this measure, the only other alternative is biodegradable plastic bags. The most basic concern for Hawaii's consumers is cost – biodegradable bags are far more expensive than the recyclable plastic currently being distributed at checkout. In doing some research on the Internet, we have discovered other concerns with biodegradable products. First, there is the uncertainty about the negative impact on the availability of corn as a food source as this commodity is diverted into production of the quantities of biodegradable bags required to supply the marketplace. Secondly, there are concerns with the biodegradation process in modern landfills, where garbage must be compacted. Will these bags be exposed to sufficient amounts of air and water to complete the biodegradation process or will they just add to the landfill?

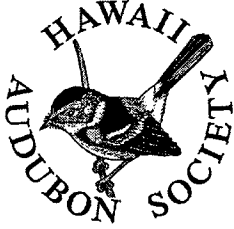
This measure does not prohibit paper bags, and as in those cities which have banned plastic bags, Hawaii's retailers will switch to recyclable paper bags for their customers purchases. But this alternative comes at considerably high cost, not only in the actual purchase price of paper bags, but also in increased costs to ship these bags to Hawaii. For every one container that delivers plastic bags, seven containers are needed to deliver the same number of paper bags; this volume measure is critical for ocean freight. Ultimately, these costs must and will be passed on to the consumer. Additionally, there are serious environmental impacts of air and water pollution and green house gas emissions with this alternative. Paper bags generate 70% more air and 50 times more water pollutants than plastic bags.

We respectfully submit for your consideration a comprehensive recycling program that prescribes that retailers provide: 1) visible and accessible collection bins for recycling; 2) reusable bags for purchase and use in lieu of plastic; 3) education via recycling messages printed on recyclable bags; and 4) that the collected plastic bags are recycled. An informal survey of our larger members revealed that collectively 10,000 tons of cardboard and plastic (bags and shrink-wrap) were shipped to the mainland for recycling last year.

Our mutual goals are to maximize the usage of reusable bags, to provide plastic bags to consumers for their personal, practical uses, and to recycle the excess bags, without over-burdening our residents. Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



Carol Pregill, President



*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

February 22, 2010

**Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations**

**Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair**

**Senator Dwight Takamine, Vice Chair**

**Hearing: Tuesday, February 23, 2010; 10:00 A.M., Conference Rm. 016**

**Re: SB2559, SD1, Relating to Environmental Protection**

**Testimony in Support**

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Takamine and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations. On behalf of the Hawaii Audubon Society I would offer this testimony in support of SB2559, SD1, which would require retailers in the State to distribute only reusable or biodegradable checkout bags.

The Hawaii Audubon Society was founded in 1939, and has over 1,500 active members statewide. 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.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency in 2001 estimated that U.S. plastic bag, sack, and wrap consumption, somewhere between 500 billion and a trillion plastic bags are consumed worldwide each year. Of those, millions end up in the litter stream outside of landfills. The use of plastic bags has meant a dramatic increase in the amount of sacks found floating in the oceans where they choke, strangle, and starve wildlife and raft alien species around the world.

In Hawaii Green sea turtles, as well as other sea turtles, are fully protected under both the federal Endangered Species Act, and Hawaii state law. In Hawaii plastic bags has proven deadly to sea turtles when they become entangle or are mistaken for food, jellyfish, and ingested.

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

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

Sincerely,

George Massengale, JD  
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

Tuesday, February 23, 2010 @ 10:00 a.m. in CR 016

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi Chair  
Senator Dwight Y. Takamine, Vice Chair

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

Re: SB 2559 SD1 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Chairs & Committee Members:

We oppose this bill as not being the realistic solution to the problem, but rather being a solution to the symptom. While we recognize that we cannot continue to continually pump millions of bags into the economy, we feel that the provisions of this bill do not attack the problem. The use of all single purpose bags must be reduced.

While litter is the visible sign of a problem, we identify the issue as follows:

- While consumers are paying more attention to the 3 Rs, we need to do much more in educating consumers of their responsibility in this area; and
- While we are recycling, we are missing the main issue where we have the opportunity to move forward with sustainability by utilizing our waste to generate energy, which will provide a solution to our landfills becoming landfills.

Our industry was given the challenge to create a solution on paper that would address this issue. We came up with the following:

### HFIA's Proposal

HFIA is proposing that the Legislature impose an ADF (Advance Disposal Fee) on all single use bags used at retail establishments at the rate of one cent per bag regardless of size, payable to the State, with 90% of the revenues distributed to each county based on a de facto population earmarked to fund education to encourage bad use reduction, reuse and recycling, as well as Waste to Energy projects that will utilize or divert landfill waste. County funding would be contingent upon legislative preemption of existing or proposed county ordinances relating to the subject matter.

With landfills becoming landfills, we believe the future will include mining our landfills for a source of energy. The best example of this is plastic has approximately the same British thermal unit (BTU or Btu) as does oil. Yet we are landfilling it when we could be reducing our consumption of imported oil by using all products packaged in plastic as energy. We need to use 5% of the funding for long range planning to ultimately reduce our landfills by mining them as a source of energy, and to study a means of separating plastic prior to entering our landfill to be used as a strategic energy reserve.

Require 5% of the total revenues generated from the ADF to educate consumers on the importance of:

- Reducing single use bag consumption;
- Reusing bags for other purposes such as wet waste, trash, lunch bags, etc.;
- Promoting reusable bag use by consumers; and

- Recycling of all types of bags, whether they are compostable, biodegradable, regular plastic, or paper.

Bags are a very small part of environmental challenges. They are however what people see, and thus are the target. You now have the choices of addressing the issue of bags creating litter, or addressing the future by helping create a Hawaii where the packaging used to import what we consume is also a part of our energy source.

Adopting the provisions of SB 2559 SD1 will provide some immediate gratification. However, we are already seeing less bag litter because of what our stores are already doing, such as:

- Paying customers for using their own reusable bags;
- Creating recycling bins for consumers to take not only plastic bags, but other plastics for recycling;
- Selling or giving away reusable bags and encouraging customers to use them; and
- Using compostable and/or biodegradable bags.

While it is not practical for all tourists to bring their own to the store when they shop, the impact that we are currently seeing is in the right direction. But, it only addresses the bag part of our larger environmental challenges.

Many may not realize that throwing away 'PLASTIC' is throwing away a ready fuel source. Plastic is primarily petroleum and burns with high efficiency. Plastic in HPOWER or Waste To Energy plants makes sense, since it helps generate heat needed to address other waste with a lower Btu.

