

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY KALBERT K. YOUNG
INTERIM DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AND ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AND BUSINESS
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 998

February 10, 2011

RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

House Bill No. 998 establishes a fee of 10 cents for each disposable checkout bag that is provided to customers and establishes the Energy Sustainability Special Fund to hold the collected fees to be used by the Department of Health for the purpose of funding activities that promote the increased use of sustainable and renewable energy resources.

While the department supports the general intent of the measure to encourage environmental and energy sustainability, as a matter of general policy, the Department of Budget and Finance does not support the creation of any special fund which does not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes. Special or revolving funds should: 1) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries of the program; 2) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 3) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. In regards to House Bill No. 998, it is difficult to determine whether there is a clear nexus between the benefits sought and the charges made upon the users or beneficiaries of the program and whether the fund will be self-sustaining.

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 04, 2011 2:37 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: gbmhart@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB998 on 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM HB998

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: gina hart
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: gbmhart@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/4/2011

Comments:

February 9, 2011

House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

Representative Hermina M. Morita, Chair
Senator Denny Coffman, Vice Chair

House Committee on Economic Revitalization and Business

Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Representative Isaac W. Choy, Vice Chair

Public Hearing: Thursday, February 10, 2011, 11:00 a.m., Conference Room 325

Re: HB 998, Relating to Environmental Protection

Dear Chairs, Vice Chairs and members of the Committee,

I offer this testimony in support of House Bill 998.

This bill would require all businesses to charge \$.10 fee for plastic checkout bags.

Single use checkout bags, plastic and paper, pose many threats to the environment. These bags, which are used for an average of only 12 minutes,¹ not only cause unsightly litter and end up in landfills, they also find their way into our waterways and oceans, and are a large contributor to marine debris, posing a threat to marine life and polluting the ocean.² Furthermore, these bags require fossil fuels to manufacture and transport. Although biodegradable, compostable, and recyclable versions of single-use checkout bags exist, this strategy is only effective at mitigating the environmental hazards of single-use bags when successful composting or recycling plans exist and are used. However, an EPA study³ indicates that only approximately 5% of plastic bags used in the nation are actually recycled. Although biodegradable plastic and paper bags are a better choice than plastic bags made from polyethylene, all types contribute to the waste stream and take a long time to biodegrade in landfills.⁴

Several other countries and cities worldwide, such as China, Bangladesh, Ireland, South Africa, Denmark, Hong Kong, Rwanda, Tanzania, and the United Kingdom have passed laws to decrease the use of plastic bags and encourage the use of reusable bags.⁵ In the US, laws or

¹ Ford, Matt. *Fighting the tide of plastic bags in a world awash with waste*. CNN, July 13, 2008.

² California Ocean Protection Council (COPC). 2008. *An Implementation Strategy for the California Ocean Protection Council Resolution to Reduce and Prevent Ocean Litter*.

³ EPA. 2007. *Municipal Solid Waste: Facts and Figures*.

⁴ Conway, Chris. *Taking Aim at All Those Plastic Bags*. The New York Times, April 1, 2007.

⁵ He, Haoran. 2010. *Environmental and Behavioral Economics - Applications to China*. Department of Economics, School of Business, Economics and Law, University of Gothenburg.

ordinances have been passed in many cities and counties, including bans on all plastic bags in Mau'i County and on all non-compostable plastic bags in Kaua'i County.

Both bag bans and fees have proven to be effective strategies for reducing single-use bag consumption. In Ireland, a bag fee has reduced plastic bag use by over 90% and has additionally proved to be "so popular with the Irish public that it would be politically damaging to remove it."⁶ In San Francisco, the ban on plastic bags was estimated to have reduced bag use by five million plastic bags every month within a year of its implementation.⁷

Critics of these policies suggest that regulation of plastic bags leads to more use of paper bags, which may be equally environmentally harmful, that bag fees will negatively impact low income people, and that the inconvenience of "bringing your own bag" will negatively affect retailers and grocery stores. However, the examples of both Ireland and San Francisco show that these criticisms have not borne out, and that these strategies can successfully and significantly reduce single-use bag consumption and waste, help to get people into the habit of bringing reusable bags, and become popular policies with the public at the same time.

The best solution to plastic bag litter, pollution and overconsumption is to discourage single-use bags and encourage a switch to reusable bags made of cloth or other durable and washable materials. HB 998 can accomplish this by requiring all businesses to charge a \$.10 fee for each checkout bag. I further recommend that this fee be required for paper bags as well, to ensure that consumers change behavior by switching to reusable bags rather than increasing consumption of paper bags. Once consumers create new habits and behavior is changed, these policies become templates for new social norms. Similar to seat belt laws, or laws about littering, which were both initially unpopular but are now widely accepted, once consumers and businesses form new habits, they will recognize that reusable instead of disposable bags make sense for businesses, customers and the environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Nicole Lowen
MA Candidate
Department of Urban and Regional Planning
University of Hawai'i at Manoa
nlowen@gmail.com
Honolulu, 96816

⁶ Convery, F., McDonnell, S., and Ferreira, S. 2007. *The most popular tax in Europe? Lessons from the Irish plastic bags levy*. Environmental and Resource Economics. 38:1, 1-11.

⁷ Gorn, David. 2008. *San Francisco Plastic Bag Ban Interests Other Cities*. NPR, March 27, 2008.

seawater concentrations. These toxins can then bioaccumulate up the food chain, where they directly impact human health.

IV. Proposed Amendments

Home Rule. This bill smartly respects the current efforts of Maui and Kauai to address single-use bags. We encourage this Legislature to balance the need for statewide uniformity and respect for home rule by grandfathering any existing single-use bag reduction programs. Specifically, we suggest the following language:

- (a) This part shall preempt the powers of any county to regulate the use of disposable checkout bags, except for any county ordinance regulating disposable checkout bags in effect prior to the effective date of this part. County ordinances already in effect may be reasonably amended so as to ensure their continued effectiveness. County ordinances already in effect may overlap with this part, so long as they are construed to maximize the reduction of disposable checkout bags.

Allocation of Fees. Because of the nexus between this measure and the State's waste reduction goals, which have been sorely underfunded, it would seem logical to direct the funds received from this program to further reductions in waste. Specifically, the money derived could be allocated to the environmental management special fund to advance the State's waste reduction goals.

