

LATE TESTIMONY

Representative Angus McKelvey, Chair
Representative Isaac Choy, Vice Chair
Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business
State Capitol, Honolulu, HI 96813



HEARING Thursday, February 16, 2012
 8:30 am
 Conference Room 312

RE: **HB2260, HD1 Relating to Environmental Protection**

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Choy, and Members of the Committee:

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

RMH supports HB2260, HD1, which requires businesses in the State to collect a fee for single-use checkout bags provided to a customer; allows businesses to keep twenty per cent of the fees for the first year of the program and ten per cent of the fees thereafter, subject to income and general excises taxes; requires fees to be collected on single-use checkout bags not prohibited by county ordinance; deposits a percentage of fees collected into the natural area reserves fund, and the remainder into the general fund.

This measure is a practical and manageable option to an outright ban on plastic bags and places the responsibility for the careless discard and misuse, or the wise re-use and management, of these items on the consumer. Hawaii's retailers unquestionably support the broadest use of reusable tote bags as the ultimate solution for the environment. 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.

We respectfully ask for two amendments:

- Replace language on page 10, §342H-F County Ordinances, subsections (a) and (b) with the following: **§342H-F Preemption. Except for any county ordinance regulating single-use checkout bags in effect prior to the effective date of this part, this part shall preempt the authority of any county to regulate the use of single-use checkout bags; provided that in counties where an ordinance regulating plastic single-use checkout bags is in effect, the fee established under section 342H-B shall apply only to single-use checkout bags made of paper.**

There already are three county ordinances with which industry has to comply. HB2260, HD1 adds yet another set of regulations. Business needs fewer, not more costly rules.

- On page 7, **§342H-B**, Subsection (b): Insert a sentence clarifying that the amount of the fee charged to the customer is not subject to the 4.5% general excise tax (4% on the Neighbor Islands); perhaps the Department of Taxation could provide specific language. This will eliminate any misunderstanding or confusion for smaller businesses.

HB2260, HD1 represents an understanding of and consideration for the concerns and issues proffered by all the stakeholders over the past two years. We ask your consideration of our requests before advancing this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.


Carol Pregill, President

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LATE TESTIMONY

Representative Angus McKelvey, Chair
Representative Isaac Choy, Vice Chair
Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business
State Capitol, Honolulu HI 96813
Thursday, February 16, 2012
8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 312

RE: HB 1828 RELATING TO SINGLE-USE PLASTIC CHECKOUT BAGS

Dear Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Choy & Members of the Committee

ABC Stores is a local retail chain with 40+ stores located on Oahu, and on the neighbor islands.

ABC Stores supports HB 2260, HD1, that requires businesses in the State to collect a fee for single-use checkout bags provided to a customer; allows businesses to keep twenty per cent of the fees for the first year of the program and ten per cent of the fees thereafter, subject to income and general excises taxes; requires fees to be collected on single-use checkout bags not prohibited by county ordinance; deposits a percentage of fees collected into the natural area reserves fund, and the remainder into the general fund.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

PAUL KOSASA
President & CEO

The Pacific Resource
PARTNERSHIP



Testimony of C. Mike Kido
External Affairs
The Pacific Resource Partnership

House Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business
Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Representative Isaac W. Choy, Vice Chair

HB 2260, HD1 – Relating to Environmental Protection
Thursday, February 16, 2012
8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 312

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Choy, and Members of the Committee:

My name is C. Mike Kido, External Affairs of the Pacific Resource Partnership (PRP), a labor-management consortium representing over 240 signatory contractors and the Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters (formerly the Hawaii Carpenters Union).

PRP supports HB 2260, HD1 Relating to Environmental Protection which requires businesses in the State to collect a fee for single-use checkout bags provided to a customer. The measure allows businesses to keep twenty per cent of the fees for the first year of the program and ten per cent of the fees thereafter, subject to income and general excises taxes. It also requires fees to be collected on single-use checkout bags not prohibited by county ordinance and deposits a percentage of fees collected into the natural area reserves fund, and the remainder into the general fund.

PRP believes that this measure would help consumers reduce the use of single-use checkout bags and thereby reduce waste and unnecessary hazard to the natural environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views with you and we respectfully ask for your support on HB 2260, HD1.



Sierra Club

Hawai'i Chapter

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

LATE TESTIMONY

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION & BUSINESS

February 16, 8:30 A.M.
(Testimony is 3 pages long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2260 (HD1)

Aloha Chair McKelvey and Committee Members -

The Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, with 9,000 dues-paying members and supporters, **strongly supports** HB 2260 (HD1). We ask, however, that HD1 addition of waiver of fees on federally-approved nutrition assistance program participants be removed and instead an appropriation be made for free reusable bags be made available.

This bill 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.

I. Reducing Our Opala Problem.

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

Hawai'i is faced with a solid waste crisis. 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.

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>

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.

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. 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.