With respect to the HFIA Proposal, what we are offering is a concept that will have:

- Minimal cost to consumer avoiding cost pass through;
- Simplified collection and distribution of funds that will help counties build a Waste to Energy infrastructure;
- Provide revenues to educate consumers on their responsibility; and
- Provide research for a strategic energy reserve, and a means of mining our landfills so as to reduce their size in future years.

What is most interesting about HFIA's proposal, is that it was created by grocery retailers and their suppliers as competitors. They avoided attacking each other as competitors to address the common goals of everyone as citizens of Hawaii. Of course we did have legal counsel present to monitor our discussions.

The Energy Values Of Different Materials When Incinerated\*

Material	**BTU per pound
Plastics	11,000-20,000
Rubber	10,900
Newspaper	8,000
Corrugated Boxes (paper)	7,000
Yard Wastes	3,000
Food Wastes	2,600
Average for MSW	4,500 - 4,800





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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2010 8:08 AM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Cc:** specialistpsgirl@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2559 on 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JGO 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2559

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Kellie Meyer  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [specialistpsgirl@yahoo.com](mailto:specialistpsgirl@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/22/2010

**Comments:**

I am in support of the ban on plastic bags. My family and I frequently visit different beaches all over the Kamehameha Hwy., and it has been my sad experience that our beautiful ocean is filled with a plethora of plastic bags. These bags travel all around the Hawaiian islands. Although, plastic is not biodegradable it does shrink over time eventually being confused by much our marine life for food. As a result, much of our sea life, let's not forget our endangered species, are plasticing. I myself have been confused by rubbish in the water and along the seashore. Clean ups are a wonderful way to clean up our ocean, and education on keeping our 'aina healthy should never stop; however, there is a pitfall to using this methods alone: you cannot force people to sit and listen or watch and pay attention to educational materials, and many tourists just don't care. Moreover, it would be near impossible to enforce mandatory district cleanups. Banning plastic bags would be so much easier. Sure it might take some time to catch on, and it would take time to repair damage, but this would be so beneficial especially for our sea life, but for the rest of the Hawaiian islands as well.

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**From:** Douglas Perrine [douglassperrine@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2010 8:10 AM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of SB 2559, SD1

Please pass SB 2559. A small fee will force consumers to think about whether they really need these little killers that assassinate wildlife and pollute our own environment. Plastic bags are never free. Currently the cost is being born by the retailers who give them out, by taxpayers who pay to have them disposed of, and by the environment and other species with which we share this planet that suffers so much from our poor stewardship.

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Senator Dwight Y. Takamine, Vice-Chair  
Judiciary and Government Operations Committee

Deborah Millikan  
millikan@hawaii.edu  
3022 Hibiscus Dr.  
Honolulu, HI 96815

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Support for S.B. No. 2559, S.D.1, Relating to Environmental Protection (through a ban on non-biodegradable plastic bags)

I am a mother of two young children and I am amazed by how easily they have recognized the devastating effects of plastic bags on the environment. They ride their bikes to school daily and see plastic bags blowing towards the ocean or trapped on trees and fences. They are quick to point out that these bags might end up in the ocean and eaten by marine life, and they are appalled by the ugly mess to our environment. They will often ask to stop and pick them up. At the checkout line, these young citizens are quick to reply, "no thank you" to the checker offering a plastic bag, "We don't need one". If a five and seven-year old can make it seem so easy, can't we as adult citizens do the same?

For many reasons, this ban on one-time use plastic bags is necessary:

- Plastic bags contribute to our growing trash problem
- Plastic bags are used once and sometimes for less than five minutes
- Plastic bags pose a threat to avian and marine life in Hawaii
- Plastic bags are manufactured from a polluting resource that is becoming more scarce
- Plastic bags contribute to pollution in our community, and
- Plastic bags are unnecessary, other options are available and convenient

Please discourage their use by banning large retailers from giving them away. I believe that by passing SB 2559, we will increase awareness in our communities about the devastating and costly effects of one-time use plastic bags.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this crucial bill.

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**From:** writtenword@hawaii.rr.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 21, 2010 2:17 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of SB 2559, SD1

*Single-use plastic bags are not a part of Hawai`i's sustainable future. They add to our growing opala (trash) problem and pose a threat to avian and marine life in Hawai`i. Please discourage their continued use by banning large retailers from giving them away or by requiring a small fee for each plastic bag.*

*Pass pass SB 2559*

*Linda Staton  
[writtenword@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:writtenword@hawaii.rr.com)*

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**From:** Michele Nihipali [nihipalim001@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 21, 2010 1:58 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of SB 2559, SD1

*Single-use plastic bags are not a part of Hawai`i's sustainable future. They add to our growing opala (trash) problem and pose a threat to avian and marine life in Hawai`i. Please discourage their continued use by banning large retailers from giving them away or by requiring a small fee for each plastic bag. I bring my own bags when I shop and I am amazed at the number of plastic bags being used. The H-Power plant has plenty of trash to burn without the addition of plastic bags. Reducing the number of plastic bags in Hawaii's environment will help not only avian and marine life but, will encourage residents to reduce, reuse and recycle. Personally, I won't have to pick up all the plastic bags that blow in my yard from the road. I average about 3-4 per day. Thank you,*

*Michele Nihipali  
54-074 A Kam Hwy  
Hauula, HI 96717  
293-1522*

*Pass pass SB 2559.*

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**From:** charlie taylor [chuckt5@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 21, 2010 1:20 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of SB 2559, SD1

In my humble opinion, the pervasiveness of plastics in our ocean is an environmental issue as serious as the threat of global warming.

Plastics never fully biodegrade, but instead break down into smaller and smaller particles. These plastic particles pass up the food chain, first through microscopic organisms, and then up to larger predatory fish (and eventually, to humans). The implication of this bioaccumulation of plastics into the tissues of marine animals and humans is not fully known, but many scientists fear it may have grave consequences on marine ecosystems on a macro-level. Furthermore, countless whales, turtles, and birds die from plastic bag ingestion every year, mistaking the bags for jellyfish and squid.

Human civilization has existed for thousands of years without plastic bags and can definitely continue without them. The idea that plastic bags represent "progress" because they are inexpensive and seemingly infinite is a dangerous and irresponsible mentality.

We owe it to our children and the countless generations to come to leave our oceans clean and healthy.

Hawaii, as an ocean and coastal community, is directly affected by the wastefulness of single-use plastic bags, as they wind up in the ocean around us. We need strong political will to stand up to the petro-chemical industry lobbyists who try to keep our citizens addicted to plastic bags. They value short-term profit over long-term sustainability and try to frame the issue of a tax on plastic bags as

one that is "anti-business". This could not be further from the truth. A plastic bag tax or ban is business neutral and, more importantly, pro-health and pro-environment. Hawaii should set an example for the rest of the states to follow.

