

Aloha committee members of EEP and EBM,

Bill No. SB2559

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 bio-accumulation 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.

Date 3/7

Time 2014

Cat- AF AS AX B:

Type 1 2 WI

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.

I strongly support a ban or a tax on single-use plastic bags.

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

Cyndi Apana

From: t_smitty2@hotmail.com
Sent: Saturday, March 06, 2010 2:34 PM
Cc: EEPtestimony; EBMtestimony
Subject: Encourage Reusable Checkout Bag Usage!

Bill No. SB2559

Search returned no results

Date 3/6

Time 1434

Cat AF AS AX (B)

Type (1) 2 WI

trevor smith

t_smitty2@hotmail.com

726A 16th ave.

honolulu, HI 96816

Saturday, March 06, 2010 04:34 PM PST

Strong Support for
Search returned no results

Re: EEP/EBM Hearing on SB2559 Tuesday, Mar. 9, 2010, 11:30AM Conference Room 325 Aloha members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection, and House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business, and Military Affairs. 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 nui loa for your time and consideration.

Increase the charge! Please pass this bill.

Cyndi Apana

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 06, 2010 2:56 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: kauaibrad@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/9/2010 11:30:00 AM

Bill No. SB 2559

Testimony for EEP/EBM 3/9/2010 11:30:00 AM SB2559

Date 3/6

Time 1456

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brad Parsons
Organization: Aloha Analytics
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: kauaibrad@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/6/2010

Cat AF AS AX B

Type 1 2 WI

Comments:
Aloha Representatives:

We support this bill SB 2559 in either it's original version or in the proposed new version with drafting corrections.

In reading the proposed new version of the bill, we notice an inconsistency. The "offset fee" in the new version of the bill is 5 cents. Well enough so far. But, in the wording of the bill it says, "...each business subject to the requirements of this part shall remit to the department an amount equal to forty per cent of the offset fees collected..." Forty percent of 5 cents is 2 cents going to the State and General Fund. The actual wording of the bill does not say 60% or 3 cents to the State, it just says 40% of the offset fee.

In the summary description of the bill somebody wrote, "Description: Requires businesses in the State to charge and collect a 5-cent offset fee for each disposable checkout bag provided to a customer. Allocates the offset fee: 2 cents to the business and 3 cents to the general fund. Effective 7/1/2010."

That's not what the bill says. The bill says 2 cents to the general fund and unstated the leftover 3 cents to the business. We are guessing that the intention of this rewrite of the Senate bill SB 2559 is the description and not the actual wording of the bill, and so somebody needs to correct the actual wording of the bill to be 60% of the offset fee to the General Fund and also state that the remainder 40% may be retained by the collecting business

It should also be clearly stated that this bill should not override nor otherwise be inconsistent with pending County ordinances that will ban single use plastic bags outright.

Mahalo,
Brad Parsons
Aloha Analytics

Cyndi Apana

From: sightpacific@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Saturday, March 06, 2010 4:32 PM
Cc: EEPtestimony; EBMtestimony
Subject: Encourage Reusable Checkout Bag Usage!

Bill No. SB 2559

Search returned no results

Date 3/6

Time 1632

Paul Nelson

Cat AF AS AX (B)

sightpacific@hawaii.rr.com

Type (1) 2 WI

68-615 Farrington Hwy #23A

Waiialua, Hawaii 96791

Saturday, March 06, 2010 06:31 PM PST

Strong Support for
Search returned no results

Re: EEP/EBM Hearing on SB2559 Tuesday, Mar. 9, 2010, 11:30AM Conference Room 325 Aloha members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection, and House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business, and Military Affairs. 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 nui loa for your time and consideration.

Cyndi Apana

From: pfahlfinca@gmail.com
Sent: Saturday, March 06, 2010 4:56 PM
Cc: EEPtestimony; EBMtestimony
Subject: Encourage Reusable Checkout Bag Usage!

Bill No. SB2559

Search returned no results

Date 3/6

Time 1657

Cat AF AS AX (B)

Type (1) 2 WI

Robyn Pfahl

pfahlfinca@gmail.com

3324 Sierra Dr., Apt. 206

Honolulu, HI 96816

Saturday, March 06, 2010 06:56 PM PST

Strong Support for
Search returned no results

Re: EEP/EBM Hearing on SB2559 Tuesday, Mar. 9, 2010, 11:30AM Conference Room 325

Aloha members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection, and House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business, and Military Affairs.

I strongly support Senate Bill 2559 because disposable checkout bags unnecessarily degrade Hawai'i's precious environment. They cost little money for the merchants to purchase and have a great cost on our environment. They're made with valuable petroleum in polluting facilities, they're usually so cheaply made that a consumer usually needs more than one just to get the bag to do it's job! Then the bags are unable to be re-used because they fall apart so easily, and they make their way into our oceans where they're a danger to the safety of the marine animals, children playing in the ocean, and our tourist's impression on how we take care of our islands.

Requiring merchants to purchase compostable bags only makes sense in our fragile ecosystem where there's precious landfill space and strong winds that blow everything light down into our oceans.

Although some consumers may be lazy and not want to bring their own bags for purchases, there are other ways for them to carry their merchandise home. There are always shipping boxes that take energy to be recycled & NO GOOD REASON to recycle them before they could keep working! Just look at how much Costco sells & they never use plastic bags- millions of dollars worth of stuff getting taken home by re-using shipping boxes or people bringing their own bags... they keep coming back for more! If a huge wholesaler can do it, I pity the retailer that claims they can't.

Unfortunately some people in our community are too self-centered to be able to notice the extreme waste and devastation of wildlife from their simple choices. You have the opportunity to make a simple change for all the people who can't muster up the caring to do so on their own initiative.

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 nui loa for you time and consideration.

Please support this Bill to support our wildlife, clean oceans, landfill space, reputation, and collective consciousness towards a safer and healthier way to encourage responsibility in our islands.

Mahalo for your time

-Robyn LK Pfahl

Cyndi Apana

From: hanahau@yahoo.com
Sent: Saturday, March 06, 2010 10:09 PM
Cc: EEPtestimony; EBMtestimony
Subject: Encourage Reusable Checkout Bag Usage!

Bill No. SB2559

Search returned no results

Date 3/6

Time 2:09

Cat AF AS AX B

Type 1 2 WI

Marie Marcinko

hanahau@yahoo.com

651 Ilalo St.

Honolulu, HI 96813

Sunday, March 07, 2010 12:09 AM PST

Strong Support for
Search returned no results

Re: EEP/EBM Hearing on SB2559 Tuesday, Mar. 9, 2010, 11:30AM Conference Room 325 Aloha members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection, and House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business, and Military Affairs. 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 nui loa for your time and consideration.

Cyndi Apana

From: srapaich@hotmail.com
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 1:49 AM
Cc: EEPtestimony; EBMtestimony
Subject: Encourage Reusable Checkout Bag Usage!

Bill No. SB 2559

Search returned no results

Date 3/7

Time 1:56

Cat AF AS AX **(B)**

Type **(1)** 2 WI

Shelley & Chris Boling

srapaich@hotmail.com

66-932 Kuewa Dr

Waialua, HI 96791

Sunday, March 07, 2010 03:48 AM PST

Strong Support for
Search returned no results

Re: EEP/EBM Hearing on SB2559 Tuesday, Mar. 9, 2010, 11:30AM Conference Room 325 Aloha members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection, and House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business, and Military Affairs. 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 nui loa for you time and consideration . ALSO, THIS BILL TEACHES OUR CHILDREN & VISITORS TO THIS ISLAND WHAT WE VALUE....OUR RESOURCES, OUR MARINE LIFE & OUR FUTURE AS ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS PEOPLE! IT REINFORCES THAT WE TAKE THESE THINGS SERIOUS! THANKS!

Shelley, Chris & daughters Maris (5), Julia (2) & Adelynn (5 mths)!

Cyndi Apana

From: dwbchbum@yahoo.com
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 6:18 AM
Cc: EEPtestimony; EBMtestimony
Subject: Encourage Reusable Checkout Bag Usage!

Bill No. SB 2559

Search returned no results

Date 3/7

Time 6:26

Cat AF AS AX B

Type 1 2 WI

Donna Wolf

dwbchbum@yahoo.com

1814 S Ditmar Street

Oceanside, CA 92054

Sunday, March 07, 2010 08:17 AM PST

Strong Support for
Search returned no results

Re: EEP/EBM Hearing on SB2559 Tuesday, Mar. 9, 2010, 11:30AM Conference Room 325 Aloha members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection, and House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business, and Military Affairs. 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 nui loa for your time and consideration.

Cyndi Apana

From: kopeterson79@yahoo.com
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 7:33 AM
Cc: EEPtestimony; EBMtestimony
Subject: Encourage Reusable Checkout Bag Usage!

Bill No. SB2559

Search returned no results

Date 3/7

Time 741

Kirk Peterson

Cat AF AS AX (B)

kopeterson79@yahoo.com

Type (1) 2 WI

55-611 Kamehameha Hwy

Laie, HI 96762

Sunday, March 07, 2010 09:32 AM PST

Strong Support for
Search returned no results

Re: EEP/EBM Hearing on SB2559 Tuesday, Mar. 9, 2010, 11:30AM Conference Room 325 Aloha members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection, and House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business, and Military Affairs. 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 nui loa for your time and consideration.