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

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

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. The Importance of Protecting Hawai'i's Water Resources

Regardless of what happens on the international front, we know that climate change is going to impact in Hawai'i in significant and detrimental ways. This is the new reality of today and tomorrow. We have to foresee these changes and adapt to a changing world.

The funding provided by this bill could provide a significant, long-lasting, and vital contribution to addressing one of the critical impacts of climate change and ensure Hawai'i has water for future generations.

Further, enhancing efforts to protect Hawai'i's watersheds would have the additional benefit of protecting Hawai'i's cultural legacy from the destruction of invasive species. Hawai'i is home to more threatened and endangered species than anywhere in the country. In order to ensure future generations will have the opportunity to appreciate the diversity of Hawai'i, increased protections and funding are needed today.

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



Surfrider
Foundation.

LATE TESTIMONY

Feb. 15, 2012

Committee Chairs & Members of ERB (Economic Revitalization and Business)

RE: Strong Support for House Bill 2260 – Relating to Environmental Protection

Hearing on Thur., Feb. 16, State Capitol, Conf. Rm. 312, 8:30am

Dear Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Choy and Committee Members,

My name is Stuart Coleman, and I am the Hawaii Coordinator of the Surfrider Foundation. With more than 5000 supporters, activists and members across the state, the Surfrider Foundation (“Surfrider”) strongly supports passage of HB2260, a bill designed to address the harms of single-use plastic and paper check out bags that are degrading the environment, harming marine life and overflowing our landfills. We support this statewide fee bill on all single-use plastic and paper bags in conjunction with the existing bans on Maui, Kauai and now on the Big Island.

According to the EPA, over a million sea birds, marine mammals and sea turtles die each year due to ingestion and entanglement in plastics. This bill would help people make the switch to reusable tote bags and help protect these sea creatures. On Feb. 6, the Reserve Advisory Council (RAC) of NOAA’s Office of National Marine Sanctuaries passed a resolution stating, “The Council believes a fee on single-use plastic and paper bags would reduce marine plastic pollution and litter throughout the islands and encourage the use of reusable bags.” Approximately, 500 million single-use bags are used in Hawaii each year, and far too many end up polluting our streets, streams, coastlines and oceans. This bill will not only protect marine life and improve Hawaii’s natural environment, but it will also help enhance the beauty of Hawaii for locals and visitors alike.

Governments across the world have successfully reduced plastic bag use, either through plastic bag bans, or through fees or taxes. Washington, DC passed a similar Bag Fee Bill in 2010, and consumption of plastic bags decreased 80% in the first year and raised funds for a program to clean up the Anacostia River in our nation’s capitol. Similarly, SB2511 has provisions that will dramatically reduce the proliferation of plastic and paper bags, while also helping fund an important DLNR program to protect Hawaii’s watersheds and sources of water. This offset fee is not a tax because it can be avoided when consumers bring reusable bags instead of wasting single-use plastic and paper bags, which is the whole purpose of the bill.

The following countries have all taken measures to reduce their plastic bag usage in an effort to protect their precious natural resources and valuable coastlines: Ireland, China, Tanzania, Taiwan, Australia, Italy, and South Africa. And many cities and counties have followed their lead. Eventually, all state governments will realize how economically wasteful and environmentally damaging single-use plastics are. Will our state be a leader or a latecomer in this zero-waste movement? Hawai’i will only benefit by reducing our waste stream.

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

The Surfrider Foundation is supporting HB2260 because our 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 look like jellyfish and are often ingested by sea turtles, seabirds, and marine mammals, and they also adversely affect the entire marine food web. Because plastic does not biodegrade, 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. In the ocean, these micro-plastics attract toxic chemicals and persistent organic pollutants like PCB’s, which accumulate and magnify as they make their way up the food chain and into our seafood. So this is a human health issue as well as an environmental hazard.

Single-use plastic bags are also a threat to our wallets, and everyone bears the cost of these so-called “free” bags. One California study showed that taxpayers spend as much as \$0.17 on each “free” plastic bag because they subsidize the recycling, collection, and disposal of these toxic tumbleweeds. Retailers have to pay for each 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 so-called “free” plastic bag. By reducing the amount of disposable plastic and paper bags in the environment and our landfills, the counties will save money from having to clean them up.

Over the last four years, I have spoken to many citizen groups and thousands of students across Hawaii about marine plastic pollution, the North Pacific Garbage Patch and the other four Gyres just like it in the South Pacific, North Atlantic, South Atlantic and Indian Oceans. When I tell them about our legislative efforts to reduce single-use bags, the support for this kind of bag bill has been overwhelming. We have been working with a diverse and growing coalition of educational institutions, environmental groups, local businesses and grocery stores, and most recently, with government agencies like DLNR and DOH. All of us are committed to passing this bill because we believe it’s a win-win-win situation for the environment, the economy and the health of our people and our oceans.