Please pass SB 2559.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Charlie Taylor  
Director, Environmental Law Society  
William S. Richardson School of Law  
University of Hawaii, at Manoa

--  
Charlie Taylor  
J.D. Candidate 2011  
University of Hawaii  
William S. Richardson School of Law

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**From:** Susan Stayton [Susan.Stayton@Rare-Dear.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 21, 2010 1:31 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of SB 2559, SD1

Dear Legislators,

*Single-use plastic bags are not a part of Hawai`i's sustainable future. They add to our growing litter problem and pose a threat to avian and marine life in Hawai`I and the rest of the world. Please discourage their continued use by banning large retailers from giving them away or by requiring a small fee for each plastic bag.*

*Please pass SB 2559.*

Sincerely,  
Susan Stayton

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Susan Stayton  
Client Services           808) 651-9070 cell  
HulaRez Services, LLC   808) 335-6025 direct  
PO Box 408  
Kalaheo, HI 96741       [www.hulaREZ.com](http://www.hulaREZ.com)

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**From:** Mary Spadaro [mlspadaro@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 21, 2010 1:29 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of SB 2559, SD1

I would prefer to see a total ban on petroleum derived plastic backs and take-out containers. However, in the absence of such a ban, I think we should at least pass SB2559 and SD1 to impose a fee on plastic bags as a first step in reducing their proliferation into our waste stream and/or pollutants in our atmosphere when the bags are burned in HPower.

Sincerely,  
Mary Spadaro  
Honolulu, 96822  
533-2172



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**From:** K Tyson [KTYSON@HAWAII.RR.COM]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 21, 2010 1:37 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of SB 2559, SD1

This is one more voter, urging. no demanding your vote, for the assurance of mine, next election,, on SB 2559.  
Katherine C. Tyson, Hawaii resident for more than 60 years,  
4073 Round Top Dr, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822  
Ph. 808 941 1476 Dem.

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**From:** Bobby [mcbobby@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 21, 2010 1:43 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of SB 2559, SD1

*Single-use plastic bags are not a part of Hawai`i's sustainable future. They add to our growing opala (trash) problem and pose a threat to avian and marine life in Hawai`i. Please discourage their continued use by banning large retailers from giving them away or by requiring a small fee for each plastic bag.*

*Thank you for your time,  
Bobby McClintock, Honolulu, HI*

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**From:** Brian Bell [reachbrianbell@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 20, 2010 1:56 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony

Aloha,

I'm writing today to support the ban on free and non-reusable plastic bag use. I support SB 2559 and suggest that the fee language from [HB 2125](#) be included in this bill. As you know, plastic bags are a scourge upon our natural resources and planet. Below is a short list of reasons we should regulate their use:

- Plastic bags contribute to litter and pose a consistent threat to avian and marine life in Hawai'i -- the endangered species Capitol of the world;
- Plastic bags are manufactured from a polluting resource that is becoming increasingly scarce;
- Plastic bags contribute to a growing trash problem on all our islands and foible the State's waste diversion efforts;
- Americans **throw away nearly 100 billion plastic bags** each year and only 0.6 percent of plastic bags are recycled.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

Best,

Brian Bell

808-227-7087

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**From:** Victoria B. Anderson [vanderso@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 21, 2010 2:28 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of SB 2559, SD1

SB 2559 is a good idea. Please discourage the use of plastic bags by requiring a fee for each plastic bag.

--

Victoria Anderson  
Associate Professor of Linguistics  
University of Hawai`i at Manoa  
[http://www2.hawaii.edu/~vanderso/  
vanderso@hawaii.edu](http://www2.hawaii.edu/~vanderso/vanderso@hawaii.edu)  
Office: 808-956-5830  
FAX: 808-956-9166

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**From:** Judy [judy\_judyjudy@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 21, 2010 2:33 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of SB 2559, SD1

Pass pass SB 2559, to reduce pollution through reducing plastic bag consumption.

Thank you.

Judith Powelson  
2344 Kapiolani Blvd. Apt. 8  
Honolulu, HI 96826-4300

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**From:** Devaki [devaki@hawaiian.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 21, 2010 3:26 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of SB 2559, SD1

Please ban single use plastic bags from all retailers.

Hawaii should be committed to eliminating this form of land & Ocean pollution which endangers our sealife and our planet.

Please pass SB 2559

Devaki Holman

[devaki@hawaiian.net](mailto:devaki@hawaiian.net)

Home Office (808) 826-9990

Cell Phone (808) 635-6660

VRBO.COM/18278

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**From:** Phyllis Frus, Ph.D. [pfrus@hpu.edu]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 21, 2010 3:30 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** SD1

As someone who picks up plastic bags all over Waikiki, I say it is time to get rid of single-use plastic bags. They add to our growing opala (trash) problem and pose a threat to avian and marine life in Hawai`i. Please discourage their continued use by banning large retailers from giving them away or by requiring a small fee for each plastic bag.

Recycling is not the answer. We assume the public won't flush the toilet and provide automatic-flushing toilets; why do we assume they will re-use their plastic bags, which are given as freely as though they don't cost anything. And yet the cost is enormous--to marine life and to the scenery, to landfill and because they use oil.

Pass pass SB 2559.

Thank you.  
Phyllis Frus  
445 Seaside Ave  
Honolulu, HI 96815

As the owner of Rainbow Watersports Adventures, I highly support the ban of one-use plastic bags and non-recyclable paper bags. Since May 2009 we have sponsored monthly cleanups of the historic Anahulu Stream in Haleiwa. We free the river and the ocean of MANY PLASTIC GROCERY BAGS every time we go out...and that is only one morning per month!! It is scary to imagine how many bags travel into our ocean without us!!! Please ban these "ocean killers".

I have lived in Taiwan where plastic bags were banned, and I found it easy to shop and carry products without the use of plastic bags, and it drastically reduced the amount of trash. Also, please take extra precaution before allowing "biodegradable" plastic bags. Through my research, I have found that there is no such thing; the bags that claim to be such still contain harmful plastics that do not decompose.



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**From:** Marjorie Erway [merway@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 21, 2010 11:24 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of SB 2559, SD1

Aloha JGO Committee members!

Please vote in support of SB 2559, and help stop one threat to birds and marine life, here in Hawaii. Besides that, single-use plastic bags add greatly to our trash problem on all islands and need to be banned from being given away by large retailers. Single-use plastic bags are NOT a part of Hawai'i's sustainable future.