All fees collected by the department pursuant to this part shall be deposited into the environmental management special fund.

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



Sierra Club

Hawai'i Chapter

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

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION & BUSINESS

February 10, 2011, 11:00 A.M.
(Testimony is 3 pages long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 998 WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Aloha Chair Morita, Chair McKelvey, and Committee Members -

The Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, with 8,000 dues-paying members and supporters, *strongly supports* HB 998. 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.

Single use bags simply are not in our 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. 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

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>

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.

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

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.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2011 10:40 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: dylanb@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for HB998 on 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM HB998

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dylan Butterbaugh
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: dylanb@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 2/10/2011

Comments:

Why would we ever make something that will last forever (plastic bag) only to use it once (store to home) and then throw it away where it will lay, forever in a landfill? This is irrational and i think a 0.10 cent charge on every bag will be significant enough that i won't see plastic bags floating by me when im in the ocean at kailua beach!
Thanks for your understanding

HB 998

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2011 11:22 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: hanahau@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB998 on 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM HB998

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Marie Marcinko
Organization: Individual
Address: 651 Ilalo St. Honolulu, HI
Phone: 808 692-1565
E-mail: hanahau@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/10/2011

Comments:

HB 998

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
ACTING DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION & BUSINESS
H.B. 0998, RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Acting Director of Health

February 10, 2011
11:00 a.m.

- 1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health appreciates the intent of this measure to reduce
- 2 plastic bag waste, but has serious reservations about this bill as written.
- 3 **Fiscal Implications:** The bill imposes substantial administrative duties on the department without new
- 4 resources. The added cost to the department is undetermined, but certain. There will also be added costs
- 5 to consumers who do not use or switch to reusable bags. This bill allows businesses with approved
- 6 disposable checkout bag recycling programs to retain 50 percent of fees collected as taxable revenue.
- 7 The handling of the fee and monthly reporting to the department also imposes an additional burden on
- 8 stores.
- 9 **Purpose and Justification:** The bill requires all businesses to charge a 10 cent fee for each disposable
- 10 checkout bag provided to their customers. Businesses must state the fee on transaction receipts and
- 11 submit monthly all fees collected to the department. Businesses with approved disposable checkout bag
- 12 recycling programs may remit 50 percent of fees collected. The department is to deposit fees into a new
- 13 "energy sustainability special fund" to fund activities that promote the increased use of sustainable and
- 14 renewable energy resources.

1 While the department generally supports the reduction of solid waste, litter, and the use of
2 petroleum resources, we respectfully oppose this bill. The reduction of plastic bag waste through
3 disincentives is a prudent idea. However, imposing more fees on the general public is inappropriate at
4 this time of economic constraint.

5 The proposed fee potentially represents millions of dollars of extra costs to the general public. In
6 addition, plastic bag reduction ordinances for both Kauai and Maui County just took effect in early
7 January 2011. The City and County of Honolulu seems to view plastic bags as feedstock for its waste-to-
8 energy program. The County of Hawaii has attempted to pass a similar ordinance without success. The
9 department prefers to let counties decide how to reduce use of disposable checkout bags.

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

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HB 998

3375 Koapaka Street, D-108 • Honolulu, HI 96819 • (808) 831-0811

February 9, 2011

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Attn: Rep. Hermina M. Morita, Chair
Rep. Denny Coffman, Vice Chair

From: Bob Gutierrez, Times Supermarket

Chair Morita and Committee,

We appreciate the opportunity to submit our testimony and comments for HB 998. As you may know Times Supermarket is based in Oahu and operates 20 stores with locations in Maui, Kauai and Oahu.

As an island based company, we understand the constraints of limited space and the need for preserving the unique landscape of Hawaii. It is for this reason that we appreciate the opportunity to share our comments related to this important issue and provide some insight from an industry perspective.

Currently two island counties have implemented bag policy where we operate stores, and while we support the attempt to change consumer behavior, we believe that that best method for doing so is by implementing a fee. There are various models throughout the United States that address the use of single use bags, and while some are similar throughout states such as California, they lack a uniformed approach. Hawaii has the opportunity to be the first state in the union to implement a statewide policy that holds all jurisdictions to the same standard.

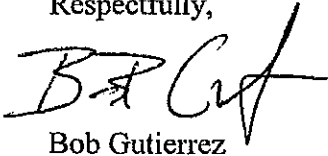
In Maui and Kauai we don't have the ability to charge a fee to help consumers adapt to the ordinances currently in place. Tourists have shifted to paper which is considerably more expensive and environmentally damaging to produce than plastic. The statewide adoption of HB 998 would provide the ability for Times Supermarket to better manage a bag policy and continue to promote higher environmental consciences to our consumers.

Having a fee for both plastic and paper given the model that is before us in HB 998, with a few additions, should provide a more affective policy that creates a win for the state, consumers and retailers. Such additions would include; providing a wavier of the fee to consumers that participate in low income programs such as WIC, EBT and other federal programs as well as the ability to create a uniformed approach for all retailers, large and small, throughout the state.

By providing a preemption of all currently implemented policies, the state of Hawaii will be able to ensure better enforcement of the law and create additional revenue in jurisdictions that currently would be exempt from HB 998. The idea is to maximize the revenues generated by the law to better educate consumers on conservation and re-useable product practices.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions regarding this matter at (209) 957-2555, ext 153 or Bob Stout, President of Time Supermarket at (808) 831-0811. We thank you in advance for your consideration and we look forward to continuing the dialogue.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Gutierrez', written in a cursive style.

Bob Gutierrez
Director of Government Affairs, Times Supermarket

disposable, single-use checkout bags, thereby encouraging further incentive to keep plastic bags out of the environment. Any business that develops such a program shall retain 50 percent of the fee collected, which is subject to state taxes. The non-reusable bag fee does not apply to plastic bags used for the transport of raw meat, poultry, flowers and other damp items, bulk foods without packaging, fresh produce, live animals, newspapers, dry-cleaning and the like.

I respectfully recommend that the plastic bag fee bill introduced retains the language that it does not preempt the existing plastic bag bans already in place in Maui and Kauai Counties. Maui and Kauai Counties enacted bans designed to meet their goals in reducing plastic bag usage.