Just as many countries in Europe, Asia, Africa and around the world have introduced legislation to reduce the proliferation of single-use grocer bags, I hope you all help us become one of the leaders in the country on this issue. Just as Hawaii led the way in many health care and environmental reforms in the past, we are now poised again to be one of the first states in the country to pass statewide legislation to reduce the pollution and waste from plastic and paper bags. The people of Hawaii have been waiting for this kind of popular, common sense bill, and the eyes of the world are watching to see what we will do. 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



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII°
MĀNOA

Water Resources Research Center
Environmental Center

LATE TESTIMONY

February 15, 2011
RL: 2285

HB 2260 HD1
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

House Committee on Economic Revitalization and Business
Public Hearing – Thursday, February 16, 2012
8:30 a.m., State Capitol, Conference Room 312

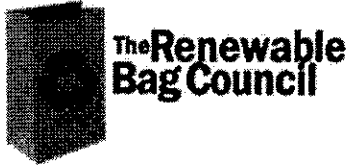
By
David Penn, Environmental Center
IN SUPPORT

Dear Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Choy, and committee members,

The Environmental Center supports this measure to reduce the excessive use of single-use checkout bags and to use collected fees for environmental protection programs.

The preamble to this measure includes legislative findings that call for strengthening water quality measures such as reducing discharge of pollutants in developed areas. We suggest that this objective may be easier to achieve if the fees collected under this measure are shared with environmental planning and management programs administered by the state department of health. The natural areas reserve fund is an important resource for “preserv[ing] in perpetuity specific land and water areas which support communities, as relatively unmodified as possible, of the natural flora and fauna, as well as geological sites, of Hawaii.” Hawaii Revised Statutes § 195-1. However, we need massive water quality management improvements throughout our watersheds, not just in the mauka areas generally included in natural area reserves, in order to repair the damage and minimize the cumulative negative impacts felt in the lower watersheds, along the shoreline, and in the ocean.

Thank you for considering our testimony on this proposed legislation. Please note that our testimony is advisory only and should not be construed to represent an official institutional position of the University of Hawaii.



February 16, 2012

Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
House Committee on Economic Revitalization and Business
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 427

Dear Chairman McKelvey:

The Renewable Bag Council¹ appreciates the opportunity to share our perspective on H.B. 2260, legislation that would impose a fee on both plastic and paper bags offered at retail check-out. We respectfully oppose inclusion of paper in this proposal as it wrongfully penalizes our product—a commodity that is highly recycled, recyclable, compostable, and renewable.

To begin, we wish to highlight the fact that the paper bag is a recycling success story. Many paper bags contain more than 30 percent recycled material, and in some cases, retailers use paper bags made of 100 percent recycled paper. Not only are paper bags made from recycled paper, they are highly recycled themselves and are a fixture in community recycling programs throughout Hawaii. In fact, Hawaiian residents frequently use paper bags as their containers when recycling other paper products such as newspapers, magazines, envelopes, juice and milk cartons, and printer paper—all items that are accepted at the curb in this City. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the paper bag boasts a national recycling rate of almost 50 percent. In 2010, 63.5 percent of the paper and paper-based packaging used in the U.S. was recovered for recycling – that's 334 pounds for every man, woman, and child.

The legislation contains a number of inaccurate statements about paper production and our industry's raw material and energy usage. A little known fact is that paper mills on average fulfill about two-thirds of their energy needs through carbon neutral, renewable biomass energy that is generated and consumed on site at these facilities. This is power that would otherwise need to be sourced from the electricity grid. Moreover, pulp and paper mills are also highly efficient operations, utilizing the thermal energy generated at our facilities for space heating and drying applications, as well as the production of steam used to drive turbines and produce power.

From a raw material perspective, paper bags are made from a renewable resource. Our member companies alone plant 1.7 million trees each day in North America. In fact, according to the U.S. Forest Service, the country has more forested acres today in 2011 than we did in 1953. Demand for forest products—whether it be paper bags, envelopes, newsprint, or lumber—is the engine that drives the forest growing cycle. Since most of the forestland in the U.S. is

privately held, these landowners—mainly families with parcels of 300 acres or fewer—depend on an economic return on their investment to keep their forested acres forested. Without markets for forest fiber, these landowners will inevitably find alternatives for recouping their investment. These alternatives are typically either conversion to row crop agriculture or sale of the property for development, resulting in permanent deforestation.

Despite the tremendous progress that has already been made, the paper industry has no intention of resting on its laurels. Last year we announced a new, voluntary industry fiber recovery goal to exceed 70 percent by 2020. This goal is part of the most extensive set of quantifiable sustainability goals set by a major U.S. manufacturing industry. This new initiative, *Better Practices, Better Planet 2020* is the next phase in the forest products industry's efforts building on our legacy as a leader in sustainability – from raw materials and product manufacturing to the health and safety for our workforce and economic contributions to our communities. Within *Better Practices, Better Planet 2020*, we have set specific, challenging goals for increasing paper recovery for recycling, increasing our energy efficiency by 10 percent, reducing our greenhouse gas emissions by 15 percent and promoting sustainable forestry practices, while continuing to strive for the safest workplaces possible for our employees.