Please pass SB 2559.

Mahalo,  
Marjorie Erway  
PO Box 2807  
Kailua Kona, HI 96745  
808-324-4624

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**From:** Eileen Gawrys [eg@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 21, 2010 9:59 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of SB 2559, SD1

Please ban single use plastic bags for large retailers, including convenience stores and take out restaurants. At the very least, charge the consumer for each plastic bag.

Plastic is forever. In our land, our ocean, our fish, our food.

I would also like to see the farmers markets post signs requesting folks to bring their own reusable bags.

Sincerely,  
Eileen gawrys

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**From:** BAMHM [mmhope2000@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 21, 2010 9:40 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of SB 2559, SD1

Please pass SB 2559 regarding charging a fee for plastic bags being distributed at large retail stores. It is a huge problem and too many end up not being recycled or hurt our precious marine life. Please help those who cannot speak for themselves and make it mandatory for retailers to either ban the plastic or charge a fee since bringing our own bags does not seem to be working.. Thank you for your support and aloha

barb manni

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**From:** Alma [amcgoldrick@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 21, 2010 9:25 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of SB 2559, SD1

*Single-use plastic bags are not a part of Hawai`i's sustainable future. They add to our growing opala (trash) problem and pose a threat to avian and marine life in Hawai`i. Please discourage their continued use by banning large retailers from giving them away or by requiring a small fee for each plastic bag.*

*Pass pass SB 2559.*

*I recommend that retailers give out canvas reusable bags, with their name on them as advertising if they want, to their customers as many as four per customer, and refuse to use plastic bags at all. Over the year they would probably save money that they would have spent on all the plastic bags that they would have bought. Alma McGoldrick*

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**From:** barbara george [barbarageorge40@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 21, 2010 8:48 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of SB 2559, SD1

Please ensure passage of Senate Bill 2559. Plastic bags are a menace, from start to finish, especially in an island environment such as here in Hawaii. Make sure we get on board, no, LEAD the nation and the world, and eliminate the use of single-use plastic bags. No more injured or killed sea creatures, no more ugly pollution. Pass SB 2559!!

Barbara L. George  
59-066 Kumupali Rd.  
Haleiwa, HI 96712

---

**From:** Myah [myah.ely@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 21, 2010 8:32 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of SB 2559, SD1

How are plastic bags a benefit to the environment, these beautiful islands, in any way? They are a cheap, man-made nuisance that lingers for countless years in the environment and have caused numerous deaths to our endangered species. They are easily & conveniently replaced with the use of reusable cloth bags, which create zero waste. Please discourage the use of plastic bags by banning large retailers from giving them away or by requiring a small fee for each one.

Please pass SB 2559.

Myah Ely

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 21, 2010 7:54 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Cc:** joancraft@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2559 on 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JGO 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2559

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Joan Craft  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 535A Kuaaina Way Kailua HI  
Phone: 808 864-0079  
E-mail: [joancraft@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:joancraft@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/21/2010

**Comments:**

Honorable Committee members,

I am writing in strong support of this measure. Banning and or limiting plastic and non reusable shopping bags will help protect our environment. Thank you again for considering this measure

Joan A. Craft R.N.  
State of Hawaii Registered Voter.

---

**From:** jgoett9422@aol.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 21, 2010 7:45 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of SB 2559, SD1

I am totally in support of the effort to move away from dispensing plastic bags. I am an avid scuba diver and help several times a year to round up ocean debris that collects under water along our beaches and shoreline on the Hilo side of the Big Island. In addition to plastic bottles and bottle caps, plastic bags are always there. Many turtles and larger ocean creatures will consume these bag thinking they are a food item. Then they starve because these bags stay in their stomachs, don't get digested, and make the animal feel full. They therefore starve because they don't eat when they feel full.

Since we seem to run into opposition to banning them, why not either 1) force stores to use the biodegradable bags, or 2) put a fee on them to customers who must have them. While you are at it, run some community service ads toward showing what is in the guts of dead sea animals that are found.

Please make a concerted effort to DO something about this ugly problem!

Julia D Goettsch  
15-2810 Puhi St.  
Pahoa, HI 96778

808-965-9966

PS....you should see the collection of items "found" by dive shop owner Bill DeRooy of Nautilus Dive on Kamehameha Ave. in Hilo. I know he would be glad to show you. He keeps what he find each year to show people. It is totally amazing and shocking!



---

**From:** Lisa [lginardi@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 21, 2010 7:04 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of SB 2559, SD1

YES, YES! This is 100% the right step for all of Hawaii. Here on Big Island, we've tried unsuccessfully multiple times to institute a ban on the bags. However, that is a big step to ask. This bill -- in the style of San Francisco, where it is quite easily implemented and successful -- is a necessary step to malama our aina.

Please please please pass this bill and reduce Hawaii's carbon footprint as well as reduce its trash problem. If folks want to continue to ignore the problem then let them pay for it!

Big mahalos,  
Lisa Ginardi  
Kailua Kona

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 21, 2010 7:17 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Cc:** kynolive@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2559 on 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JGO 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2559

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: nancy ravelo  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 2190 analu Kua;apuu, Hawaii  
Phone: 808-489-3181  
E-mail: [kynolive@yahoo.com](mailto:kynolive@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/21/2010

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 21, 2010 7:12 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Cc:** mike@mikestrada.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2559 on 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JGO 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2559

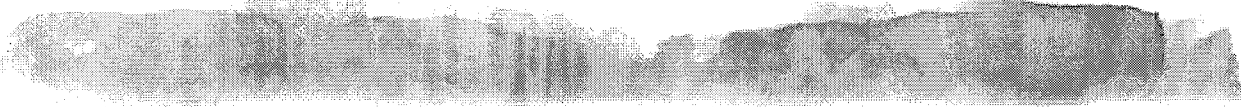
Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Michael Strada  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 25 Wilikoki Place Kailua, HI 96734  
Phone: 375-7473  
E-mail: [mike@mikestrada.com](mailto:mike@mikestrada.com)  
Submitted on: 2/21/2010

**Comments:**

Folks, really can't believe we are still debating this issue. I sail and paddle a lot, and as I get near shore, it looks like a bunch of plastic jellyfish below me. Enough of the degradation to the aina! Aloha.