Cyndi Apana

From: aydee.camunas.zielke@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 10:09 AM
Cc: EEPtestimony; EBMtestimony
Subject: Encourage Reusable Checkout Bag Usage!

Bill No. SB259

Search returned no results

Date 3/7

Time 1010

Cat AF AS AX (B)

Type (1) 2 WI

Aydee Virgen

aydee.camunas.zielke@gmail.com

2914B Lauoha Place

Honolulu, HI 96813

Sunday, March 07, 2010 12:09 PM PST

Strong Support for
Search returned no results

Re: EEP/EBM Hearing on SB2559 Tuesday, Mar. 9, 2010, 11:30AM Conference Room 325 Aloha members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection, and House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business, and Military Affairs.

I just wanted to let the senate know that I support support sb 2559 because disposable bags contribute to the degrading of Hawai'i's fragile environment. This is an effective way for the state to significantly decrease the amount of waste it produces. Similar laws have been passed nationally and worldwide and have be proven to be very successful. Reusable bags are affordable and readily available throughout Hawaii. This legislation will be the incentive necessary to change our communities bad habit of using disposable bags. This bill will also 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 nui loa.

Sincerely,

Aydee Virgen

Cyndi Apana

From: smyadon@yahoo.com
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 10:15 AM
Cc: EEPtestimony; EBMtestimony
Subject: Encourage Reusable Checkout Bag Usage!

Bill No. SB2559

Search returned no results

Date 3/7

Time 1015

Shannon Yadon

Cat AF AS AX **(B)**

smyadon@yahoo.com

Type 6 2 WI

2115 Kamehameha Avenue

Honolulu, HI 96822

Sunday, March 07, 2010 12:14 PM PST

Strong Support for
Search returned no results

Re: EEP/EBM Hearing on SB2559 Tuesday, Mar. 9, 2010, 11:30AM Conference Room 325

Good morning,

I hope that you will support SB2559. Plastic bags are nearing infestation levels all over- but in a fragile and compact ecosystem like our island home, its even worse. Plastic bags never fully biodegrade. After usually less than 5 minutes of use (face it: grocery store to your care- 2 minutes, care to cupboards = 3 more) the bags end up growing to collections the size of a small car under someone's sink, or the end up getting caught in the tradewinds when a doors or window is left open and they blow endlessly. They end up getting eaten by turtles and birds. The break into smaller and smaller pieces and pollute our air and water. And they are simply not needed. If the people of Hawaii would utilize reusable bags for groceries/ etc, then we wouldn't even need them/ We need to break the single-use plastic bag habit. Once it's broken , its really easy to eliminate them

completely from our individual lives. Please push this Bill forward. Mahalo nui loa for y ou time and consideration.

Cyndi Apana

From: e_pfundtner@yahoo.com
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 11:23 AM
Cc: EEPtestimony; EBMtestimony
Subject: Encourage Reusable Checkout Bag Usage!

Bill No. SB2559

Search returned no results

Date 3/7

Time 11:31

Cat- AF AS AX **(B)**

Type **(1)** 2 WI

Erin Pfuntner

e_pfundtner@yahoo.com

3176 Papala St

Honolulu, HI 96822

Sunday, March 07, 2010 01:23 PM PST

Strong Support for
Search returned no results

Aloha,

My name is Erin Pfuntner and I am a local Boat Captain, Divermaster, and underwater photographer in Hawaii. Seeing first hand the destruction that plastic does to the environment and marine ecosystem - marine animal entanglement, animal suffocation, pollution, mass amount of litter, inability to biodegrade, landfill overflow, harm to already endangered species - urges me to strongly support the EEP/EBM Hearing on SB2559 Tuesday, Mar. 9, 2010, 11:30AM. Not only is single-use plastic bags harmful to animals, it harmful to us as human beings. The use of fossil fuels to produce plastic bags, the amounts of plastic consumed by the fish we eat, the over flow of litter that I've personally volunteer to clean up off beaches and streets effects us all. 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 nui loa for you time and consideration.

Erin Pfuntner

Cyndi Apana

From: jenaries23@yahoo.com
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 11:46 AM
Cc: EEPtestimony; EBMtestimony
Subject: Encourage Reusable Checkout Bag Usage!

Bill No. SB2559

Search returned no results

Date 3/7

Time 1156

Cat AF AS AX (B)

Type (1) 2 WI

Jennifer Milholen

jenaries23@yahoo.com

3626 Crater Rd.

Honolulu, HI 96816

Sunday, March 07, 2010 01:45 PM PST

Strong Support for
Search returned no results

Re: EEP/EBM Hearing on SB2559 Tuesday, Mar. 9, 2010, 11:30AM Conference Room 325 Aloha members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection, and House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business, and Military Affairs.

My name is Jennifer Milholen. I am a student living in Kaimuki. I am writing to express my support of Senate Bill 2559. When single-use plastic bags became ubiquitous in our society was a time when we lost a hold on common sense. There are no redeeming qualities of single-use plastic bags. Convenience? No, reusable bags are light and easy to carry. It would take a small amount of time to condition consumers to remember to bring their bags with them. Unfortunately, there is no current disincentive to encourage the learning of this behavior. This small bag fee is a perfect opportunity to remind people that they have an alternative and establish an association in the people's minds between plastic bags' repercussions, monetary and environmental.

Far from neutral, the plastic bag is incredibly detrimental to Hawaii's ecosystem:

Single-use checkout bags unnecessarily crowd our limited landfills and require fossil fuels to manufacture.

Single-use paper bags contribute to deforestation.

Single-use plastic bags are a hazard to our natural environment because they:

1. never completely biodegrade; they remain in our environment forever.
2. are a significant source of marine debris and litter.
3. are a serious threat to endangered species (e.g. seabirds, marine mammals, and sea turtles).

A statewide 5-cent fee on disposable checkout bags is an easy way for Hawaii to strongly encourage the use of reusable checkout bags and thus help the environment. 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 help Hawaii regain its grasp on common sense and join the other areas of the U.S. that have said no to single-use plastic bags! Please push this Bill forward. Mahalo nui loa for you time and consideration.

Jennifer Milholen

Cyndi Apana

From: rob@electronicinsight.com
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 12:41 AM
Cc: EEPtestimony; EBMtestimony
Subject: Encourage Reusable Checkout Bag Usage!

Bill No. SB2559

Search returned no results

Date 3/7

Time 12:41

Robert Barreca

Cat AF AS AX

rob@electronicinsight.com

Type (1) 2 WI

3535 Maluhia St

Honolulu, HI 96816

Sunday, March 07, 2010 02:41 AM PST

Strong Support for
Search returned no results

Re: EEP/EBM Hearing on SB2559 Tuesday, Mar. 9, 2010, 11:30AM Conference Room 325 Aloha members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection, and House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business, and Military Affairs.

I strongly support Senate Bill 2559 because disposable checkout bags never fully biodegrade and pollute our oceans. Plastic absorbs much more toxins than organic material and then ends up either killing whales, turtles, sea birds, etc. or if those sea creatures don't die from plastic ingestion, that toxic plastic ends up in the human food chain.

This Bill is an easy way for the State to significantly decrease the amount of waste it produces while generating revenue at the same time. 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.

Please push this Bill forward. Mahalo nui loa for you time and consideration.

Cyndi Apana

From: lidaduke@hotmail.com
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 12:35 PM
Cc: EEPtestimony; EBMtestimony
Subject: Encourage Reusable Checkout Bag Usage!

Bill No. SB2559

Search returned no results

Date 3/7

Time 1242

Cat AF AS AX B

Type D 2 WI

Lida Angier

lidaduke@hotmail.com

2910 Date Street

Honolulu, HI 96816

Sunday, March 07, 2010 02:35 PM PST

Strong Support for
Search returned no results

Re: EEP/EBM Hearing on SB2559 Tuesday, Mar. 9, 2010, 11:30AM Conference Room 325 Aloha members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection, and House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business, and Military Affairs.

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. It is a simple and easy step towards environmental protection and conservation in our beautiful island home.

Mahalo nui loa for you time and consideration.

Cyndi Apana

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 1:59 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: good.designworks@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/9/2010 11:30:00 AM

Bill No. SB2559

Testimony for EEP/EBM 3/9/2010 11:30:00 AM SB2559

Date 3/7

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Time 1359

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: pamela burrell

Organization: Zero Waste Kaua'i

Cat AF AS AX B

Address: kahiliholo rd kilauea, Hi. 96754

Phone: 808-639-8161

Type 1 2 WI

E-mail: good.designworks@hawaiiantel.net Submitted on: 3/7/2010

Comments:

We on Kaua'i have a single use plastic bag ban. With no fees, but the option to charge for a suitable bag. The goal is to have our citizens change their behavior and bring their own bags. It is really not a hardship... just a behavioral change.

I am sure you have read all the statistics and I won't reiterate, but if you do charge a fee. I think 5 cents is too cheap. 15 cents is more incentive. Ireland charged 15 cents and that law led to a 90 percent drop in consumption, a billion fewer bags annually and more than four million gallons of oil saved. The tax also raised \$10 million in "green funds";....