The Renewable Bag Council respectfully opposes H.B. 2260 in its current form. The legislation treats plastic and paper equally despite the fact that the environmental impact of the two products is completely different. We are proud of the paper bag's environmental attributes and the commitment of our industry to paper recovery and recycling. We believe that efforts to tax paper bags as a means to reduce litter are misguided and could have negative unintended consequences. Given the environmental bona fides of our product, we encourage the legislature to avoid measures that penalize paper and, as always, we stand ready to assist you and offer our expertise as a resource as you begin to shape policy on this important issue.

Contact: Patrick Rita
202/261-1324

¹ The Renewable Bag Council (RBC) is comprised of manufacturers and converters of renewable, recycled, recyclable, and compostable Kraft paper used for checkout bags at grocery and retail outlets throughout Los Angeles and across the United States. The group is affiliated with the American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA), which is the national trade association of the forest products industry, representing pulp, paper, packaging and wood products manufacturers, and forest landowners. AF&PA companies make products essential for everyday life from renewable and recyclable resources that sustain the environment. The forest products industry accounts for approximately 5 percent of the total U.S. manufacturing GDP, putting it on par with the automotive and plastics industries. Industry companies produce about \$190 billion in products annually and employ nearly 900,000 people earning \$50 billion in annual payroll. The industry is among the top 10 manufacturing sector employers in 47 states. The annual payroll for paper industry employees in Hawaii is \$4.6 million.

CC:
Rep. Isaac Choy
Rep. Karen Awana

Rep. Tom Brower

Rep. Cindy Evans

Rep. Mark Hashem

Rep. Scott Nishimoto

Rep. James Kunane Tokioka

Rep. Clift Tsuji

Rep. Barbara Marumoto

Rep. Kymberly Marcos Pine

LATE TESTIMONY

TO: Members of the Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business

FROM: Natalie Iwasa
Honolulu, HI 96825
808-395-3233

HEARING: 8:30 a.m. Thursday, February 16, 2012

SUBJECT: HB 2260 HD1 Fees on Single-Use Bags - OPPOSED

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony on HB2260 HD1, which would impose fees on checkout bags and require reporting by businesses and the Department of Taxation. This bill refers to checkout bags as "single-use," but our family, and many others we know, uses the typical plastic and paper bags many times over. I oppose this measure for various reasons, including the following.

Our family uses (and re-uses) plastic bags, paper bags and cloth bags, depending on the purpose. We've found that, surprisingly, the typical cloth bags do not hold up as well as paper bags. Cloth bags also take up more space than plastic bags. We therefore often prefer plastic or paper bags.

The proposed fee is simply a new tax, and not only that, but the portion that is retained by the businesses who would be required to charge the fee would have to pay general excise tax on the portion kept – **basically a tax on a tax!**

This bill also requires more funds to "administer" the fee. Rather than imposing new taxes or fees, government should operate more efficiently. I urge you to vote "no" on this bill.

February 15, 2012

House Committee on Economic Revitalization and Business
Representative McKelvey, Chair
Representative Choy, Vice Chair

Public Hearing: Thursday, February 16, 8:30 a.m., Room 312

Re: HB 2260

Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair McKelvey and members of the Committee,

I support House Bill 2260.

A single use bag fee will serve to influence consumer behavior and will significantly reduce the number of plastic and paper bags used in the state. Similar fees have worked well in many other locations.

Single use grocery bags are used for an average of only 12 minutes. Less than 5% of these bags are recycled. Single use bags are an enormous waste and can easily be replaced by reusable bags. Plastic bags end up as litter and plastic pollution in the ocean, where they affect the health of wildlife and ultimately of humans, as "microplastics" make their way through the food chain.

The time for behaving as if the waste we produce can disappear to an unseen location and not affect our health and the health of our environment is over. The State Legislature has an opportunity to be leaders in the nation in acknowledging this change by moving this bill forward. I urge you to pass HB 2260.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Nicole Lowen
nlowen@gmail.com
Palolo Valley, 96816

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony of Christine Ahia

Supporting H.B. 2260 HD1 Relating to Environmental Protection

House Committee on Economic Revitalization and Business

Thursday, February 16, 2012, 8:30AM, Room 312

I support H.B. 2260 HD1, particularly its proposal to use revenue from a small fee on single-use checkout bags to support watershed protection programs. This bill provides a good opportunity to turn something that can be harmful to the environment into revenue that supports a healthy environment.

I am an educator and participate in service projects sponsored by the DLNR, E Mau Na Ala Hele, Kohala Watershed Partnership, the Sierra Club, and Three Mountain Alliance and volunteer with restoration and invasive plant eradication. The efforts of these organizations is crucial to maintaining a healthy watershed for everyone in Hawai'i. I've witnessed the destruction of the watersheds due to invasive plants and ungulates, and have seen damage in areas that used to be free of ungulates where funding to maintain fences fell short. I've also seen the striking differences in the health and diversity of native forests when they are ungulate free and protected. I strongly support the DLNR's "Rain Follows the Forest" watershed protection initiative. I recognize the necessity of natural resource stewardship even during challenging financial times. Generations of Hawaii's ranchers, farmers and land managers have always understood the close connection between a healthy natural environment, land protection, stewardship, water supply, agricultural self-sufficiency, and the economy.