---

**From:** C Blue [cblue808@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 21, 2010 6:18 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony  
**Attachments:** --static--bamboo\_bc.jpg; --static--bamboo\_c.gif; --static--bamboo\_tc.jpg



*Single-use plastic bags are not a part of Hawai`i's sustainable future. They add to our growing opala (trash) problem and pose a threat to avian and marine life in Hawai`i. Please discourage their continued use by banning large retailers from giving them away or by requiring a small fee for each plastic bag.*

*Pass pass SB 2559.*

***Cheri Bluefarb***

***I love my community and I vote.***

---

**From:** Laurie & Bob Kerr [lauriebob@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 21, 2010 5:56 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of SB 2559, SD1

Single-use plastic bags are not a part of Hawai`i's sustainable future. They add to our growing trash problem and pose a threat to birds, mammals and marine life in Hawai`i. Please discourage their continued use by banning large retailers from giving them away.

Please pass pass SB 2559.

Laurie and Bob Kerr

---

**From:** asmaragirl@aol.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 21, 2010 5:56 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of SB 2559, SD1

Please disallow the use of plastic bags as their lethal effect on marine life has been demonstrated over and over again. There is NO reason whatsoever to continue their use as they also contribute to pollution of the environment. They are just one of a long list of superfluous products that we can easily do without.1

Thank you,

Claudia Gerbaulet  
26 Pea Place  
Kula,HI 96790

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 21, 2010 5:44 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Cc:** carolphilips1@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2559 on 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JGO 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2559

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Carol Philips  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 66-008C Kamehameha Hwy Haleiwa, Hi 96712  
Phone: 808-637-2977  
E-mail: [carolphilips1@gmail.com](mailto:carolphilips1@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/21/2010

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Committee Members,

I'm a lifelong resident of the North Shore of Oahu, and have been blessed to spend a lot of time in the ocean. I'm very aware of the ever increasing amount of plastic in our oceans and natural environment. I writing to respectfully ask you to pass this measure out of committee because there is a good alternative in reusable bags and because of the harm plastic bags do to our marine environment. If you are in doubt as to the extent of plastic on our beaches and in our waters, I urge you to walk along the beach on the East Side of Oahu, take your time and look closely. You will see thousand and thousands of tiny pieces of plastic. This plastic is also in our oceans and food supply. Anything we can do as a society to reduce the amount of plastics in our environment will have positive long term effects on our health and economy.

Sincerely,

Carol Philips

---

**From:** michaelgenger@juno.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 21, 2010 5:41 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of SB 2559, SD1

Aloha, Single-use plastic bags are not a part of Hawai`i's sustainable future. They add to our growing opala (trash) problem and pose a threat to avian and marine life in Hawai`i. Please discourage their continued use by banning large retailers from giving them away or by requiring a small fee for each plastic bag.

Pass pass SB 2559.

Love the Earth, Kindness to All, Michael



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**From:** Tom Tizard [tizard8@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 21, 2010 5:33 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of SB 2559, SD1

*Single-use plastic bags are not a part of Hawai`i's sustainable future. They add to our growing opala problem and pose a threat to avian and marine life in Hawai`i.*

*Please discourage their continued use by banning large retailers from giving them away or by requiring a small fee for each plastic bag.*

*Pass pass SB 2559 (and let's make it effective SOON).*

*Thank you,*

*T.J. Tizard  
591-A Ke'olu Dr.  
Kailua, HI 96734*

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**From:** Christine Ahia [cahia@hawaiiintel.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 21, 2010 4:14 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of SB 2559, SD1

Aloha Senators,

Plastic bag pollution continues to threaten our avian and marine life, and has increased in recent years. We need to put a stop to this.

At the beaches I always can find numerous plastic bags trashed by foliage or carried off by the wind over the water. We need to take responsibility and examine ways to reduce or ban their usage.

Hawai'i County was unable to pass legislation to limit/halt plastic bag usage, so it's even more important that the State takes action. Please discourage continued usage of plastic bags by banning retailers from giving them away to customers, or by requiring a five cent fee for each plastic bag handed out. Please also consider that these bags should carry warnings on them about proper disposal and littering fines.

Please support SB 2559.  
Mahalo for your assistance,

Christine Ahia  
Hilo, HI

---

**From:** 4hb61@earthlink.net  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 21, 2010 4:26 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Please pass SB 2559

*Single-use plastic bags are not a part of Hawai`i's sustainable future. They add to our growing opala (trash) problem and pose a threat to avian and marine life in Hawai`i, in the Pacific Ocean at large, and around the globe. Please discourage their continued use by banning large retailers from giving them away altogether and/or by requiring a substantial fee (e.g. 15c) for each plastic bag.*

*Please pass SB 2559.*

Heatherbell Fong  
3241 Wawae Road  
Kalaheo HI 96741  
[4hb61@earthlink.net](mailto:4hb61@earthlink.net)

Metaphor of the month: O may my heart's truth/ Still be sung/ On this high hill in a year's turning. --Dylan Thomas

---

**From:** dacaccia@aol.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 21, 2010 4:41 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of SB 2559, SD1

I think that both plastic and paper bags should cost 10 cents. This would encourage people to use canvas sacks to take their food home.

David Caccia

---

**From:** Judy Wormington [jbwormington@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 21, 2010 4:00 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of SB 2559, SD1

*Single-use plastic bags are not a part of Hawaii`i's sustainable future. They add to our growing opala (trash) problem and pose a threat to avian and marine life in Hawaii`i. Please discourage their continued use by banning large retailers from giving them away. We must protect our wild life and waters that are threatened by these plastic bags and ensure that we can enjoy this beautiful state, and that it will remain so for and the generations to come.*

*Pass SB 2559. Mahalo.*

*Judy Wormington [jawormington@hotmail.com](mailto:jawormington@hotmail.com)*

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2010 7:56 AM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Cc:** [iwihahine@iwikupuna.com](mailto:iwihahine@iwikupuna.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2559 on 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JGO 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2559

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Kaiulani Huff  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 6165 Alapaki Rd Kapaa, Hi  
Phone: 8083460975  
E-mail: [iwihahine@iwikupuna.com](mailto:iwihahine@iwikupuna.com)  
Submitted on: 2/22/2010

Comments:  
I support the ban.