I also respectfully recommend that the fee be considered for all single-use checkout bags, including biodegradable plastic bags and paper bags. This policy would encourage residents of Hawai'i to use reusable bags and thereby reducing their opala footprint.

I am available to help refine such a policy that would be most beneficial to the State of Hawai'i. Please do not hesitate to draw upon my time and effort, and fellow researchers and expert resources at my disposal in this opportunity to move forward.

I respectfully ask that this committee advance this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Joy Leilei Shih

ⁱ United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), 2005. Marine Litter, an analytical overview.

ⁱⁱ Wallace, N. 1985. Debris entanglement in the marine environment: A review. Pp. 259-277. In: R.S. Shomura, H.O. Yoshida (eds.) Proceedings of the Workshop on the Fate and Impact of Marine Debris 27-29 November 1984, Honolulu, Hawaii, July 1985. NOAA-TM-NMFS-SWFC-54.

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.sciencealert.com.au/news/20081403-17043-2.html>

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2011 3:00 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: skinandink@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB998 on 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM HB998

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Anna Close
Organization: Individual
Address: 3449A Pa'alea St. Honolulu, HI
Phone: 720 7718137
E-mail: skinandink@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/9/2011

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB 998 as I feel a \$0.10 fee on single-use plastic bags would encourage consumers to reduce waste, thereby protecting our oceans, food-chain and landfills from plastic pollution

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2011 3:07 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: kelly@akocorp.com
Subject: Testimony for HB998 on 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM HB998

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kelly Macdonald
Organization: Individual
Address: Kailua HI
Phone:
E-mail: kelly@akocorp.com
Submitted on: 2/9/2011

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB 998 as I feel a \$0.10 fee, or even a \$0.17 fee, on single-use plastic bags and single-use paper would encourage consumers to use their own re-useable bags. We need to incent the switch for some consumers to help reduce waste, thereby protecting our oceans, food-chain and over-loaded landfills from plastic pollution and additional unnecessary paper waste. It is an urgent situation calling for drastic measures.

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2011 3:18 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: kenzen808@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB998 on 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM HB998

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Ken Sentner
Organization: Surfrider Foundation
Address: 2499 Kapiolani Blvd., Apt. 2209 Honolulu, HI 96826
Phone: 551-4142
E-mail: kenzen808@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/9/2011

Comments:

As leaders of a state whose main source of revenue is our natural environment, I urge you to step up and pass this legislation to mitigate toxic trash.

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2011 3:39 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: damiansempio@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB998 on 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM HB998

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Damian Sempio
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: damiansempio@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/9/2011

Comments:

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2011 3:50 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: dalyv@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for HB998 on 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM HB998

Conference room: 325
Testifier position:
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Virginia Daly
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: dalyv@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 2/9/2011

Comments:

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2011 4:28 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: smatadob@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for HB998 on 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM HB998

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Stephen Matadobra
Organization: Individual
Address: 3728 Claudine Street Honolulu
Phone: 808-386-9969
E-mail: smatadob@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 2/9/2011

Comments:

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2011 4:33 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: TRL2124@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB998 on 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM HB998

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Tony Rodriguez Larkin
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: TRL2124@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/9/2011

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB 998 as I feel a \$0.10 fee on single-use plastic bags would encourage consumers to reduce waste, thereby protecting our oceans, food-chain and landfills from plastic pollution.

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2011 4:40 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: surfergirl808@msn.com
Subject: Testimony for HB998 on 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Testimony for EEP/ERB 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM HB998

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: ROXANNE RIVERO
Organization: Individual
Address: 238 KAIMANAWAI PL HI
Phone: 808 7323131
E-mail: surfergirl808@msn.com
Submitted on: 2/9/2011

Comments:
Please support this bill for our aina..mahalo, Roxanne Rivero

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

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION & BUSINESS

Feb 10, 2011, 11:00 am
(Testimony is 3 pages long)

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF HB 998

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

My name is Joy Leilei Shih and I am a marine biogeochemist graduate student researcher in Oceanography at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. I received my Master of Advanced Studies in Marine Biodiversity and Conservation from Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, CA in 2008. I have had the privilege of being trained by, working with, and discussing anthropogenic pressure on the oceans with top marine scientists and conservation experts.

I am in support of HB 998. Single-use disposable bag fees have been shown to effectively reduce the amount of plastic bags used and entering the environment.

That plastic pollution is harmful to the marine environment is not up for debate. Large accumulations of plastic debris have been identified in all five major oceanic gyres, carried by the major ocean currents. Inefficient and improper disposal of trash supplies these hundreds of millions of square miles affected by this phenomenon. In Hawai'i, each resident produces on average at least 6.2 lbs of opala each day. It is estimated that only a few percent of plastic shopping bags are ever recycled. The recent overflow from landfill only serves to illustrate that much of our refuse is not successfully sequestered. Plastics do not degrade but only break down and remain in the environment for a minimum of years to a more likely thousands of years. In reality, plastic does not ever truly degrade but only breaks down into small enough particles to enter the food chain, including the human seafood diet.

Plastics affect every size of marine life, from its incorporation into microscopic phytoplankton, to its ingestion by the largest marine mammals. Sea birds and sea turtles are sadly common victims of being entangled in or ingesting plastic. However, even large marine mammals are not immune, as evidenced by events such as the seven sperm whales that washed up in Fiogga, Italy in 2009, having died from ingesting large amounts of plastic, as did a gray whale in Seattle in April of last year. These are only examples of many more.

Estimates range from 100 million to one billion marine animals, including fish and invertebrates, are killed each year due to plastic debris in the ocean. Included in this are 1 million seabird deathsⁱ and 100,000 marine mammals such as seals and whalesⁱⁱ. In 2007, University of Queensland researchers found that plastic bags are the biggest killer of sea turtles.ⁱⁱⁱ Currently, it is estimated that there are 100 million tons of plastic in oceans around the world. It is expected that another 60 billion pounds will be produced this year alone.

12 million barrels of oil are required to produce the 100 billion plastic bags that Americans use each year, including the 300 million plastic bags used in Oahu alone. Reducing the amount of plastic bags produced would help reduce the growing pressure of our reliance on fossil fuels.