Mahalo..

Cyndi Apana

From: mecoleman@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 3:16 PM
Cc: EEPtestimony; EBMtestimony
Subject: Encourage Reusable Checkout Bag Usage!

Bill No. SB2559

Search returned no results

Date 3/7

Time 15:16

Cat AF AS AX **B**

Type **1** 2 - WI

Mele Coleman

mecoleman@gmail.com

6247 Milolii Place

Honolulu, HI 96825

Sunday, March 07, 2010 05:16 PM PST

Strong Support for
Search returned no results

Re: EEP/EBM Hearing on SB2559 Tuesday, Mar. 9, 2010, 11:30AM Conference Room 325

Aloha members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection, and House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business, and Military Affairs,

I live in Hawaii Kai, was born and raised on Oahu, have a B.S. in marine biology, am a 1L at UH School of Law, employee of USFWS, and a member of Surfrider Foundation, Sierra Club, and Conservation Council for Hawaii.

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 nui loa for you time and consideration,

Mele Coleman

Cyndi Apana

From: lugo_naomi@yahoo.com
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 6:29 PM
Cc: EEPtestimony; EBMtestimony
Subject: Encourage Reusable Checkout Bag Usage!

Bill No. SB2559

Search returned no results

Date 3/7

Time 1836

Naomi Lugo

Cat AF AS AX

lugo_naomi@yahoo.com

Type 1 2 WI

9246 Morningstar Place

Parker, Colorado 80134

Sunday, March 07, 2010 08:28 PM PST

Strong Support for
Search returned no results

The overproduction and overuse of single-use plastic bags is contributing to the alteration of the chemical composition of the ocean. Any step towards the protection of the ocean is vital. That is why I support the passing of SB2559.

Cyndi Apana

From: kbarden@islandpacificacademy.com
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 7:20 PM
Cc: EEPtestimony; EBMtestimony
Subject: Encourage Reusable Checkout Bag Usage!

Bill No. SB 2559

Search returned no results

Date 3/7

Time 19:20

Cat AF AS AX B

Type 1 2 WI

Kelsey Barden

kbarden@islandpacificacademy.com

59-265B Ke Nui Rd

Haleiwa, HI 96712

Sunday, March 07, 2010 09:19 PM PST

Strong Support for
Search returned no results

Re: EEP/EBM Hearing on SB2559 Tuesday, Mar. 9, 2010, 11:30AM Conference Room 325

Aloha,

My name is Kelsey. I am a first grade teacher living here in Hawaii. I am in support of Bill 2559 because I think it is time we start thinking seriously about our use of plastic. Single-use plastic bags are a colossal and entirely unnecessary waste. I have recently been researching and thinking about my own personal use of plastic bags, and I have also been sharing the importance of reducing our plastic waste with my first grade students. It is amazing when you explain to children how thoughtless the general public is, and how easy it is to change our actions. One point that really made a strong impact on myself and my students was the fact that every single piece of plastic that has ever been manufactured on this earth is still here. It is not going anywhere. When we thought about how much plastic we use and throw away in a single day, and the realization that that plastic will be on this earth for the next thousands of year s, it really make us think twice.

By passing this bill, it will encourage the general public to reduce their usage and to also think about bringing a canvas bag to the store each time they shop. This simple law can make a significant impact on our environment so I hope that you will pass this bill.

Mahalo nui loa for you time and consideration,

Kelsey

Cyndi Apana

From: noelk@hawaii.edu
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 9:08 PM
Cc: EEPtestimony; EBMtestimony
Subject: Encourage Reusable Checkout Bag Usage!

Bill No. SB2559

Search returned no results

Date 3/7

Time 2:09

Cat AF AS AX **B**

Type **1** 2 WI

Noel Kent

noelk@hawaii.edu

4886-3 Kilauea

Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

Sunday, March 07, 2010 11:08 PM PST

Strong Support for
Search returned no results

Re: EEP/EBM Hearing on SB2559 Tuesday, Mar. 9, 2010, 11:30AM Conference Room 325 Aloha members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection, and House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business, and Military Affairs. I strongly support Senate Bill 2559 because disposable checkout bags are a luxury our environment can no longer afford. We in Hawai'i and elsewhere simply have no place to put all this toxic stuff. We need to create incentives for multiple use of bags. Other localities are doing this and we should be there also. Noel Kent Professor UH Manoa

Cyndi Apana

From: becky.breznau@yahoo.com
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 9:52 PM
Cc: EEPtestimony; EBMtestimony
Subject: Encourage Reusable Checkout Bag Usagel

Bill No. SB2559

Search returned no results

Date 3/7

Time 2:201

Cat. AF AS AX B

Type (1) 2 WI

Becky Breznau

becky.breznau@yahoo.com

727 palani ave apt#2

honolulu, hawaii 96816

Sunday, March 07, 2010 11:51 PM PST

Strong Support for
Search returned no results

Re: EEP/EBM Hearing on SB2559 Tuesday, Mar. 9, 2010, 11:30AM Conference Room 325 Aloha members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection, and House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business, and Military Affairs. 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 nui loa for you time and consideration .

Aloha Members of the Economic Revitalization, Business and Military Affairs Committee and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

I strongly support Senate Bill 2559 because I believe plastic bags are an extremely unnecessary hazard to the natural beauty of Hawaii's environment, as well as the marine life so strongly and adversely affected by the proliferation of plastic bags in the ocean.

Nobody wants to come to Hawaii and see rubbish on the streets. I understand that trash is inevitable in any populated area and that people generate waste. However, the bags being targeted by this bill are an unnecessary and completely avoidable source of waste that remains in the environment forever.

It is true that people have already started to purchase and use reusable bags. However, most people now are not compelled to remember to carry their reusable bags into the store every time they go shopping because they are only receiving a few cents credit to their overall cost. When left with no alternative, people will remember to bring their bags into the store with them (because they have to!) and with that simple gesture they will be doing something great for the environment.

I strongly urge you to support SB2559!!!!

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Stacy Takekawa
William S. Richardson School of Law
First Year Law Student

Bill No. SB 2559

Date 3/8

Time 09

Cat- AF AS AX B

Type 1 2 WI

Cyndi Apana

From: cheryl.lohr@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 9:46 AM
Cc: EEPtestimony; EBMtestimony
Subject: Encourage Reusable Checkout Bag Usage!

Bill No. SB 2559

Search returned no results

Date 3/8

Time 946

Cat: AF AS AX B

Type 1 2 WI

Cheryl Lohr

cheryl.lohr@gmail.com

209 Concordia St

Honolulu, HI 96813

Monday, March 08, 2010 11:45 AM PST

Strong Support for
Search returned no results

Re: EEP/EBM Hearing on SB2559 Tuesday, Mar. 9, 2010, 11:30AM Conference Room 325 Aloha members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection, and House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business, and Military Affairs. 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, while earning some money, something you cannot deny needs to happen! Reusable bags are affordable and readily available throughout Hawaii, we simply need policy to provide the incentive to encourage people to stop being lazy. Hawaii has such a unique and fragile environment, we should be leading the world in conservation, preservation and sustainable living! Be brave and do something to improve the lives of your children. Please push this Bill forward. Mahalo nui loa for you time and consideration.



Representative Hermina Morita, Chair
Representative Denny Coffman, Vice Chair
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Representative Angus McKelvey, Chair
Representative Isaac Choy, Vice Chair
Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs

HEARING Tuesday, March 09, 2010
11:30 am
Conference Room 322
State Capitol, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Date 3/8

Time 11:30

Cat AF AS AX B

Type 1 2 WI

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

Chairs Morita and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Coffman and Choy, and Members of the Committees:

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.

RMH supports the intent of SB2559, SD2, Proposed 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 encouraged that consumers will accept this fee 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 potential to cause the same harm as single-use checkout bags.

Thank you for your attention and for the opportunity to comment.

Carol Pregill, President

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

Cyndi Apana

From: alohamichaeldaly@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 12:44 PM
Cc: EEPtestimony; EBMtestimony
Subject: Encourage Reusable Checkout Bag Usage!

Bill No. SB 2559

Search returned no results

Date 3/8

Time 12:44

Cat AF AS AX

Type 1 2 WI

Michael Daly

alohamichaeldaly@gmail.com

575 Cooke Street, A-2910

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Monday, March 08, 2010 02:44 PM PST

Strong Support for
Search returned no results

Re: EEP/EBM Hearing on SB2559 Tuesday, Mar. 9, 2010, 11:30AM Conference Room 325 Aloha members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection; and House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business, and Military Affairs.

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.

As we all live, work and play here in these islands, so closely related to the glory and life supporting gifts of our marine environment, I am most concerned about the wanton pollution we make on land and that destroys the ocean and entangles our marine friends to death.

As regulators it is your job to identify the issues and concerns, pass on your findings with transparency, and legislate.