Our precious natural resources support life on our islands and are essential to our existence here. These vast natural assets (forests, fresh water, beaches, coral reefs, agricultural land) that support every person in Hawai'i — residents and visitors — are irreplaceable and need to be

valued and protected as our foremost, unique, and life giving asset. Although business and government measure our economy by the number of tourism and construction jobs in operation, there are many jobs that can be provided by caring for and maintaining a healthy watershed, and local residents as well as visitors who are interested in our endemic plants and animals could be provided with an abundance of information and experiences in certain areas. After all, Charles Darwin would have been truly amazed at the endemic plants and birds that evolved here. We really do have a treasure here in Hawai'i that is priceless and deserves our support and protection.

The DLNR's watershed initiative proposes a sound investment in our forests, which are the source of nearly all the islands' supply of fresh water. The watershed protection and invasive species programs supported with state funds and leveraged several times over with matching funds from county, federal and private sources help to ensure healthy, managed natural resources that permit our survival in the middle of the vast Pacific. Mahalo for reading my support of this important bill.

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 5:47 PM
To: ERBtestimony
Cc: moraiswebster@aol.com
Subject: LATE TESTIMONY - Testimony for HB2260 on 2/16/2012 8:30:00 AM
Attachments: HB 2260 Testimony.docx

Testimony for ERB 2/16/2012 8:30:00 AM HB2260

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Dawn Morais Webster Ph.D.
Organization: Individual
E-mail: moraiswebster@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

Comments:

Honorable Representatives:

As you consider HB 2260, I offer this reminder. It's an old English rhyme and it makes the point that:

***The law doth punish man or woman
That steals the goose from off the common,
But lets the greater felon loose
That steals the common from the goose.***

We have collectively been stealing "the commons from the goose." Our ever increasing use of plastic bags is slowly stealing the ocean from marine life.

This is one of those times when we can act on behalf of "the commons"—or in this case the oceans and waterways --that are being stolen from marine life and seabirds because of our unthinking and runaway use of plastic bags.

None of us willfully intends to harm the fish or other ocean creatures or the seabirds that ingest the plastic or get entangled in it. None of us willfully intend to pollute our waterways. But the fact of the matter is every time we reflexively accept a plastic bag for every purchase, no matter how small, that we make at the grocery store, we are helping to steal the ocean from the creatures who live off the life it sustains. We too depend on that water and the fish that it sends to our dinner tables.

This bill will do two things: it will help stem our addiction to these plastic and paper bags and in the process of doing so, generate funds that will help restore the health of our waterways. Yesterday I was at Longs, and when I explained why I was declining the plastic bag she offered, the cashier asked if she could lend her name in support of the bill and stopped to give me her name. She said "I can't wait for when we stop using these bags."

This bill is so in keeping with what Hawaii represents. It is a wonderful opportunity to do something that will yield immediate benefit to the state while setting an example as a first for the nation.

Please pass HB2260. Thank you.

Dawn Morais Webster Ph.D.

*Business executive, Adjunct Instructor, University of Hawaii
Blogs on faith, culture and politics at www.freecatholic808.com*

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 3:24 PM
To: ERBtestimony
Cc: Pandiorama@yahoo.com
Subject: LATE TESTIMONY - Testimony for HB2260 on 2/16/2012 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for ERB 2/16/2012 8:30:00 AM HB2260

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Andrea Hamblin
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Pandiorama@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

Comments:

LATE TESTIMONY

From: randy ching [oahurandy@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 3:45 PM
To: ERBtestimony
Subject: LATE TESTIMONY - in support of HB2260, HD1 -- relating to environmental protection

HB2260, HD1 (support)
House Committee on Economic Revitalization and Business
Hearing on Thursday, February 16 at 8:30 a.m. in conference room 312

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Choy, and members of the committee,

I support HB2260, HD1: the single-use bag fee bill. Not only will this bill greatly reduce the number of single-use bags that go into our landfills, it will help protect our drinking water by doubling the number of acres of protected watershed (mainly through fencing and removal of feral ungulates). This bill will also create 150 FTE (full time equivalent) jobs. And, of course, add revenues to the state coffers.

This is a win-win-win bill. Please pass HB2260, HD1.

Mahalo.