Plastic debris also acts as hosts for invasive species, carrying them to other regions of the ocean. Extensive scientific studies have described and confirmed these "hitchhikers".

As the ocean is arguably Hawai`i's most valuable resource, being part of the solution can only be considered kuleana to our culture, our islands, and ourselves.

In 2002 Ireland placed a twenty-two cent fee on all plastic bags. Known as the PlasTax, the fee was explicitly designed to change consumers' behavior and accomplished amazing results. The use of plastic bags in Ireland dropped by more than 90 percent. The fee also raised approximately 3.5 million Euros in extra revenue that was earmarked for environmental projects.

In Washington D.C., simple 5 cent tax--with revenues going towards an environmental cause voters rallied around—resulted in consumer behavior changing for the better, with a 85% decrease in plastic bags used.

As of November 2010, the decrease in plastic bag usage due to China's plastic bag ban has kept 100 billion plastic bags out of the trash, and it is estimated that it will save China 37 million barrels of oil every year.

Maui and Kauai counties have taken the lead in plastic bag policy in Hawai`i with plastic bag bans already in place. Hawai`i would be the first state in the nation with a statewide policy for addressing plastic bags, an opportunity to telegraph to the world that Hawai`i is serious about reigning in plastic debris and its detrimental impacts. In anticipation of the APEC meeting to be hosted in Honolulu in November of this year, the state can be proud of passing such a significant piece of environmental policy, just like the much-lauded Bottle Law of 2002. This is pro-environmental policy that would have no impact on the state budget.

HB 998 states that beginning on January 1, 2010 all businesses shall charge and collect a 10 cent fee for each non-reusable checkout bag provided to a customer. This bill encourages businesses to develop and implement a recycling program for

Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection/Economic Revitalization
Representative (EEP) Hermina M. Morita , Chair
Representative (EEP) Denny Coffman , Vice Chair
Representative (ERB) Angus L.K. McKelvey , Chair
Representative (ERB) Isaac W. Choy , Vice Chair

HB 998, Relating To Environmental Protection

Hearing: 10 February 2011
11:00am, Room 325

Heather Gablehouse, Master's of Social Work Student, University of Hawaii

Thursday, February 10th, 2011

Support for H.B. No. 998, Relating to Environmental Protection

I am a Master's of Social Work student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I strongly support H.B. No. 998, Relating to collecting a fee for disposable checkout bags in the state of Hawaii.

On page three lines 9-10 state that 10 cents will be charged for each disposable checkout bag. If this bill is passed it not only will collect funds to promote renewable energy, but in itself it will also promote other environment friendly means in shopping markets. If a customer purchases \$200 worth of food every two weeks and takes home about 20 plastic bags that customer would be paying an extra 2.00 each trip to the market. For those customers that do not mind the ten cents then they can pay the fee, but others may choose to find other means and purchase reusable bags to save their money long term.

I urge you to pass H.B. No. 998 as it will improve the environment in more ways than one. It will preserve our wildlife and it will promote our citizens to either become more environmentally conscious or pay fees to promote renewable energy in the community. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Heather Gablehouse, MSW Student, University of Hawaii

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

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

State Capitol, Honolulu, HI 96813

HEARING Thursday, February 10, 2011
 11:00 am
 Conference Room 325



RE: HB998, 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 HB998, which requires businesses to collect a 10 cent fee for each plastic disposable checkout bag provided to a customer.

Undeniably, this proposal is a practical, viable 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, 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.

We respectfully offer the following comments:

1. Disposable checkout bag: this definition should be expanded to include all **single-use bags**: paper, plastic, compostable and biodegradable.
2. Fee: the 10 cent fee should be reduced to **05 cents** to lessen the burden on our residents who have the least available resources. We are hopeful that consumers will accept this fee as an investment in our environment rather than a burden, and embrace the usage of reusable bags.
3. GET: We would like a determination as to whether the fee is subject to general excise tax.
4. Recycling Programs: Many of our retailers already have plastic bag recycling programs in place whereby they collect plastic bags and shrink wrap, and ship to the mainland for recycling. We would like some clarification regarding the criteria for the department's approving the programs.
5. Preemption: With the Big Island contemplating a plastic bag ban, and the Counties of Maui and Kauai already enforcing a likewise ban, this measure will add a fourth and different set of regulations with which business must comply. Multiple regulations undoubtedly increase administrative and product costs, all of which are passed on to the consumer. A **single state-wide statute** would reduce consumer confusion and allow companies to employ economies of scale to lower operational costs. As an incentive to the counties, a distribution of their pro rata share of the fees collected would support their recycling and consumer education programs.

We respectfully request your consideration of our comments and look forward to continuing the dialogue, the result of which will be meaningful legislation that will provide positive impact on the environment. Thank you for your attention and for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Carol Pregill, President

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

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2011 12:37 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: phaedra.ranges@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB998 on 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM HB998

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: phaedra
Organization: Individual
Address: Kailua HI
Phone: 808.551.3252
E-mail: phaedra.ranges@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/9/2011

Comments:

My name is Phaedra Ranges, and I am a member of Plastic Free Hawaii (Kailua Chapter), a coalition of community members and businesses that strives to educate the stores, restaurants, residents, and visitors of Kailua on the environmental and health benefits of going plastic free.

Find out more about us at <http://plasticfreekailua.blogspot.com/>

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2011 1:35 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: angieatkins9@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB998 on 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM HB998

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Angela Atkins
Organization: Individual
Address: 1621 Anapuni Street Honolulu, HI
Phone: 860.917.5787
E-mail: angieatkins9@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/9/2011

Comments:

It's estimated that Americans use over 380 billion plastic bags and wraps a year, costing an estimated \$64 billion in tax dollars wasted on plastic bag clean up! According to an article in the Honolulu Advertiser (March 8, 2010), people on Oahu use an estimated "300 million bags or more annually." San Francisco estimates the external/hidden consumer cost of each plastic bag is \$0.17 due to cleanup and landfill processing. Plastic (and paper) bag fees and bans have been enacted all over the world with great success in reducing waste and encouraging sustainable behavior in consumers. In our nation's capitol and in other countries like Australia, Italy, and Mexico, they placed a small fee on these wasteful petroleum products. In Washington, D.C., plastic bag use dropped 60% in the first month! In Ireland, their use dropped 90% in one year because of bag fee legislation. I would also recommend applying this \$0.10 fee to any disposable checkout bag (see SB 1363).
Mahalo for your time and consideration!