Conservation Council for Hawai'i

Testimony Submitted to the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection and
House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business, and Military Affairs
SB 2559 SD 2 Proposed HD 1 Relating to Environmental Protection
Hearing: Tuesday, March 9, 2010 11:30 am Room 325

In support of SB 2559 SD 2 Proposed HD 1

Aloha. Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports the intent of SB 2559 SD 2 Proposed HD 1, Beginning January 1, 2011, all businesses in the State shall 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



Bill No. SB 2559

Date 3/8

Page 1257

AF AS AX (B)

1 2 WI



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

Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
SB 2559, Relating to Environmental Protection
Testimony of Andre Bisquera, Accountant, and resident of Makiki Heights

March 9, 2010 Hearing

As a surfer and outrigger canoe paddler, I strongly support bill SB 2559. I see plastic bags and trash nearly every day I'm out in the ocean. They are very unsightly and are a hazard to marine life. These plastic bags don't biodegrade and will just accumulate in our landfills and unfortunately, in the ocean environment. Thank you.

Bill No. SB 2559

Date 3/8

Time 10:30

Cat: AF AS AX B

Type 2 WI

Bill No. 8th 2559



Date 3/8

Time 1042

Cat: AF AS AX (B)

Type 1 2 WI

March 8, 2010

To: The Honorable Hermina Morita, Chair
House Energy and Environmental Protection Committee

The Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business and Military Affairs

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

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

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) must respectfully oppose the proposed language in 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 \$0.20 consumer bag charge, and the California State Assembly Appropriations Committee earlier

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

this year held two pieces of legislation (AB 68 and AB 87) that would have required certain grocers and retailers to impose a \$0.25 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 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 and would result in unintended environmental and economic impacts.** A per bag fee as proposed in 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.

Furthermore, 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.

In addition, proposals to ban plastic bags simply result in consumers choosing paper bags; a decision that results in substantial, yet often overlooked environmental impacts. Bear in mind the overall environmental and economic impacts that could result from widespread consumer shift from recyclable plastic to paper bags:

- Plastic grocery bags require 70 percent less energy to manufacture than paper bags and generate 50% less greenhouse gases.
- For every seven trucks needed to deliver paper bags, only one truck is needed for the same number of plastic bags, helping to save energy and reduce air emissions.
- Plastic bags generate 80 percent less waste than paper bags.

A recent study of the ban on plastic bags in San Francisco shows that this policy has dramatically increased paper bag use and done little to promote reusable bags². Furthermore, the San Francisco Examiner reported (January 25, 2010) that the city's bag ban has increased one local grocer expenses "by \$900,000 a year in its 15 San Francisco stores."

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 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.

² Use Less Stuff. [A Qualitative Study of Grocery Bags in San Francisco](http://cygnus-group.com/use-less-stuff/Field-Report-on-San-Francisco-Plastic-Bag-Ban.pdf). September 2008. <http://cygnus-group.com/use-less-stuff/Field-Report-on-San-Francisco-Plastic-Bag-Ban.pdf>

The City of San Francisco STREETS LITTER RE-AUDIT 2008

PREPARED FOR

The City of San Francisco
San Francisco Environment Department

PREPARED BY



Brown, Vence
& Associates, Inc.

&



July 4, 2008

Executive Summary

The City of San Francisco continues to be known throughout North America for its initiatives to protect the environment. The City has a multitude of waste reduction and waste management programs in place to improve the environment for residents. Such activities as recently moving to "all-plastics" pick ups in the curbside recycling program are examples of how this city achieved a 70% diversion rate by 2007.

In 2007, the City conducted a litter audit. Working with HDR / BVA Engineering, a local San Francisco full service firm, the City audited litter on city streets. HDR / BVA in turn contracted MGM Management, a Canadian environmental consulting firm that has expertise in the area of litter audit work to design the audit to conform with their proven methodology. MGM Management has conducted over a fourteen major litter audits to major North American municipalities since 2002, and has an accumulated data base of over 56,000 litter observations.

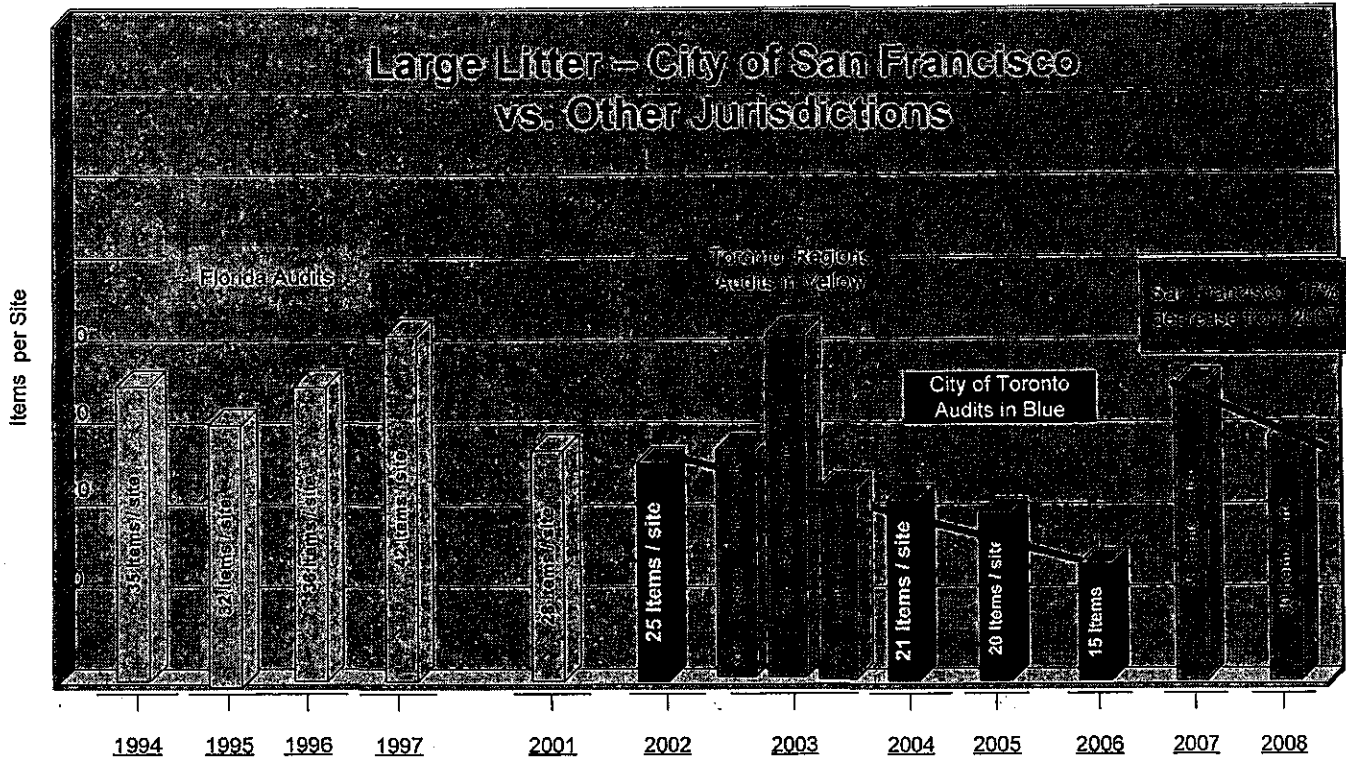
The San Francisco Department of Environment decided that it was necessary to re-audit the 2007 sites in 2008, and to add additional sites to strengthen the litter observations. HDR / BVA Engineering managed and provided trained auditors for the work, while MGM Management provided the audit design, methodology protocols, site selection including new randomly selected sites, data management and data analysis services.

Within this study litter is classified as "large" for those items over 4 square inches in size or as "small" litter for items less than 4 sq. in. Eighty-four sub-categories of large and sixteen sub-categories for small litter were examined.

A total of 3,973 items of large litter were observed by auditors, on San Francisco streets during the April 2008 litter audit.

One hundred and thirty two sites (increased from 105 in 2007) were audited April 7 - 18, 2008. This audit was conducted at approximately the same time of year in 2008 as in the previous audit (conducted April 9 - 20, 2007).

The 2007 audit observed, an average of 36 items of large litter per site; which decreased 17% to 30 items of large litter per site in 2008 (3,973 / 132 sites). The chart below illustrates how the results in the San Francisco litter audit compare with 2007 and with other jurisdictions.



The largest category of large litter observed, at 664 litter pieces was non-branded paper napkins and paper towels. This is a similar result from the 2007 audit, where napkins were the second most significant category (570 pieces of large litter in 2007). Printed paper materials were the second most significant litter category at 380 items, followed closely by miscellaneous paper, last year's most significant large litter category. Miscellaneous paper was the third most significant category in the 2008 litter audit with 318 items observed.

Again in 2008, all fiber-based products and items that were observed contributed 51% of the total large litter observed, as compared to 54% in the 2007 audit. Fiber based litter included paper, paperboard, cardboard, towels, napkins, newspapers, books, flyers, printed materials, and business forms, stationary.

Focus on plastic is misplaced

An interesting observation was made in terms of what brands of printed materials are on the ground in San Francisco. MUNI tickets and transfers are a contributor to paper litter on city streets. This observation of transit ticket, receipts and transfers as being a significant contribution to paper litter is consistent with observations made by the consultant in our (other) urban audits. This is an area where action can reduce litter significantly.