---

**From:** Eva Hillman [Ehillman@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2010 7:59 AM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of SB 2559, SD1

*To Whom It may Concern:*

*Single-use plastic bags are not a part of Hawaii's sustainable future. They create more trash for our landfills and pose a threat to bird and marine life. This is a simple step our state can take to protect our resources with little inconvenience to consumers.*

*Please discourage the continued use of single-use plastic bags by banning large retailers from giving them away or by requiring a small fee for each plastic bag.*

*Please pass SB 2559.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Eva Hillman  
Big Island, Hawaii*

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2010 7:33 AM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Cc:** corey.b.shaffer@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2559 on 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JGO 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2559

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Corey Shaffer  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 68-036 Apuhihi Street, Apt. C Waialua, HI  
Phone: 808-292-0031  
E-mail: [corey.b.shaffer@gmail.com](mailto:corey.b.shaffer@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/22/2010

Comments:



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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2010 8:24 AM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Cc:** davehomcy@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2559 on 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JGO 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2559

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Dave Homcy  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 59-059 Kahae Rd. Haleiwa, Hawaii  
Phone: 8083721718  
E-mail: [davehomcy@gmail.com](mailto:davehomcy@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/22/2010

**Comments:**

I support the ban on single-use plastic checkout bags and non-recyclable paper checkout bags.

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2010 8:23 AM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Cc:** cravegreens@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2559 on 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JGO 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2559

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Crystal Thornburg  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 59-059 Kahae Rd. Haleiwa, Hawaii  
Phone: 8083871722  
E-mail: [cravegreens@gmail.com](mailto:cravegreens@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/22/2010

**Comments:**

I support the ban on single-use plastic checkout bags and non-recyclable paper checkout bags.

---

**From:** kathryn cablay [kathrynsfc@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2010 6:41 AM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony

Aloha,

Please disallow the use of plastic bags as they are harmful to our environment and wildlife. You might consider rewarding stores that give credits for using your own cloth bags, thus further saving our environment by not using trees!

Mahalo,

Kathrynb Cablay

---

**From:** Hawai'i Geographic Society [hawaiigeographicsociety@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2010 8:46 AM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of SB 2559, SD1

I am a single voter, who happens to be associated with a not-for-profit organization of people interested in geography. While this organization surely holds separate and individual opinions, we do NOT endorse collectively. This is from an individual.

Plastic bags are a curse! As a non-car-owner, I ride TheBus or walk to all of my appointments, destinations, and work sites. The sight of plastic bags caught in bushes, blowing down the street, etc. etc is as disgusting as it is sad. With stores like LONGS committed to "double bagging" virtually any purchase, the volume of plastic bags dispensed is increasing daily.

ONE way to reduce this environmental impact is a fee for EACH plastic bag. People wishing to avoid this charge will consider BYOB (Bringing Your Own Bag) to the stores. Also the insistence by food purveyors of putting EACH individual produce choice into a separate plastic bag would be reduced by a fee-per-bag used. Those of us who shop at farmers' markets, bring out own bags, and put everything inside....the retail stores should do no less.

Please give serious consideration to reducing trash waste, to reducing plastic (a petrochemical product) consumption, and to making Hawai'i a cleaner place.

Prof Willis H A Moore  
49 S Hotel Street  
P O Box 37214  
Honolulu HI 96837-0214  
808-521-7779

--  
Established in 1947 as Kiwanis World Adventure Tour Society of Hawai'i,  
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1-800-538-3950 = USA  
808-538-3952 = worldwide

---

**From:** Pam Princenthal [pam@airiaq.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2010 9:02 AM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of SB 2559, SD1  
**Attachments:** AirCare Logo.jpg

*Single-use plastic bags are not a part of Hawai`i's sustainable future. They add to our growing opala (trash) problem and pose a threat to avian and marine life in Hawai`i. Please discourage their continued use by banning large retailers from giving them away or by requiring a small fee for each plastic bag. This is for our ocean friends.*

**Mahalo, and Breathe Easy!**

**Pam Princenthal**

AirCare Environmental Services, Inc.  
1020 Auahi St. #4120  
Honolulu, HI 96814  
808-593-9600 Office  
808-589-1664 Fax  
[pam@airiaq.com](mailto:pam@airiaq.com)



---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2010 9:54 AM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Cc:** jeanbean@sprynet.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2559 on 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JGO 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2559

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: jean harrington  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [jeanbean@sprynet.com](mailto:jeanbean@sprynet.com)  
Submitted on: 2/22/2010

Comments:

---

**From:** Linda Spalding [linbrick@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 21, 2010 5:22 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** bags

please add my voice and vote to all those who support the end of plastic bags in the state that is still the most beautiful of all. But not for long. not when it is covered in plastic. every conscientious group of citizens in the country is voting to rid themselves of plastic bags. hawaii must join this movement to save itself and its wildlife and its tourist industry. please please please. linda spalding, long-time resident.

---

**From:** Alton Couturier [alton.couturier@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 21, 2010 3:09 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony

Plastic bags can readily be replaced by multi-use bags. As we try to minimize the human imprint on the plant and the Islands, a rather simple device would be to eliminate the ubiquitous plastic bag--which we too often see floating in the breeze and contaminating the visual scape and threatening some of the flora and fauna. Please eliminate--or charge for the use of plastic bags.

Sincerely from Kaua'i

A. Couturier



---

**From:** Tim Derf [scarface@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2010 10:42 AM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of SB 2559, SD1  
**Attachments:** faint\_grain.jpg; stampa\_girl\_line\_en.gif

I have purchased some reusable bags and have received some free reusable bags from supporting, concerned, companies. Whenever I take them into a market, the clerk is always surprised and thanks me. I manage some vacation rental units and I leave reusable bags in the units for the guests to use. Most of the guests leave nice "Thank You" notes for the use of the bags. Every little bit helps this deteriorating environment.....Tim Derflinger, 96738

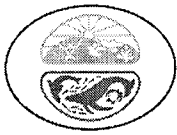
---

**From:** Alicia Starsong [finance@fair-wind.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2010 10:46 AM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Oposition of SB 2559, SD1

Hawaii legislator.

Although plastic bags and trash do pose a threat to avian and marine life I do NOT support a ban on plastic bags. I feel stores should be allowed to provide plastic bags to their customers. I think measures that support and encourage recycling are a better approach. The consumer public needs to more aware of the damaging effects of plastic trash; incentives from several stores chains to use multi-use bags are great. The public needs to think for themselves and not expect the government to have laws for every issue of their lifes!

Alicia Starsong  
72-4019 Mamalahoa Hwy  
Kailua Kona, HI  
96740



## Conservation Council for Hawai'i

Testimony Submitted to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations  
SB 2559 SD 1 Relating to Environmental Protection  
Hearing: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 10 am Room 016

In support of SB 2559 SD 1

Aloha. Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports the intent of SB 2559 SD 1, which requires retailers in the State to distribute only recyclable, reusable, or biodegradable checkout bags.