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2011 1:40 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: mariyakai@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB998 on 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM HB998

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mariya Gold
Organization: Individual
Address: 2419 Ferdinand Ave Honolulu, HI
Phone: 808-220-9297
E-mail: mariyakai@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/9/2011

Comments:

I am in strong support of HB998. Single-use plastic bags are a great threat to our environment and thus to our health. A \$0.10 fee on bags will encourage consumers to think twice about using single-use plastic bags and hopefully will encourage them to start using reusable bags. This is a very small step towards a cleaner environment and a healthier society. Mahalo for supporting HB998.

Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection/Economic Revitalization Representative
(EEP) Hermina M. Morita , Chair
Representative (EEP) Denny Coffinan , Vice Chair
Representative (ERB) Angus L.K. McKelvey , Chair
Representative (ERB) Isaac W. Choy , Vice Chair

HB 998, Relating To Environmental Protection

Hearing: 10 February 2011
11:00am, Room 325

Heather Cross, Master's of Social Work Student, University of Hawaii at Manoa

Thursday, February 10th, 2011

Support for H.B. No. 998, Relating to Environmental Protection

I am a Master's of Social Work student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I strongly support H.B. No. 998, Relating to collecting a fee for disposable checkout bags in the state of Hawaii which aims to reduce the estimated 500 billion plastic bags consumed worldwide annually.

Less than 3% of plastic bags are recycled annually, justifying the need for legislation. Plastic bags are comprised of high density polyethylene plastic (HDPE). HDPE does not biodegrade, and instead goes through a process of photodegradation where the sun's UV rays break down plastic bags into tiny pieces which flood our environment. Fish and other animals living in the ocean mistake these tiny pieces of plastic as food, which is unable to be digested, resulting in their death. Living in a culture that consumes a high amount of seafood, this comes as a serious concern. By mandating a 10 cent charge on plastic bags, consumers will be encouraged to embark upon energy efficient alternative such as reusable bags. On average, every reusable bag purchased and used prevents approximately 400 single use plastic bags from being distributed.

I urge you to pass H.B. No. 998 as we need to collectively work towards becoming a culture of sustainability, not a culture of overconsumption. Changing consumer behavior is the best way to combat this economical threat; this bill would allow consumers a chance to reconsider their consumption through mandated monetary fees, as recycling efforts have been unsuccessful. Nationally, efforts are being made and countries such as China, Bangladesh, Moscow, South Africa, Uganda, and parts of the United States through implemented bans on plastic bags working towards a safer environment- it's time for Hawaii to unite in their efforts.

Respectfully,

Heather Cross, Master's of Social Work Student, University of Hawaii at Manoa

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2011 1:42 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: siobhanb@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for HB998 on 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM HB998

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Siobhan Burns
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: siobhanb@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 2/9/2011

Comments:

I have traveled the world and seen the environmental damage caused by the use of plastic bags. This legislation will provide the motivation for businesses to reassess their use of plastics and promote greater environmental awareness in Hawaii.

This is not just about the "charismatic megafauna", like our beloved honu. Assigning a fee-for-use will remind consumers and vendors of their greater responsibility to the planet.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (HFIA)

1050 Bishop St. Box 235

Honolulu, HI 96813

Fax : 808-791-0702

Telephone : 808-533-1292

DATE: Thursday February 10, 2011 TIME: 11:00 a.m. PLACE: CR 325

TO: COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Rep. Hermina M. Morita, Chair; Senator Denny Coffman, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION & BUSINESS

Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair; Rep. Issac W. Choy, Vice Chair

FROM: Hawaii Food Industry Association - Lauren Zirbel, Government Relations

RE: HB 998 RELATING TO ENVIROMNENTAL PROTECTION

Chairs & Committee Members:

HFIA supports the concept SB 1363, as a means of encouraging consumers to reduce the use both paper and plastic single use bags. However, we have serious concerns about this bill because it does not address the fact that there is a strong possibility that each county will have a different bag policy by the end of this year. This is extraordinarily burdensome for local retailers that use bags as marketing tools and attempt to order bags in bulk to cut down on cost. Having different ordinances in every county is an administrative nightmare that places an unnecessary level of burden on our local employers.

We are very pleased that this bill **addresses the fact that paper bags are not more environmentally friendly than plastic bags.** We are also pleased that this bill recognizes that it will **cost retailers money in increased checkout time due to delays associated with counting each bag at the point of sale.**

Some of our retailers are uncertain about whether they can administer this extra burden without being forced to hire more employees to handle checkout. **If a retailer's "recycling program" for disposable bag is not approved by the Director of Health they will be forced to pay for this unfunded mandate without any part of the fee they are collecting – which will result in higher food costs.** It is also questionable if a "recycling program" with no sunset will be necessary if usage of single use bags drops dramatically.

It would be very helpful if the legislature would apply single use bag laws uniformly to all counties; this includes repealing simple plastic bag bans.

Plastic bag bans increase the cost of groceries because the cost of paper bags (4 to 5 times that of plastic) is absorbed by the cost of other items. **Paper bags take more energy to produce and recycle and generate far more pollution than plastic bags.**

Compostable and biodegradable bags misappropriate our food sources – such as corn – and cause serious agricultural and water usage issues in other countries.

If the committee wishes to move this bill knowing that it will cause administrative burden and non-uniform application of law across the counties please consider the following amendments:

- **Remittance of the tax by the 15th is an unreasonable administrative burden, please make it the end of the month.**
- **Please place a sunset date on the need for retailers to maintain a "recycling program" for single use bags and clarify how retailers can meet the approval of the director of health.**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 3:59 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: elikvodovoz@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB998 on 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM HB998

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Elik Vodovoz
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: elikvodovoz@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/7/2011

Comments:

I have personally retrieved plastic bags from the ocean while surfing. People will make a more conscious decision before taking the plastic bag. The ocean needs to be protected and people need to be made more aware.