The second most significant material type observed was plastic materials. These included miscellaneous plastic, plastic packaging, wrap, plastic bags-retail and non-retail, hot and cold plastic drink cups, plastic jars, bottles, composites, utensils, zip bags, beverage containers, trays, polystyrene cups, confectionary, sweet and snack food packaging, pouches, plates, retail bags, and carrying rings. The most significant single category of plastic litter was unidentified miscellaneous plastic litter; which is litter that is broken or weathered that auditors cannot identify it with certainty; and is assumed to be plastic. Miscellaneous plastic litter accounted for 186 littered items or 4.7 % (compared to 9% in 2007) of total litter. All large plastic litter in aggregate accounted for 953 items observed (compared to 746 in 2007), or 24 % of total large litter observed (compared to 20% in 2007).

Below we compare litter occurrence in San Francisco versus all previous audits completed by the consultant. This allows a comparison to other jurisdictions where litter audits have been done using the same methodology.

San Francisco 2008 vs. Other Jurisdictions (2002 - 2007)¹

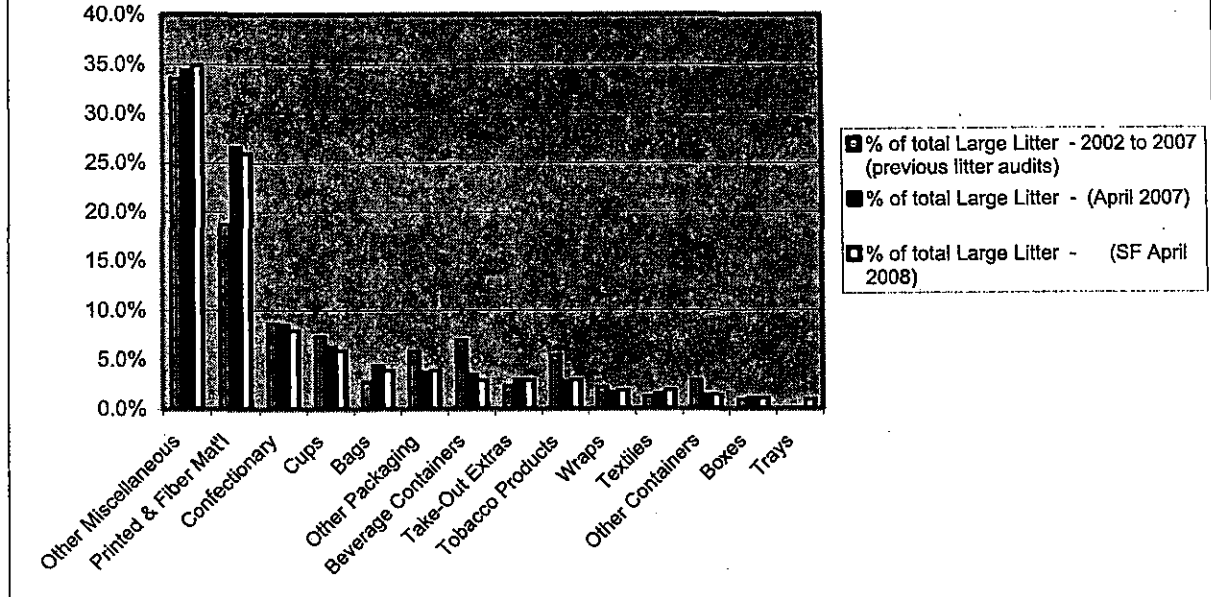
	Observations - 2002 to 2006 (other jurisdictions)	% of total Large Litter - 2002 to 2006 (other jurisdictions)	San Francisco Litter Audit - April 2007	San Francisco Litter - SF April 2007	San Francisco Litter - April 2008
Other Miscellaneous	15,428	33.2%	15,428	33.2%	33.2%
Printed & Fiber Mat'l	8,693	18.7%	8,693	18.7%	18.7%
Confectionary	4,094	8.8%	4,094	8.8%	8.8%
Cups	3,366	7.2%	3,366	7.2%	7.2%
Bags	1,232	2.7%	1,232	2.7%	2.7%
Other Packaging	2,862	6.2%	2,862	6.2%	6.2%
Beverage Containers	3,420	7.4%	3,420	7.4%	7.4%
Take-Out Extras	1,076	2.3%	1,076	2.3%	2.3%
Tobacco Products	2,594	5.6%	2,594	5.6%	5.6%
Wraps	1,109	2.4%	1,109	2.4%	2.4%
Textiles	608	1.3%	608	1.3%	1.3%
Other Containers	1,472	3.2%	1,472	3.2%	3.2%
Boxes	448	1.0%	448	1.0%	1.0%
Trays	88	0.2%	88	0.2%	0.2%
	46,490	100%	46,490	100%	100%

Total bag litter is a small portion of total (5.9% of large items, 3.7% of small)

Bag litter has increased after plastic bag ban

1. Aggregated litter data, Litter audits by MGM Management including:
 City of Toronto, Canada (2002, 2003, 2004 (2 audits), 2005, 2006
 Regional Municipality of Peel, Canada (2003)
 Regional Municipality of York, Canada (2003)
 Regional Municipality of Durham, Canada (2003)

San Francisco - Compared to 2007 & All Audits



Again in 2008, observations of the small litter classification during the San Francisco audit showed a relatively low occurrence of small litter on city streets, as compared to audits performed by the consultant in other cities. In the 2008 audit, 2,335 small litter items were observed (compared to 2,393 in 2007) at 132 sites audited. This averages 18 items per site (compared to 23 in 2007) which is comparable with 21 items / site for the City of Toronto, Ontario, Canada; where considerable clean-up activities and litter abatement efforts have been underway for several years. Averages twice as high as the small litter rate observe in San Francisco in 2007 have been recorded by the consultant in other litter audits.

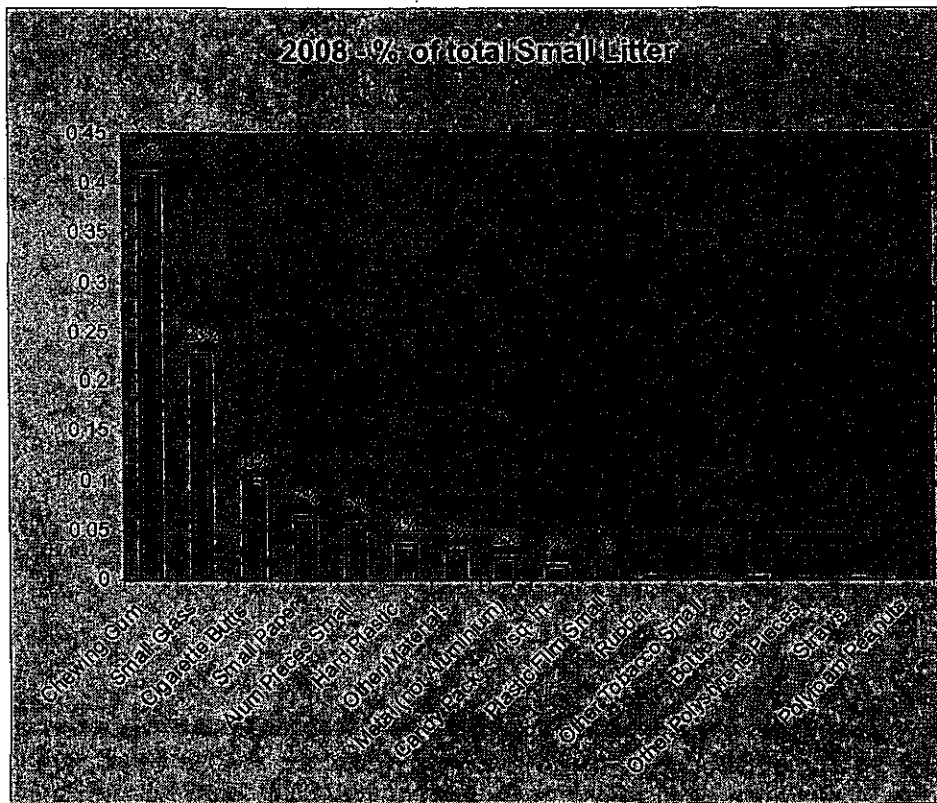
As identified in the 2007 litter audit, gum deposits on San Francisco streets continue to be a significant issue. Gum deposits on sidewalks and roadways cause a sticky and annoying problem for pedestrians. Gum deposits accounted for 39.5% of all the small litter observed during the 2007 audit, and in 2008 a similar observations was noted. In the 2008 litter audit gum deposits were 41% of the small litter observations made (960 gum deposits noted). Glass and paper small litter were also significant contributors to this class of litter.

Small litter is difficult to control, in that it is "manufactured" by a combination of degradation (weather) and man-made activities (vehicle traffic, mowing, etc.).

The small litter results for the 2008 San Francisco audit sites are illustrated below.

Due to the nature of randomly selecting sites and the methodology used for litter auditing of those locations, the consultant is of the opinion that this litter audit is representative of the overall litter occurrence in the City of San Francisco streets, as of April 2008.