Sincerely,

Randy Ching
Honolulu
oahurandy@yahoo.com

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 5:06 PM
To: ERBtestimony
Cc: surfergirl808@msn.com
Subject: LATE TESTIMONY - Testimony for HB2260 on 2/16/2012 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for ERB 2/16/2012 8:30:00 AM HB2260

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: ROXANNE RIVERO
Organization: Surfrider Foundation
E-mail: surfergirl808@msn.com
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

Comments:

as a resident of Hawaii and behalf of my love of the ocean and aina.. i would like you to support this bill to start the limitation if not elimination of single use.plastic and paper bags, it is so important to begin this in our state and island and stop the inundation of plastic and rubbish to our precious resources and do our part to control what we can, i fully support any fee or ban, and appreciate your support of this bill.. mahalo, Roxanne Rivero, Kahala

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 5:58 PM
To: ERBtestimony
Cc: jploomis@maui.net
Subject: LATE TESTIMONY - Testimony for HB2260 on 2/16/2012 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for ERB 2/16/2012 8:30:00 AM HB2260

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: James Loomis
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jploomis@maui.net
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

Comments:

Single use (plastic) bags have been essentially banned on Maui for some time now and the results are apparent to everyone. Please do not be swayed by knee-jerk opposition from conservative ideologs. This is a good idea and the time is right. Imua! Mahalo.

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 6:36 PM
To: ERBtestimony
Cc: mkusch@msn.com
Subject: LATE TESTIMONY - Testimony for HB2260 on 2/16/2012 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for ERB 2/16/2012 8:30:00 AM HB2260

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: matthias kusch
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mkusch@msn.com
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

Comments:

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony in support of HB2260 HD1

February 15, 2012

Patricia A. Gozemba 3873 Nikolo St., Honolulu, HI 96815 & 17 Sutton Ave., Salem, MA 01970; (978)744-9141; pgozemba@gmail.com

I have been a visitor to the Hawaiian Islands for 31 years. I am a committed environmentalist in both Massachusetts where I live for 7 months each year and Oahu where I live for the 5 other months. As a fulltime environmentalist and a part-time resident, I stand firmly in support of HB2260 HD1. As a tourist to other islands of Hawai'i and observer and lover of the environment here, I care deeply about preserving the environment for centuries to come. It is time that the state government of Hawai'i takes a leadership role in preserving the integrity of the environment of all the islands. Plastic bags are a plague upon the landscape of so many parts of the world and seem especially out of place in the gorgeous landscape of Hawai'i and especially in the marine ecosystem of the beautiful oceans surrounding us here.

On a visit to Maui this year I was pleasantly surprised as I drove up to Kula to find so few plastic bags blowing along the highway. I soon learned why, when I made my first stop at Longs. No longer were my purchased items efficiently whipped into plastic bags before I could say, "No thanks, I've got my own bag."

On six accesses to Kaho'olawe over the past fifteen years, I learned how far-reaching the pollution of plastic bags is. Walking the shores of that remote island, helping on clean ups, I found how far plastic bags travel and how omnipresent they are.

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is growing towards these islands and we are growing out towards it plastic bag by plastic bag. We can slow this pollution and we can teach lessons about truly caring for the earth to the many visitors who come to these islands. Visitors are overwhelmed by the beauty here. Paying for plastic and paper bags to preserve the beauty would not be a hardship. Rather it would offer visitors a chance to participate in preserving the beauty rather than polluting it.

Like most tourists, I am enchanted with the natural beauty of Hawai'i and have learned from Native Hawaiian activists how important it is for all of us to learn that preserving the *aina* is the *kuleana* of all of us. HB2260 HD1 is a step in the right direction.

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 7:35 PM
To: ERBtestimony
Cc: mhesketts@mac.com
Subject: LATE TESTIMONY - Testimony for HB2260 on 2/16/2012 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for ERB 2/16/2012 8:30:00 AM HB2260

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Marvin
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mhesketts@mac.com
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support HB22260 and would ask you to do the same. All one has to do is look around while driving or walking and see mistakenly lost plastic bags floating around, caught in fences and trees and blowing along the streets. We need to understand that this overt and noxious pollution needs to be treated similar to other acute toxic substances as these plastics are killing animals quickly upon ingestion. Even banned insidious PCBs take a lifetime to kill by causing tumors. Plastic bags starve the individuals rapidly. Please express simple reason by helping to reduce the impact of these toxic substances now while helping to fund environmental improvements.

Thank you,
Marvin Heskett

LATE TESTIMONY

Joy Leilei Shih, M.A.S.
3267 Mokihana Street
Honolulu, HI 96816
(650) 380-5482
joyshih@hawaii.edu

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION & BUSINESS

Feb 16, 2012, 8:30 am
(Testimony is 1 pages long)
TESTIMONY IN STRONG FAVOR OF HB 2260

Aloha Chair McKelvey and Members of the Committee:

Forget what you have heard about the positive impact this bill will have on Hawaii's environment. Forget what you have heard about its positive impact on our small businesses who are paying higher costs to distribute paper bags.

This bill is about saving Hawaii's consumers money.

Individuals and families are currently forced to pay for plastic bags whether they wish to use them or not. The cost of these disposable bags is built into the price of the food and goods consumers purchase, increasing the cost of living for everyone.