CONSERVATION COUNCIL FOR HAWAI'I

Testimony Submitted to the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Hearing: Thursday, February 10, 2011

11 am

Room 325

Support for HB 998 Relating to Environmental Protection

Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports HB 998, which requires businesses to collect a 10-cent fee for plastic disposable checkout bag provided to a customer. This will help reduce the number of bags in landfills, on land, and in the ocean.

However, we urge the legislature to consider banning the distribution of single-use bags – plastic, paper, and biodegradable/compostable ones – because all of these products require energy to manufacture and energy to ship to Hawai'i. In addition, even though some single-use bags are labeled "biodegradable" or "compostable," they do not necessarily break down under certain conditions.

Many of our residents and visitors want to protect the environment, and they will adjust by purchasing reusable bags. This positive change in behavior is long over due. Banning all single-use checkout bags will help conserve energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, protect marine life, and save merchants money.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please pass HB 998 out of your committee.

Marjorie Ziegler



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

Telephone/Fax 808.593.0255 • email: info@conservehi.org • web: www.conservehi.org

P.O. Box 2923 • Honolulu, HI 96802 • Office: 250 Ward Ave., Suite 212 • Honolulu, HI 96814

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Directors: Madelyn D'Enbeau * Maka'ala Ka'aumoana * Julie Leialoha

Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 7:17 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: steven.mazur@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB998 on 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM HB998

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Steven Mazur
Organization: Individual
Address: 3669 Hilo Place Honolulu, HI 96816
Phone: 808-469-5022
E-mail: steven.mazur@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/7/2011

Comments:

Aloha Legislative Committee, I would like to share my comments regarding HB 998. When I moved to Hawaii 3 years ago, I reduced my use of plastic bags about 98% and in the rare occasion when I choose to accept a plastic bag, I would accept the \$.10 fee since it would not be more than \$1 per year. I typically use no bags at all as one or two items are just as easy to carry in my hand as it would be in a bag. When I purchase several items and need bags, I simply grab my reusable bags from trunk or back pack. This habit did not take long to get use to and just in 3 years, I may have stopped several 100 bags from entering landfills or the ocean, and without any noticeable impact on my quality of life. Now coupling that with the negative impacts of single-use plastics on our marine life, land-fills and burning of oil to produce them, I can not understand why we would not adopt a bill that will benefit all but those that profit from producing them. Several major counties and cities across the US have already adopted a bag fee.

I have removed dozens of bags found floating in the ocean while surfing or swimming. A very large percentage of Oahu has offshore winds most of the year which easily blow bags from the ground and out of garbage cans and make their way into the ocean creating an eyesore for our tourists and citizens and literally choke marine life. The most common downside I have heard to bills that reduce or eliminate single use plastic bags is job loss that these bills can cause the plastic industry. This is ill-conceived. As the markets change, jobs are not lost, they are replaced by new markets and jobs. Those that leave the single-use plastic industry can be absorbed by the many new expanding industries including several that help sustain our islands such as renewable energy and electric vehicles, etc. To say that a product that is simply damaging our environment with such a minimal benefit of convenience (and I find the reusable bags more convenient because they have multiple uses and are more durable) should exist for the sake of jobs is ridiculous. When we pass the tipping point of reversible damage on our environment, jobs will be the least of anyone's worries. We owe our grandchildren the right to not live in a world that they must correct the mistakes of their grandparents who selfishly exploited the earth in a way that easily could have been avoided. The entire nation will be passing these types of bills now and over the next few years. This bill gives Hawaii leaders an easy opportunity to show responsibility for taking care of our environment without changing our quality of life. Reducing the jobs for products will increase the movement of talent moving into sustainable industries. Please support HB 998 in 2011.

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 8:29 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: auntiepualani@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB998 on 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM HB998

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Pualani Ramos
Organization: Na Pualani Learning Ohana
Address: 1361 Nanawale Place Kailau, HI
Phone: 808-262-3253
E-mail: auntiepualani@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/7/2011

Comments:

Dear Folks,

Please support this bill. We need to do our part to reduce or eliminate the use of plastic bags. Especially as we are an island and many of the plastic bags we use get blown into the ocean; we really need to use biodegradable bags or better yet, stores should not provide shopping bags at all. In Germany, you bring your own bag or you go bag-less. Store don't provide bags for their patrons.

Mahalo,
Pualani Ramos

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2011 12:49 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: ndavlantes@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB998 on 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM HB998

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Nancy Davlantes
Organization: Individual
Address: 47-228 Kamehameha Hwy Kaneohe, HI
Phone: 808-239-5501
E-mail: ndavlantes@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/8/2011

Comments:

If people had to pay for the plastic, they would decrease their use of it. While I would support a total ban, I think this would be a needed first step in protecting our land and oceans.

2/10/11

Honorable Representative Hermina M. Morita

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Honorable Representative Angus L. K. McKelvey

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION & BUSINESS

Conference Room 325 11:00AM

Capitol Building

415 South Beretania Street

Re: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 998

Chairmans and Members of the Committees

I am an individual in support of HB 998 and generally agree with the intent of the bill. I hope it is not the intent of the legislature to subject wholesalers of "**Disposable checkout bags**" to "**§342H-B Distribution of disposable checkout bags; fee.**" That would mean wholesalers will have to charge an extra \$100 on a carton of 1000 bags that would normally cost less than \$20. I also hope those wholesalers will not be unduly targeted by law enforcement for violations pursuant to "**§342H-D Violations**" as they will be fined \$1,000,000 for selling that exact same carton.

I do have a comment on "**§342H-G Energy sustainability special fund.**" It seems SB 120 will try to eliminate many (193pages) special funds and transfer them to the general fund with only those funds that are federally funded to be seperated.

We live on an island, and we really need to keep our waste in check. This bill will help to reduce our reliance on an item that we generally use only for 15 minutes and then is thrown away.

Thank you for the opportunity to give testimony in support of HB 998.