2007 San Francisco - Small Litter – by Category



Small Litter Summary

Category	Description	SF	SF	SF	SF
		2008	2008	2007	2007
		Total Small Litter Items Observed	% of Total Small Litter	Total Small Litter Items Observed	% of Total Small Litter
16	Chewing Gum	846	39.5%	846	39.5%
8	Small Glass	710	29.7%	710	29.7%
9	Small Paper	187	7.8%	187	7.8%
1	Cigarette Butts	135	5.6%	135	5.6%
15	Other Materials	97	4.1%	97	4.1%
11	Hard Plastic	92	3.8%	92	3.8%
10	Plastic Film Small	56	2.3%	56	2.3%
2	Other Tobacco Small	51	2.1%	51	2.1%
14	Metal (not Aluminium)	41	1.7%	41	1.7%
13	Rubber	26	1.1%	26	1.1%
12	Alum Pieces Small	19	0.8%	19	0.8%
5	Candy Pack < 4 sq. In.	16	0.7%	16	0.7%
6	Polyfoam Peanuts	8	0.3%	8	0.3%
7	Other Polystyrene Pieces	5	0.2%	5	0.2%
3	Bottle Caps	4	0.2%	4	0.2%
4	Straws	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
		2,335	100.0%	2,393	100.0%

Average SF Small Litter | items / site

18

23

3.2.3 Bags

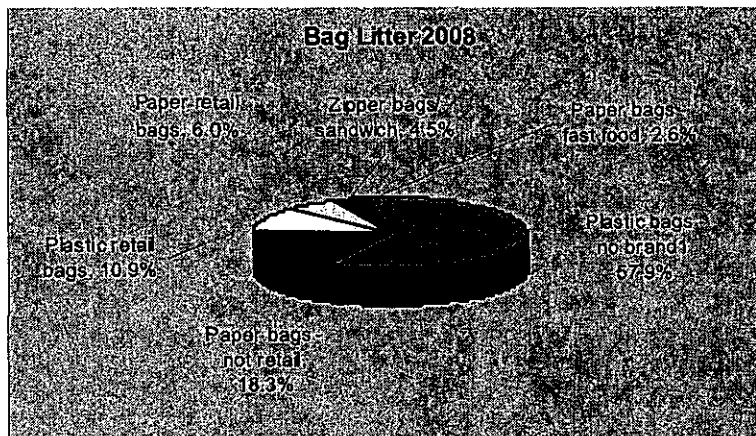
3.2.3 Bags

	Items	% of Sub-category	2008 % of Total Large Litter	2007 % of Total Large Litter
Plastic bags - no brand	136	57.9%	3.42%	1.11%
Paper bags - not retail	43	18.3%	1.08%	1.88%
Plastic retail bags	25.5	10.9%	0.6%	0.60%
Paper retail bags	14	6.0%	0.35%	0.37%
Zipper bags/sandwich	10.5	4.5%	0.26%	0.31%
Paper bags - fast food	16	2.6%	0.15%	0.18%
	235	100.0%	5.91%	4.45%

Plastic bag ban has done nothing to reduce bag litter.
Plastic retail bags were 0.6% before and after plastic bag ban.

Sub-category average (2002 - 2007 - 54,000 observations) 2.80%

- Note: Plastic bags with no clear brand marking included in this sub-category
- Item counts may not equal whole numbers due to averaging.



Discussion:

Plastic bags including retail sacks, zipper bags represented 4.3 % of total large litter (172 items out of 3,973). Plastic bags represented 73% of bag litter, as observed in the 2008 litter audit. Plastic bags with or without brand marking on them (i.e. grocery bags) represented 69% of the litter in this category, and 4% of total litter. Paper bags collectively accounted for 24 % of this sub-category, with non-retail paper bags (like lunch bags) representing 18% of the sub-category.

In 2008, as was also observed in 2007, bag litter in San Francisco was higher (5.9% of total litter) than the consultant's category average for bags in all audits conducted between 2002 – 2007 (2.8%) from other combined jurisdictions.



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII
MĀNOA

RL: 2267

Bill No. SB 2559

Date 3/8

Time 1459

Cat. AF AS AX B

Type 1 2 WI

SB 2559 SD2
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business and Military Affairs
Joint Public Hearing – March 9, 2010
11:30 a.m., State Capitol, Conference Room 325

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

SB 2559 SD2 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.

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:

Bill No. SB 2559

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION, BUSINESS, & MILITARY
AFFAIRS

Date 3/8
Time 1519

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

Cat AF AS AX B

Type 1 2 WI

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

March 9, 2010
11:30 a.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 reducing plastic marine pollution because of its effect on
10 wildlife.

11 While this bill works towards that goal, it adds significant administrative functions to the DOH
12 without adding any resources to manage them. DOH will have to manage the collection of fees from

1 hundreds of businesses, as well as conduct monitoring and enforcement activities, with no new staff or
2 other resources provided for by this bill. By contrast, deposit beverage container program
3 administration and enforcement are funded by the container fees.

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

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

Cyndi Apana

From: kiwikira@yahoo.com
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 3:15 PM
Cc: EEPtestimony; EBMtestimony
Subject: Encourage Reusable Checkout Bag Usage!

Bill No. SB 2559

Search returned no results

Date 3/8
Time 1515

Kira Nims

Cat AF AS AX B

kiwikira@yahoo.com

Type 1 (2) WI

3060 Lanikaula st

Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Monday, March 08, 2010 05:14 PM PST

Strong Support for
Search returned no results

Re: EEP/EBM Hearing on SB2559 Tuesday, Mar. 9, 2010, 11:30AM Conference Room 325 Aloha members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection, and House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business, and Military Affairs. I strongly support Senate Bill 2559 because disposable checkout bags unnecessarily degrade Hawai'i's precious environment, are a health hazard, and degrade the natural beauty of Hawaii. 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. On Maui a plastic bag ban was passed and it has significantly reduced the use of disposable bags. 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 and could possibly earn proceeds to help with the plastic trash hazards already existing. This bill is an easy way for the state to earn some money. Please push this Bill forward Mahalo nui loa for you time and consideration.

Kira Nims

Cyndi Apana

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 3:19 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: carolphilips1@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/9/2010 11:30:00 AM

Bill No. SB 2559

Testimony for EEP/EBM 3/9/2010 11:30:00 AM SB2559

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Carol Philips
Organization: Individual
Address: 66-008C Kamehameha Hwy Haleiwa, Hawaii 96712
Phone: 808-637-2977
E-mail: carolphilips1@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/8/2010

Date 3/8

Time 1519

Cat-AF AS AX B

Type 1 2 WI

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Rep. McKelvey, Rep. Choy and Committee Members; I'm writing in strong support of this measure as a surfer, as someone who loves Hawaii's beaches and as a concerned voter. The passage of this bill will help keep Hawaii's beaches pristine and help protect the long term health of the oceans and peoples of this world.

Plastic bags kill an estimated one hundred thousand marine animals each year. In addition, many times more plastics are consumed by marine animals in the form of barley visible particles. These plastic particles eventually end up on the food tables of Hawaii's people.

As we all know plastics contain many chemical additives that have negative environmental and human health effects. These effects include Direct toxicity, as in the cases of lead, cadmium and mercury Carcinogens, as in the case of diethylhexyl phthalate (DEHP) Endocrine disruption which can lead to cancers, birth defects, immune system suppression and developmental problems in children.

Passage of this legislation would be a great step towards improved stewardship of our Aina.

Sincerely,
Carol Philips
66-008 C Kamehameha Hwy
Haleiwa, Hawaii 96712

Cyndi Apana

From: luvties@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 3:46 PM
Cc: EEPtestimony; EBMtestimony
Subject: Encourage Reusable Checkout Bag Usage!

Search returned no results

Bill No. SB2259

Date 3/8

Time 1546

jenna kuhns

luvties@gmail.com

po box 41

haleiwa, hi 96712

Cat AF AS AX **(B)**

Type 1 **(2)** WI

Monday, March 08, 2010 05:45 PM PST

Strong Support for
Search returned no results

Re: EEP/EBM Hearing on SB2559 Tuesday, Mar. 9, 2010, 11:30AM Conference Room 325 Aloha members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection, and House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business, and Military Affairs. 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 nui loa for your time and consideration.



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

Bill No. 2559

Date 3/8

Time 1606

Cat AF AS AX (E)

Type 1 (2) WI

Tuesday, March 9, 2010 @ 11:30 a.m. in CR 325

Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
 Rep. Hermina M. Morita, Chair
 Rep. Denny Coffman, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION, BUSINESS, & MILITARY AFFAIRS
 Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
 Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Vice Chair

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

Re: SB 2559 SD2, Proposed HD1

Chairs & Committee Members:

We like the intent and purpose of SB 2559 SD2, Proposed HD1, and can live with it as a solution to the continued use of one-way bags. We support making the measure across the board by including all bags, and not just plastic bags, since this is an all-bag issue. We are concerned that many of our customers will have the opinion that retailers and the State are in a partnership to increase prices, since we would be sharing in the take, even though we must jump through the hoop of changing our accounting system and computer systems to accept the new proposal, collect the money, and pay the State. On the other hand, we would not cherish having to do the work without having the cost of the additional workload covered.

We oppose a ban on any type of bag, since this costs the consumer more because it manipulates the market, can create shortages, and will definitely increase consumer costs.