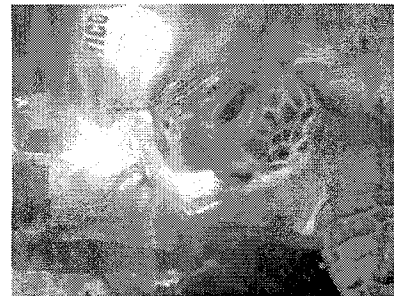
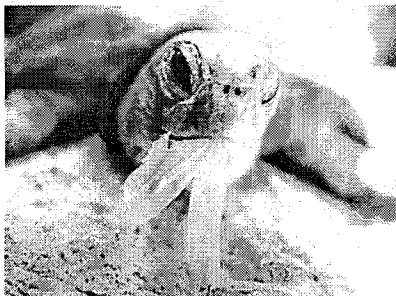
SB 2559 SD 1 would encourage more residents and visitors to use reusable bags. This would reduce the number of sea turtles and other marine wildlife that are killed or harmed by ingesting disposable plastic bags. Sea turtles ingest plastic bags, mistaking them for food, and may suffer a gruesome death. 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.

SB 2559 SD 1 would also reduce 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.

We hope you will reconsider allowing the use of biodegradable single-use plastic bags, which still end up in our ocean and harm marine life.

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](mailto:info@conservehi.org) • web: [www.conservehi.org](http://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

---

**From:** A D.V. [advsurfsail@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2010 1:10 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of SB 2559, SD1

If plastic bags are outlawed....people will just have to get used to bringing their own.....and they will.

---

**From:** Alan Ewell [ewell@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2010 1:25 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of SB 2559, SD1

*Single-use plastic bags are not a part of Hawai`i's sustainable future. They add to our growing opala (trash) problem and pose a threat to avian and marine life in Hawai`i. Please discourage their continued use by banning large retailers from giving them away or by requiring a small fee for each plastic bag.*

*Pass pass SB 2559.*

*Thanks for your consideration,*

*Alan Ewell  
4176 Round Top Drive  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822*

Decision Making Hearing on SB 2559  
Tuesday, Feb.23, 2010, 10AM

To: Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Takamine, and members of the Senate Judiciary and Government Operations 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. As a result of the economic downturn we have experienced there has been a lot of discussion recently about wasting less and conserving more. I feel that we should apply these same good principles to the environment. People just do not need so many disposable bags.

There has been some focus on recycling bags instead. Recycling bags is a good idea, but it does still require the use of resources. The saying, "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" starts with "reduce" because that option makes the most sense over-all. Having less waste to think about in the first place is the easiest way to help the environment.

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

Sincerely,

Robbie Adams

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**From:** Barbara Morgan [bmorgan@punahou.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2010 1:47 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of SB 2559, SD1

Our "disposable" mentality is gradually changing but needs a clearer message that will help people remember to bring their bags with them when they plan to make a purchase.

We wring our hands about the amount of waste we produce and must rather take REAL action for this simple but very important behavior change. We are not taking anything away from people, we are helping them make choices - it is just that no one has charged them yet specifically for the waste causing damage to the environment like plastic bags do.

Barb Morgan

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Barb Morgan  
2891 Oahu Ave.  
Honolulu, HI 96822  
808-944-5845

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**From:** Husky422@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2010 2:59 PM  
**Cc:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Reduce Single-use Non-biodegradable Plastic Checkout Bag Usage!

Search returned no results

Tanya Merrill

[Husky422@gmail.com](mailto:Husky422@gmail.com)

411 Hobron Ln #3313

Honolulu, HI 96815

Monday, February 22, 2010 04:58 PM PST

Strong Support for  
Search returned no results

Re: Decision Making Hearing on SB2559  
Tuesday, Feb.23, 2010, 10AM  
Conference Room 016

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Takamine, and members of the Senate Judiciary and Government Operations Committee,

I strongly support Senate Bill 2559 because non-biodegradable plastic check out bags unnecessarily degrade Hawai'i's precious environment and harm marine life. Not only are plastic bags a significant source of litter and waste on land, they also adversely affect the entire marine food web. Plastic bag litter makes its way to the ocean and never truly disappears. Small plastic particles are mistaken for food by filter feeders while various forms of other marine life ingest or become entangled in intact plastic bags (fish, sea turtles, and marine mammals).

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 becoming very popular throughout Hawaii. Our community is well aware of the negative impacts of plastic bags and will be



accepting of the new legislation. Moreover, businesses like Costco and Whole Foods are thriving and neither distribute plastic bags. Please push this Bill forward.  
Mahalo nui loa for you time and consideration.

---

**From:** kory.payne@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2010 2:56 PM  
**Cc:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Reduce Single-use Non-biodegradable Plastic Checkout Bag Usage!

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Kory Payne

[kory.payne@gmail.com](mailto:kory.payne@gmail.com)

41-951 Kakaina Place

Waimanalo, HI 96795

Monday, February 22, 2010 04:56 PM PST

Strong Support for  
Search returned no results

Re: Decision Making Hearing on SB2559  
Tuesday, Feb.23, 2010, 10AM  
Conference Room 016

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Takamine, and members of the Senate Judiciary and Government Operations Committee,

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be accepting of the new legislation. Moreover, businesses like Costco and Whole Foods are thriving and neither distribute plastic bags. Please push this Bill forward.  
Mahalo nui loa for you time and consideration.

---

**From:** earthmiya@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2010 2:16 PM  
**Cc:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Reduce Single-use Non-biodegradable Plastic Checkout Bag Usage!

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Miya & Brent Paul

[earthmiya@gmail.com](mailto:earthmiya@gmail.com)

3944 Sierra Drive

Honolulu, HI 96816

Monday, February 22, 2010 04:15 PM PST

Strong Support for  
Search returned no results

Re: Decision Making Hearing on SB2559  
Tuesday, Feb.23, 2010, 10AM  
Conference Room 016

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Takamine, and members of the Senate Judiciary and Government Operations Committee,

We strongly support SB 2559. Please pass this bill to allow Hawaii to be a world model for sustainability! Non-biodegradable plastic check out bags unnecessarily degrade Hawai'i's precious environment and harm marine life. They are a significant source of litter and waste on land and they also adversely affect the entire marine food web. It only takes a little for human beings to reuse and it takes a lot more petroleum to produce these bags. Also, there are recyclable plastic bags that markets can provide if they wish to continue to provide bags at the checkout.

This is an easy way to ensure the preservation of our natural resources and marine life.

Thank you for your consideration!