Joseph Heaukulani

3177 Holly Place

Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

(808) 778-1153

batcavetech@hotmail.com



People Serving People

Hawaii Restaurant Association

1451 South King St., Suite 503
Honolulu, HI 96814
www.RestaurantHI.com

Phone: 808.944.9105
Fax: 808.944.9109
hra@RestaurantHI.com

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February 9, 2011

Testimony in Providing Comments to HB 998 – EEP & ERB – 2/10/11 at 11 a.m., Rm. 325

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

The Hawaii Restaurant Association (HRA) with over 3,500 locations directly employing over 82,000 dedicated people here in the State of Hawaii provides the following comments to HB 998 that requires businesses in the State to collect a 10 cent fee for each disposable checkout bag provided to a customer.

The HRA applauds the drafter's inclusion of an exception for "Bags used to protect prepared foods or bakery goods." The HRA requests further language to clarify the exception could be for "Bags used to protect prepared foods or bakery goods for take-out or transport." By adding the clause "for take-out or transport," the intent of the bill to exempt restaurants and bakeries would be clearly set forth resulting in less confusion among the enforcing agency, merchants and consumers.

The HRA appreciates the intent of this bill, which is to protect the natural environment but plastic bags remain by far the best choice when holding containers containing freshly cooked foods, especially hot liquids and gravies that have "dampness" from the foods and condensation from the heat.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to share our view to make this a better bill.

Very truly yours,
The Hawaii Restaurant Association
Bryan P. Andaya / Victor Lim / Tom Jones
Government Relations Co-chairs



Surfrider
Foundation.

Feb. 7, 2011

Committees on Energy & Environment (ENE) & Economic Revitalization & Business (ERB)

RE: Strong Support for House Bill 998 – Regulating Single-Use Plastic Bags

Dear Chairs Morita and McKelvey and Members of the Committee,

My name is Stuart Coleman, and I am the Hawaii Coordinator of the Surfrider Foundation. With more than 4000 members across the state, the Hawai'i Chapters of the Surfrider Foundation ("Surfrider") strongly support passage of HB998, 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 bags in conjunction with the existing bans on Maui and Kauai, and we ask that it include paper bags too.

According to the EPA, millions of sea birds, marine mammals, sea turtles and fish die each year due to ingestion and entanglement in plastics. There is no reason why people can't switch to reusable tote bags and help protect these sea creatures. This bill will not only improve Hawaii's natural environment but also help counties save money by extending the life of our landfills. After the disastrous spill from our landfill recently onto the Leeward Coast, it is imperative that we reduce our waste stream dramatically, and this bill is a good start.

Governments across the world have successfully reduced plastic bag use, either through plastic bag bans, or through fees or taxes. Maui and Kaua'i County passed their own bans, and the Big Island and Oahu are working on their own. 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 these cities have followed their lead: San Francisco, Manhattan Beach, Malibu, Los Angeles, Edmunds (WA), Outer Banks (NC), District of Columbia, Mexico City, Rio de Janeiro and Mumbai. Eventually, all governments and people will realize how economically wasteful and environmentally damaging single-use plastic and paper bags are. Will our state be a leader or a latecomer in this movement? Hawai'i will only benefit from a reduced waste stream.

The Hawaii Chapters are supporting HB998 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. In the ocean, these micro-plastics attract toxic chemicals and persistent organic pollutants like PCB's, which bioaccumulate 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. (cont.)

SURFRIDER FOUNDATION • HAWAII CHAPTERS

2121 ALGARоба ST., #1107 • HONOLU, HI 96826

(808) 942-3841 • www.surfrider.org/oahu • scoleman@surfrider.org

Single-use plastic bags are also a threat to our wallets, and everyone bears the cost of these so-called "free" bags. 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 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 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.

We respectfully suggest that an amendment be made to HB998 so that the \$.10 fee covers paper bags as well and does not pre-empt the bans on Maui and Kauai. 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

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 05, 2011 9:13 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: reachbrianbell@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB998 on 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM HB998

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brian Bell
Organization: Individual
Address: 4626 Sierra Dr Honolulu, HI
Phone: 808-227-7087
E-mail: reachbrianbell@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2011

Comments:

Aloha Chair Morita and members of the Committee:

It is with great anticipation that I submit my testimony in support of HB 998, which would impose a small fee on disposable plastic bags. These bags are devastating to our marine environments. Visions of Texas-sized patches of plastic floating in the middle of the Pacific should be enough reason to ban this garbage. Plastic cannot break down like paper, it breaks into ever smaller pieces, getting ingested by marine life and steadily making its way back in to our own food.

We already know that a fee like this will work. It's worked on the outer islands as it has worked around the world. Free bags lead to waste and over-pollution.

However, this bill does not go far enough. We should also place a ban on all non-biodegradable containers such as styrofoam and non-recyclable plastics. We cannot afford to place these chemically laden containers and bags into a landfill or incinerate them into the atmosphere. Anything we put into the environment, whether land, air, or sea, we effectively put into ourselves.

Thank-you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo for considering my testimony.

Brian Bell
4626 Sierra Dr.
Honolulu, HI 96816
808-227-7087

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 05, 2011 11:00 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: merway@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB998 on 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM HB998

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Marjorie Erway
Organization: Individual
Address: PO Box 2807 Kailua Kona, HI 96745
Phone: 324-4624
E-mail: merway@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2011

Comments:

I urge you fully support Bill 998 which will require businesses to collect a 10 cent fee on disposable plastic checkout bags. I like the fact that 5 cents would go towards the Energy sustainability special fund. And reducing the number of disposable plastic bags is an urgent step for the State as well as the world. Mahalo for your consideration.

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 06, 2011 8:26 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: mariyakai@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB998 on 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM HB998

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mariya Gold
Organization: Individual
Address: 2419 Ferdinand Ave Honolulu, HI
Phone: 808-220-9297
E-mail: mariyakai@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/6/2011

Comments:

Please support HB998. Our environment and our lives are too precious. Mahalo.

Scott Higgins
Postdoctoral Fellow
Hawaii Natural Energy Institute
1680 East West Rd.
Honolulu, HI 96822

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION & BUSINESS

Feb 10, 2011

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF HB 998

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

I am in support of HB 998. Single-use disposable bag fees have been shown to effectively reduce the amount of plastic bags used and entering the environment. That plastic pollution is harmful to the marine environment is not up for debate. Large accumulations of plastic debris have been identified in all five major oceanic gyres, carried by the major ocean currents. Inefficient and improper disposal of trash supplies these hundreds of millions of square miles affected by this phenomenon. In Hawai'i, each resident produces on average at least 6.2 lbs of opala each day. It is estimated that only a few percent of plastic shopping bags are ever recycled. The recent overflow from landfill only serves to illustrate that much of our refuse is not successfully sequestered. Plastics do not degrade but only break down and remain in the environment for a minimum of years to a more likely thousands of years. In reality, plastic does not ever truly degrade but only breaks down into small enough particles to enter the food chain, including the human seafood diet.