HFIA did come up with a redesign of how one-way bags are being used by suggesting an ADF (advance deposit fee) of one cent (1¢) per bag at the manufacture or importation level, as it would be the least costly method of collecting, auditing, and enforcing a bag reduction program. However, it would require an educational program that would not be required with SB 2559, SD2 Proposed HD1. Thus SB 2559, SD2 Proposed HD1 does have that advantage.

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.



Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

PO Box 2577, Honolulu, HI 96803
808.538.6616 hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org

Bill No. SB 2559

Date 3/8

Time 1813

Cat. AF AS AX B

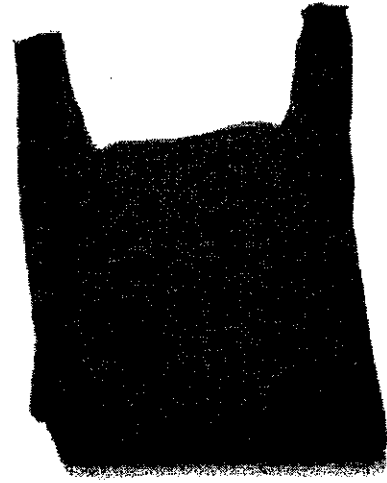
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION 1 WI
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION, BUSINESS, &
MILITARY AFFAIRS

March 9, 2010, 11:30 A.M.
(Testimony is 3 pages long)

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 2559 (HD1)

Aloha Chair Morita, McKelvey, and Members of the Committees:

The Hawai'i Chapter of the Sierra Club strongly supports SB 2559 (HD1), which creates an offset fee for the use of all single use bags (whether paper or plastic) and incentivizes retail stores to encourage the use of less-harmful bags. An offset fee smartly creates a direct market reflection of the actual economic and environmental costs created by the abuse of single-use bags in Hawai'i.



Single use bags simply are not in Hawai'i's sustainable future and strong efforts should be made to discourage their continued use.

I. Reducing Our Opala Problem.

Hawai'i is faced with a solid waste crisis. A study completed for the City and County of Honolulu by consulting group R.W. Beck, the "2006 Waste Characterization Study" (available online at www.opala.org), reveals some shocking facts about Oahu's solid waste situation. Since the last waste characterization study in 1999, the trash from Oahu households increased by 30.2% from 316,491 tons annually in 1999 to 412,016 tons in 2006 (R.W. Beck, "2006 Waste Characterization Study," April 2007, at 3-11). The population increased by roughly 3% over the same period (878,906 to 906,000) -- *meaning waste generation from households increased 10 times faster than population growth.*

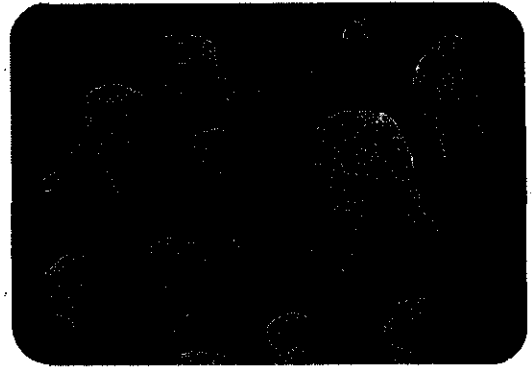
The proliferation of single use bags directly contributes to this problem. They tax our economy and environment when they are littered or placed in our overflowing landfills. For example, a recent study conducted in Seattle concluded -- even with a high 13% recycling rate (greater than the national average of 3-5%) -- approximately 1,650 tons of plastic bags were put into the

landfill annually.¹ The net cost to Seattle and ratepayers of collecting, transferring and disposing of waste was calculated to be approximately \$121 per ton or approximately \$200,000 for plastic grocery bags.

Even if these bags are burned at H-POWER (only on O'ahu), they are essentially converted to greenhouse gasses, further hastening global climate change, and ultimately not addressing the root of the problem. Similarly, with nearly 40% of the State's solid waste-stream able to be diverted from disposal at the landfill, plastic bags pose the single-most significant challenge to composting facilities, contaminating the compost, getting wrapped in the splines of processing equipment, and reducing the value of the compost product.

II. Consumers Already Indirectly Pay for Single Use Bags.

"Free" single use bags are an expense that is typically not directly visible by customers. Retailers spend hundreds of millions of dollars annually to provide single-use bags to customers. For example, supermarkets can spend up to \$1,500 to \$6,000 a month just to provide single-use bags to their customers at the check-out.² Even major retailers such as Target and CVS are realizing this significant cost burden and are offering discount incentives to customers who bring their own bags.³



The cost of purchasing tens of millions of bags in Hawai'i annually is most certainly passed on to local consumers, but it is not a visible cost and, thus, normal market controls do not take place. As with anything "free," we tend to take advantage of the ready supply plastic bags without considering the indirect costs.

It should be noted that two highly successful businesses in Hawai'i -- Costco and Wholefoods -- do not offer its customers plastic bags. These businesses are flourishing. The switch by Wholefoods alone kept 100 million plastic bags out of the environment between April 22, 2008 and the end of 2008.

¹ See Alternatives to Disposable Shopping Bags and Food Service Items, available at http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/util/Services/Recycling/Reduce_Reuse_Exchange/ProposedGreenFee/index.htm

² Downing, J. "Free Grocery Bags Targeted for Extinction in California," *Sacramento Bee*, Aug. 25, 2008. Estimates from bag manufacturers and the Food Marketing Institute. Available at http://www.roplast.com/documents/Free_grocery_bags_targeted_for_extinction_in_California_-_Sacramento_Politics_-_California_Politics_Sacramento_Bee.pdf

³ Horowitz, B. "Target, CVS Put Plastic Bags in the Bull's-Eye, Pay for Reusables," *USA Today*, Oct. 19, 2009.

III. Single Use Bags Tax Our Environment.

Single use bags contribute to litter and pose a threat to avian and marine life in Hawai'i -- the endangered species capitol of the world. As noted by NOAA,⁴ plastic photo-degrades -- breaking down into smaller and smaller pieces due to exposure to solar UV radiation. However, when in water plastic does not get direct sunlight exposure, therefore breakdown happens much more slowly in the aquatic environment. So far as we know, plastics do not ever fully "go away," but rather break down into smaller and smaller pieces, sometimes referred to as microplastics.

Plastics also have the potential to adsorb contaminants from the marine environment and carry these contaminants through the food chain. Plastic debris attracts and accumulates hydrophobic organic toxins such as PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) up to 100,000-1,000,000 times ambient seawater concentrations. These toxins can then bioaccumulate up the food chain, where they directly impact human health.



IV. Bold Action Is Needed Now.

The measure before these Committees recognizes the critical issues at stake for our environment and encourages consumers to take responsible, proactive action to change their habits. We urge these Committees to consider the various approaches that numerous cities across the United States, as well as several countries around the world have taken in addressing the challenges posed by single use bags.

We hope you will move this measure forward. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

⁴ See <http://marinedebris.noaa.gov/info/plastic.html>



Bill No. SB2559

Date 3/8

Time 1:46

Cat AF AS AX B

Type 1 2 WI

March 8, 2010

House Committees on EEP and EBM

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

Dear Chairs Morita & McKelvey, Vice-Chairs Coffman & Choy 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 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 needed revenue to the state's general funds 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 called "micro-plastics," which are often consumed by fish and filter feeders that mistake them for food. Because plastics cannot be digested, they concentrate organic chemicals and environmental pollutants in the system, and bioaccumulate as they make their way up the food chain. So this is a human health issue as well as an environmental hazard.

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.

Most consumers will 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; 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

Cyndi Apana

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 7:01 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: Mrc123@mac.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2559 on 3/9/2010 11:30:00 AM

Bill No. SM2559

Testimony for EEP/EBM 3/9/2010 11:30:00 AM SB2559

Date 3/8

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mark Cunningham
Organization: Individual
Address: 57-469 Kam. HWY. Kahuku, HI.
Phone: 224 2626
E-mail: Mrc123@mac.com
Submitted on: 3/8/2010

Time 1901

Cat AF AS AX B

Type 1 2 WI

Comments:

Let's make Hawaii a leader instead of a laughing stock on this one. Please listen to and represent the PEOPLE who elected you and not "THE INDUSTRY" and their bottom line concerns. ALOHA, MC

Cyndi Apana

From: jarvie@hawaii.edu
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 7:26 PM
Cc: EEPtestimony; EBMtestimony
Subject: Encourage Reusable Checkout Bag Usage!

Bill No. SB 2559

Search returned no results

Date 3/8

Time 1926

Anna Grodan

Cat AF AS AX (B)

jarvie@hawaii.edu

Type 1 (2) WI

1330 Kanewai St.

Honolulu, HI 96816

Monday, March 08, 2010 09:25 PM PST

Strong Support for
Search returned no results

Re: EEP/EBM Hearing on SB2559 Tuesday, Mar. 9, 2010, 11:30AM Conference Room 325 Aloha members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection, and House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business, and Military Affairs. 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 nui loa for you time and consideration .

Cyndi Apana

From: tatazina@yahoo.com
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 8:10 PM
Cc: EEPtestimony; EBMtestimony
Subject: Encourage Reusable Checkout Bag Usage!