Aloha, Brent & Miya Paul

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**From:** evanr@hawaii.rr.com  
**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2010 3:02 PM  
**Cc:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Reduce Single-use Non-biodegradable Plastic Checkout Bag Usage!

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Evan Rapoport

[evanr@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:evanr@hawaii.rr.com)

166 Hauoli Street

Kailua, HI 96734

Monday, February 22, 2010 05:01 PM PST

Strong Support for  
Search returned no results

Re: Decision Making Hearing on SB2559  
Tuesday, Feb.23, 2010, 10AM  
Conference Room 016

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Takamine, and members of the Senate Judiciary and Government Operations Committee,

I am very much in support of Senate Bill 2559 to ban plastic check out bags. I have spent the last few years conducting educational outreach projects and research on the proliferation of marine debris around Hawaii. Plastic bags are constantly being found on our beaches by the K-12 students participating in our programs. Unfortunately, the bags we don't find have probably done more damage, killing marine life, interfering with watercrafts, and destroying the natural beauty of our beaches and parks.

Passing a ban on plastic bags is a bold statement that Hawaii cares about the environment and will make difficult decisions when they are justified. Banning plastic bags is no easy task, but it is necessary. In addition to all the problems they cause (and the fossil fuels used to create them), they symbolize the disposable culture that we live in. I believe that by banning the bags, Hawaii's residents will become more aware and more used to making other important eco-friendly decisions (such as reusable water bottles, recycling, turning off lights, conserving water, etc.).

Importantly, people will see your leadership on this issue and feel that their individual actions are part of a larger effort towards making Hawaii an environmentally responsible state. Without this feeling of community, many people don't feel that their actions matter or can make a difference. Please, ban plastic bags and make a bold statement for the future of Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Evan Rapoport

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**From:** sheilasarhangi@hotmail.com  
**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2010 3:10 PM  
**Cc:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Reduce Single-use Non-biodegradable Plastic Checkout Bag Usage!

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Sheila Sarhangi

[sheilasarhangi@hotmail.com](mailto:sheilasarhangi@hotmail.com)

Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

Monday, February 22, 2010 05:10 PM PST

Strong Support for  
Search returned no results

Re: Decision Making Hearing on SB2559  
Tuesday, Feb.23, 2010, 10AM  
Conference Room 016

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Takamine, and members of the Senate Judiciary and Government Operations Committee,

My name is Sheila Sarhangi and I'm a freelance writer in Hawaii. I strongly support passage of Senate Bill 2559.

This bill effectively eliminates the use of single-use plastic bags in the state of Hawaii. Just consider this:

1) Plastic bags clog up our landfills... One person uses somewhere between 400 to 500 single-use plastic bags per year, and less than 5-percent are ever recycled.



2) If plastic bags are burned at HPOWER, they release greenhouse gases, contributing to global climate change.

3) Plastic bags never completely biodegrade. Their toxic materials remain in our eco-system FOREVER.

4) One plastic bag is used for only 12 to 15 minutes--is that worth the damaging effects that it will have on our environment?

5) Plastics of all kinds kill millions of seabirds, marine mammals, fish and sea turtles each year through ingestion and entanglement...

Did you know that birds such as Laysan Albatross

feed tiny bits of plastic to their young? It's true... a

a 1987 study published in the *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, found that 90 percent of albatross chicks on Oahu and Midway contained plastic in their digestive systems. And just imagine... this study was completed more than two decades ago. That's nine out of 10 birds, feeding their young PLASTIC.

As I'm sure you're aware, reusable bags are offered at grocery stores for usually no more than \$3. They're convenient, waste-free, and provide a great alternative to single-use plastic bags. By supporting the use of these reusable bags, and eliminating single-use plastic bags, the State of Hawaii can become an example of a sustainable eco-conscious economy, one that values its resources and takes action to protect its environment.

We live on islands, let's act like it.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Aloha,

Sheila Sarhangi

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**From:** scoleman@surfrider.org  
**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2010 3:28 PM  
**Cc:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** Reduce Single-use Non-biodegradable Plastic Checkout Bag Usage!

Search returned no results

Stuart Coleman

[scoleman@surfrider.org](mailto:scoleman@surfrider.org)

2121 Algaroba St., #1107

Honolulu, HI 96826

Monday, February 22, 2010 05:28 PM PST

Strong Support for  
Search returned no results

Re: Decision Making Hearing on SB2559  
Tuesday, Feb.23, 2010, 10AM  
Conference Room 016

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Takamine, and members of the Senate Judiciary and Government Operations Committee,

My name is Stuart Coleman, and I am the Hawaii Coordinator of the Surfrider Foundation. With four chapters across the state, we have more than 4000 dues-paying members. We strongly support Senate Bill 2559 because non-biodegradable plastic and non-recyclable paper check out bags unnecessarily degrade Hawai'i's precious environment and harm marine life. According to the EPA, millions of seabirds, marine mammals, sea turtles and fish ingest and become entangled in plastic marine debris each year. As the endangered species capitol of the world, Hawaii cannot afford to lose any more of its endangered creatures.

Not only are plastic bags a significant source of litter and waste on land, they also adversely affect the entire marine food web. Plastic bag litter makes its way to the ocean and never truly disappears. Small plastic particles are mistaken for food by filter feeders and fish, and now studies show that these toxic micro-plastics pose a threat to human health as well.

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 becoming very popular throughout Hawaii. Our community is well aware of the negative impacts of plastic bags and will be accepting of the new legislation. Moreover, businesses like Costco and Whole Foods are thriving and neither distribute plastic bags. Please push this Bill forward.

Last year, a similar bill died in this committee, and constituents and supporters were upset that it didn't even receive a hearing. So we urge you to move this bill forward and let the legislature debate and vote on this issue. Mahalo nui loa for you time and consideration.

Aloha, Stuart

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**From:** Gibeau, Shestin [SGibeau@ymcahonolulu.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2010 3:59 PM  
**To:** JGO Testimony  
**Subject:** SB 2559

Aloha!

Single-use plastic bags are not a part of Hawai'i's sustainable future. They add to our growing opala (trash) problem and pose a threat to avian and marine life in Hawai'i. Please discourage their continued use by banning large retailers from giving them away or by requiring a small fee for each plastic bag.

Mahalo,

Shestin Gibeau  
Assistant Camp Superintendent

YMCA of Honolulu  
Camp H.R. Erdman  
(808) 637-4615 ext. 31  
(808) 637-8874 fax  
[SGibeau@ymcahonolulu.org](mailto:SGibeau@ymcahonolulu.org) <<mailto:SGibeau@ymcahonolulu.org>>