Passing HB 2260 will give local consumers the freedom to choose whether they want to pay for disposable plastic bags, or whether they want to save their hard earned money for something else.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important measure. While this bill will have far reaching positive impact on our state, the most important among them are not of merely environmental stewardship.

I am in strong support of HB 2260 and respectfully request that you advance the measure.

Mahalo,

Joy Leilei Shih

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 8:44 PM
To: ERBtestimony
Cc: launahele@yahoo.com
Subject: LATE TESTIMONY - Testimony for HB2260 on 2/16/2012 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for ERB 2/16/2012 8:30:00 AM HB2260

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Benton Kealii Pang
Organization: Individual
E-mail: launahele@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

Comments:

Our watersheds are the greatest asset Hawai'i has for future generations. Please ensure they are protected and managed. Mahalo.

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 9:18 PM
To: ERBtestimony
Cc: amandalee4443@yahoo.com
Subject: LATE TESTIMONY - Testimony for HB2260 on 2/16/2012 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for ERB 2/16/2012 8:30:00 AM HB2260

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Amanda Vernon
Organization: Individual
E-mail: amandalee4443@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

Comments:

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 9:42 PM
To: ERBtestimony
Cc: vwoo@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: LATE TESTIMONY - Testimony for HB2260 on 2/16/2012 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for ERB 2/16/2012 8:30:00 AM HB2260

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: vernon woo
Organization: Individual
E-mail: vwoo@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

Comments:

i have always had a large dog as my companion. i regularly buy biodegradable "t shirt" bags (refers to shape of bag) for picking up my dog's poop. the bags are a third of the size of super market bags and are purchased in volumes of 500 for pennies a piece. pets waste is a red herring. let's save our precious land for the future generations!

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 10:37 PM
To: ERBtestimony
Cc: eknutson@hawaii.edu
Subject: LATE TESTIMONY - Testimony for HB2260 on 2/16/2012 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for ERB 2/16/2012 8:30:00 AM HB2260

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Erik Knutson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: eknutson@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

Comments:

I am a current student at UH Mānoa. I have grown up on the island of Oahu. I want to support this Bill regarding our plastic bag consumption and also to support the responsibility we all hold to our islands resources. Water is a finite resource and a responsible stewardship is key for our islands. Thank you for this opportunity to support the great work of DLNR I will support this bill be present at the hearing thank you for your time.

Aloha
Erik

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

BRIAN SCHATZ
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION
P.O. BOX 259
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540
FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

LATE LATE TESTIMONY

FREDERICK D. PABLO
DIRECTOR OF TAXATION

RANDOLF L. M. BALDEMOR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

To: The Honorable Angus L. K. McKelvey, Chair
and Members of the House Committee on Economic Revitalization and Business

Date: Thursday, February 16, 2012
Time: 8:30 A.M.
Place: Conference Room 312, State Capitol

From: Frederick D. Pablo, Director
Department of Taxation

Re: H.B. No. 2260 HD 1, Relating to Environmental Protection

The Department of Taxation (Department) appreciates the intent of H. B. 2260 HD 1, and supports the HD1 revisions which clarify the duty of businesses to comply with Chapter 235 and 237 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

LATE LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony of Mark Wasser
Supporting H.B. 2260 HD1 Relating to Environmental Protection
House Committee on Economic Revitalization and Business
Thursday, February 16, 2012, 8:30AM, Room 312

I support H.B. 2260 HD1, particularly its proposal to use revenue from a small fee on single-use checkout bags to support watershed protection programs. This bill provides a good opportunity to turn something that can be harmful to the environment into revenue that supports a healthy environment.

I recognize the necessity of natural resource stewardship even during challenging financial times. Generations of Hawaii's ranchers, farmers and land managers have always understood the close connection between a healthy natural environment, land protection, stewardship, water supply, agricultural self-sufficiency, and the economy. I am a resident of Hawai'i Island, and believe there is almost no issue more critical than protecting our island (and the state's) natural fresh water resources.

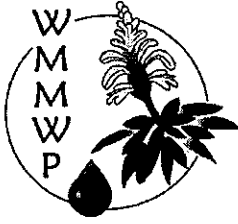
Business and government often measure our economy by the number of tourism and construction jobs in operation. That's understandable, but doesn't account for vast natural assets (forests, fresh water, beaches, coral reefs, agricultural land) that support every person in Hawai'i — residents and visitors — who depend on services from the environment for their livelihoods, health and welfare.

The DLNR's watershed initiative proposes a sound investment in our forests, which are the source of nearly all the islands' supply of fresh water. The watershed protection and invasive species programs supported with state funds and leveraged several times over with matching funds from county, federal and private sources help to ensure healthy, managed natural resources that permit our survival in the middle of the vast Pacific.