Bill No. SB2559

Search returned no results

Date 3/8

Time 2010

Cat-AF AS AX

Type 1 WI

Marie Ferguson

tatazina@yahoo.com

2801 Lai Road Apt. N2

Honolulu, HI 96816

Monday, March 08, 2010 10:09 PM PST

Strong Support for
Search returned no results

Re: EEP/EBM Hearing on SB2559 Tuesday, Mar. 9, 2010, 11:30AM Conference Room 325

Aloha members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection, and House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business, and Military Affairs.

I'd like to start off by mentioning that I would like to be at the hearing in person to state my testimony but am unable to due to my participation on a marine science research cruise in American Samoa. As such, my involvement in marine science over the past 10 years and conducting intensive field work along several tropical and temperate reef ecosystems throughout the Pacific has been essential and invaluable in exposing the real threats the marine environment faces, primarily due to human impact. For the past 3 years in my work as a marine ecosystem researcher in Hawaii, I have spent a majority of that time assisting in large-scale efforts to remove marine debris along the Northwestern Hawaiian Island chain. And the most obvious and prominent

threat I see year after year along this pristine set of unique reefs and ecosystems is the tons of debris and plastic either washed ashore on the small islands or on the shallow-water reef environments, as well as the tons of debris you see in the open ocean. And it saddens me when I see this garbage either smothering the reefs and killing the coral, etc. or finding a dead turtle, sea bird or monk seal that has become entangled in debris and drowned or has consumed plastic pieces of garbage. Seeing the very real degradation our garbage causes in the marine environment tells me time and time again that something must be done to stop all this garbage from entering our ocean and fresh waters.

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 and allows Hawai'i to take lead in the effort to reduce waste nation and worldwide. Similar laws have been passed worldwide and proven to be very successful. Reusable bags are affordable and readily available throughout Hawai'i. 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. And, most importantly, this bill will be essential in helping to properly educate our keiki kuleana with our aina and ocean. Please push this Bill forward. Mahalo nui loa for you time and consideration.

Marie Ferguson

Cyndi Apana

From: emkdunne@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 8:37 PM
Cc: EEPtestimony; EBMtestimony
Subject: Encourage Reusable Checkout Bag Usage!

Bill No. SB2559

Search returned no results

Date 3/8

Time 2:037

Elizabeth Dunne

Cat. AF AS AX (B)

emkdunne@gmail.com

Type 1 (2) WI

Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

Monday, March 08, 2010 10:37 PM PST

Strong Support for
Search returned no results

Re: EEP/EBM Hearing on SB2559 Tuesday, Mar. 9, 2010, 11:30AM Conference Room 325 Aloha members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection, and House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business, and Military Affairs. I strongly support Senate Bill 2559. Disposable checkout bags are unnecessary. 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. It's time that Hawai'i take this simple step toward protecting its most precious assets -- a clean ocean and a healthy environment. Please push this Bill forward. Mahalo nui loa for you time and consideration.

Cyndi Apana

From: mudiver1200@yahoo.com
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 9:22 PM
Cc: EEPtestimony; EBMtestimony
Subject: Encourage Reusable Checkout Bag Usage!

Bill No. SB2559

Search returned no results

Date 3/8

Time 2:22

Cat AF AS AX B

Type 1 2 WI

Tim Clark

mudiver1200@yahoo.com

1708 Wilhelmina Rise

Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

Monday, March 08, 2010 11:21 PM PST

Strong Support for
Search returned no results

Re: EEP/EBM Hearing on SB2559 Tuesday, Mar. 9, 2010, 11:30AM Conference Room 325

Aloha members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection, and House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business, and Military Affairs.

Normal 0 <!-- Style Definitions p.MsoNormal, li.MsoNormal, div.MsoNormal {mso-style-parent:""; margin:0in; margin-bottom:.0001pt; mso-pagination:widow-orphan; font-size:12.0pt; font-family:"Times New Roman"; mso-fareast-font-family:"Times New Roman";} @page Section1 {size:8.5in 11.0in; margin:1.0in 1.25in 1.0in 1.25in; mso-header-margin:.5in; mso-footer-margin:.5in; mso-paper-source:0;} div.Section1 {page:Section1;} -->

I strongly support Senate Bill 2559. I am a marine biologist in Hawaii and have seen the negative impact plastics have on our marine life. For my PhD I researched the foraging ecology of the manta ray in Hawaii. Manta rays feed on plankton, and we would routinely observe them skimming plastic pieces off the waters surface as they fed. Plastic bags litter our ocean, and are consumed by fish, sea turtles, and sea birds. Studies of the North Pacific central gyre have found six times as much plastic by weight as plankton. Endangered sea turtles mistake plastic bags for jellyfish, ingesting the bags and die when they can't pass them through their intestine. Sea birds swallow plastic pieces, mistaking them for food and die from starvation. Plastics are ingested by fish and litter our coral reefs. While single use plastic bags break down into smaller plastic pieces over time, these pieces never leave our environment. SB2259 would help reduce the level of plastics in our environment by banning single use plastic bags. Instead, people would be encouraged to invest in our environment by bringing their own reusable bags. I hope you will invest in Hawaii's future by supporting SB2259.

Mahalo,

Tim Clark

Re: EEP/EBM Hearing on SB2559 Tuesday, Mar. 9, 2010, 11:30AM Conference Room 325

Aloha members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection, and House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business, and Military Affairs.

My name is Sheila Sarhangi and I'm a freelance writer here in Hawaii. I strongly support Senate Bill 2559 for the following reasons:

1) **Single-use checkout bags unnecessarily crowd our limited landfills.** In an article published by the *Honolulu Advertiser* in yesterday's paper (March 8, 2010), it stated that: "According Maui County, which has studied the plastic bag issue for a ban it passed in 2008... Maui residents use an estimated 350 plastic carryout bags a year [per person], or 50 million total. Use on O'ahu based on population could be 300 million bags or more annually." Just think about that figure: roughly 300 million plastic bags are consumed annually on Oahu, and consider that only 0.6-percent of plastic bags are ever recycled, according to reports. That's a lot of unnecessary waste.

2) **Burning single-use plastic bags at Oahu's H-POWER facility is neither smart, nor sustainable.** Burning plastic bags only contributes to greenhouse gases in our atmosphere; this line of thinking also diverts from Governor Lingle's Clean Energy Initiative—which aims to have at least 70-percent of Hawaii's power come from clean energy by 2030. This is shortsighted thinking, for the benefit of cheap fuel only.

3) **Plastic bags never completely biodegrade. Their toxic materials remain in our eco-system forever.** Just consider that one plastic bag is used for roughly 12 to 15 minutes. Is that worth the damaging effects that it will have on our environment?

4) **Plastics of all kinds kill millions of seabirds, marine mammals, fish and sea turtles each year through ingestion and entanglement.** In a 1987 study published in the *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, 90 percent of albatross chicks on Oahu and Midway contained plastic in their digestive systems. (And remember, this study was completed more than two decades ago.) That's nine out of 10 birds feeding their young PLASTIC. In addition, in February 2008, Charles Moore and his crew from the Algalita Marine Research Foundation collected 500 lantern fish from the eastern portion of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch--a soupy expanse of plastic bits and marine debris that extends from the Sea of Japan to within 500 miles west of California. He found that 85 percent of the larger species were eating plastic.

A 5-cent fee on single-use plastic bags will encourage consumers to bring their own reusable bag to the store, which can effectively change long-term behavior, and will have a positive benefit on our environment. By imposing this small fee, 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Bill No. SB 2559

Date 3/9

Time 2:35p

Cat. AF AS AX B

Type 1 2 WI

PETLAND - KAHALA

4400 KALANIANOLE HWY.
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96821

State of Hawaii legislature
State Capitol Building
3-5-10

Dear legislator,

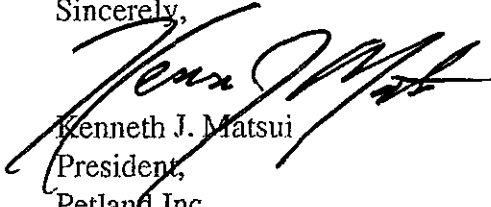
I am representing Petland Inc. in opposing the ban on single use plastic bags (SB2559). We sell fish, plants and other animals that need to be transported in water and that need single use plastic bags both for initial containment and backup containment. Many fish have fins, spines, and teeth that make bag leaks a possibility. Plastic bags make for safer transportation.

Plastic bags for many of our dog owning customers are not single use. After bringing bags home they use the bags to scoop dog wastes when walking their dogs.

On Oahu most plastic and paper bags are burnt at Hpower providing electricity rather than damaging the environment.

Besides being general manager of Petland and Petland Inc. I formerly served on economic advisory committee taxation subcommittee with Calvin Say and others during Cayetano years. While I do not speak for the government institution I can say the financial crises for the state is likely to get worse rather than better due to the ponzi scheme like financing for state retirement and health care benefits. Further tax, fee, and fine increases beyond 50% levels now imposed by government will only make the financial situation worse as more businesses close or become noncompetitive internationally. To solve the problem you have to reduce these less important uses of government funds and focus on more important uses such as education.

Sincerely,



Kenneth J. Matsui
President,
Petland Inc.