Aloha,

Mark Wasser

441A Mohouli St
Hilo, HI 96720
(316)204-5329
mwasser@hawaii.edu



West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership

February 16, 2012

RE: Supporting S.B. 2260 HD1

Relating to Environmental Protection

House Committee on Economic Revitalization and Business

Thursday, February 16, 2012, 8:30AM, Room 312

Single-use Checkout Bags; Fee

West Maui Mountains
Watershed Partnership

P.O. Box 13240

Lahaina, Hawai'i

96761

Phone (808) 661-6600

Fax: (808) 661-6604

Watershed Partners

County of Maui

Dept. of Land &
Natural Resources

Ka'anapali Land
Company, LLC

Kahoma Land, LLC

Kamehameha Schools

Makila Land Co., LLC

Maui County
Department of Water
Supply

Maui Land &
Pineapple
Company Inc

Wailuku Water Co.
LLC

The Nature
Conservancy

Aloha Legislators,

The West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership Supports SB 2260 to provide funding to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for watershed protection programs. Identifying funding sources for the DLNR's "Rain Follows the Forest" watershed protection initiative is a highly worthy cause.

The proposed bill would allow for resource management to be increased, reverse the degradation of additional forests resources, and further secure the water resources that our state depends on for residential, agricultural and commercial use. Funding will also be leveraged with federal, county, or private grant sources to further stimulate local economies, **bring in millions of outside dollars and provide more jobs.**

As a partnership and as individual entities, we understand that the roots of our success has been built upon the waters which flow from our forests. Without the forest we cannot depend on the water which nourishes our personal and economic interests and understand the necessity of natural resource stewardship even during challenging financial times. Our forefathers recognized this need and we need to echo that wisdom now that the demand for water resources is increasing and supply is decreasing.

The DLNR's watershed initiative proposes a sound investment in our forests. We hope that you can join us in lending your support for watershed protection.

By unanimous consent and on behalf of our partners,

Mahalo nui loa,

Christopher N. Brosius
Watershed Coordinator

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 7:16 AM
To: ERBtestimony
Cc: jmccay@hotmail.com
Subject: LATE LATE TESTIMONY - Testimony for HB2260 on 2/16/2012 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for ERB 2/16/2012 8:30:00 AM HB2260

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: James McCay
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jmccay@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/16/2012

Comments:

Please help rid of lovely home from single use plastics! These are at EVERY beach clean up and we need less of them as we can only catch a small percentage of those that end up in the ocean.

This is a GREAT bill that funds watershed protection at the same time. Please make Hawai'i stronger, cleaner, and more healthy!

Aloha,
James

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 8:39 AM
To: ERBtestimony
Cc: willfbow@gmail.com
Subject: LATE LATE TESTIMONY - Testimony for HB2260 on 2/16/2012 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for ERB 2/16/2012 8:30:00 AM HB2260

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: William F. Bow
Organization: Individual
E-mail: willfbow@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/16/2012

Comments:

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 8:30 AM
To: ERBtestimony
Cc: devan.rostorfer@student.chaminade.edu
Subject: LATE LATE TESTIMONY - Testimony for HB2260 on 2/16/2012 8:30:00 AM
Attachments: SupportTheBagBill_HB2260.docx

Testimony for ERB 2/16/2012 8:30:00 AM HB2260

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Devan Rostorfer
Organization: Individual
E-mail: devan.rostorfer@student.chaminade.edu
Submitted on: 2/16/2012

Comments:

How many times do you go to the grocery store or gas station to buy one item, but you leave with two? That second item; a plastic bag, costs much more than what you initially purchased. It's environmentally costly, which is a price that Hawaii and many other states cannot afford.

Support The Bag Bill HB2260. This bill is a progressive movement towards a future with less waste, where sustainability is the norm, and senseless wasting is an old trend. As a young woman originally from Michigan but studying biology in Hawaii, I think this bill could potentially set an example to other states facing the same environmental problems provoked by the over usage of plastic material, such as overflowing landfills and polluted water resources.

A 10 cent incentive, to keep people from using plastic bags will encourage people to use reusable bags at the grocery store and if you forget your bag, it may cost you an extra dime at the check out, but it will contribute to saving the lovely Hawaiian aina' for future generations. Worried about where this money is going? It's going to organizations that focus on keeping your drinking water clean, and sustaining the environment.

I want to end this testimony with one last question. Why wouldn't you support this bill? The average person uses 400 plastic bags throughout the year, and this bill could substantially reduce that number, and in the long run improve public and environmental health. Please support "The Bag Bill," HB2250. Let's turn Hawaii into an example; An environmental Leader. Let's keep it paradise.

Thank you,
-Devan Rostorfer

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 9:17 AM
To: ERBtestimony
Cc: lindsey.tolentino@yahoo.com
Subject: LATE LATE TESTIMONY - Testimony for HB2260 on 2/16/2012 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for ERB 2/16/2012 8:30:00 AM HB2260

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lindsey Tolentino
Organization: Individual
E-mail: lindsey.tolentino@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/16/2012

Comments:

A tax on single-use plastic bags will help people to become more aware of its impact on the environment. It will set a good example for the rest of the United States and guide people toward using the resources (reusable bags) that they already have.