Mahalo for your time,

Scott Higgins

Robert Barreca
3535 Maluhia Street
Honolulu, HI 96816
(808) 224-1905

EEP/ERB Public Hearing
Room 325
February 10th, 2011, 11:00am

Testimony of Robert Barreca
Co-Chair of Surfrider Foundation Oahu Chapter
In Support of House Bill 998

Good afternoon Representatives,

My name is Robert Barreca and I am the Co-Chair of Surfrider Foundation Oahu Chapter. I am writing in support of HB 998 and echoing the sentiment of our chapter which represents over 2,000 members on Oahu. Bills just like this one have been enacted all over the world with great success, both generating income for the state and encouraging consumers to reduce waste, thereby protecting our environment, food-chain and landfills.

Today, it's not hard to find a nearby city, county, state, or country that has enacted some type of single-use plastic and/or paper legislation to reduce waste and encourage sustainable behavior in consumers. In our nation's capitol and in other countries like Australia, Italy, and Mexico, they placed a small fee on these wasteful petroleum products—in Washington, D.C., plastic bag use dropped 60% in the first month! In Ireland, they charged a fee on plastic bags, and their use dropped 90% in one year. Cities and counties all over the mainland have enacted similar legislation over the past couple years.

Reusable cloth and nylon bags can be purchased for a dollar (sometimes free) and used for years and years. Like any change in policy, of course consumers will take a little while to get used to bringing their own bags, but soon it will become second nature just like in all the aforementioned regions that have had fees or bans for years.

According to an article in the Honolulu Advertiser (March 8, 2010), people on Oahu use an estimated "300 million bags or more annually." Just across the channel, neighbor islands Kauai and Maui have enacted bans on single-use plastic bags. While we do not want to reverse the local legislation in those counties, the remaining parts of the state can catch up and make Hawaii a model for the rest of the mainland. We must begin to protect our beautiful island home by reducing the massive amount of waste and plastic pollution we generate on a daily basis.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Robert Barreca

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 12:21 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: chuckt5@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB998 on 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM HB998

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Charlie Taylor
Organization: Individual
Address: 1936 S. King St Honolulu, HI
Phone: 707-313-2253
E-mail: chuckt5@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/7/2011

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support HB 998 and believe a 10 cent offset fee for each non-reusable checkout bag provided to a customer is appropriate. Plastic bag pollution is one of the greatest threats to Hawaii's environment, and I believe a 10 cent fee will significantly reduce plastic and other non-reusable bag use in Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Charlie Taylor
1936 S. King St.
Honolulu, HI, 96826

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

Rachel Harvey
316 Keaniani St.
Kailua, HI 96734,
352-872-8622,
racheharvey@gmail.com

EEP/ERB Public Hearing
Room 325
February 10th, 2011, 11:00am
Testimony of Rachel Harvey
In Support of House Bill 998

Aloha Representatives,

I am writing to comment in support of **House Bill 998**. Regulating single-use plastic bags will help make Hawaii a model state for sustainable change. I strongly encourage you to also place a ban or fee on paper bags.

Hawaii, especially Oahu, is at a crucial moment for waste management. Despite the efforts of the H-Power waste-to-energy program, our facilities and landfills are overwhelmed. According to an article in the Honolulu Advertiser (March 8, 2010), people on Oahu use an estimated "300 million bags or more annually." Legislating source reduction and behavior changing regulation is the targeted solution.

The harmful cost of single-use plastics stretches from the oil it takes to produce it, to the health of the consumer, to the cost of disposal, and finally to the marine ecosystems it wrecks. Plastic is a material that the Earth cannot digest. Almost every bit of plastic that has ever been created still exists. Once discarded in the environment, plastic breaks down into smaller and smaller particles. Patches of plastic pollution cover millions of square miles of ocean near Hawaii. Tragically, this plastic also ends up in the stomachs of marine birds and animals. Moreover, the creation and distribution of plastic products increases our polluting carbon emissions and dependence on fossil fuels.

Reusable bags allow new avenues for marketing and save the retailer and consumer money. Consumers actually pay hidden costs for so-called free bags. Further, reducing the consumption of single-use plastic bags will bring in money for our state and save money in clean-up costs. The taxpayer cost to subsidize the recycling, collection, and disposal of plastic and paper bags is more than the cost of the bag.

Our taxpayer dollars are being used to subsidize the cost of waste. Much of this money could be redirected to benefit our state. Similar laws have been passed worldwide and have proven to be successful. For example, when Washington D.C. instituted its recent five-cent fee, bag use declined from an average of 22.5 million per month to 3 million in the very first month, and fees generated about \$150,000 for use by the city's environmental programs.

This bill effectively addresses the issue of plastic pollution by positively changing consumer behavior, decreasing external costs, and decreasing the amount of waste Hawaii produces.

I am a member of Plastic Free Hawaii (Kailua Chapter), a coalition of community members and businesses that strives to educate the stores, restaurants, residents, and visitors of Kailua on the environmental and health benefits of going plastic free. <http://plasticfreekailua.blogspot.com/>

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Sincerely,
Rachel Harvey

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 3:21 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: smyadon@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB998 on 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM HB998

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Shannon Yadon
Organization: Individual
Address: Palolo Ave Honolulu, HI
Phone: 808-253-1272
E-mail: smyadon@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/7/2011

Comments:
Aloha,

I am concerned about the amount of plastic garbage that washes up on our beaches- and even more concerned about the plastic that ends up in the stomachs of sea creatures and birds. Many cities and states on the mainland are recognizing that disposable, single use plastic bags are one of the biggest problems that is also one of the easiest to combat. I strongly support this bill to assist our community in moving away from excessive use of single use plastic bags, while creating a fund to assist our community with the fee from these bags. I think it is important for Hawaii to start more 'forward thinking' like reducing our use of single use plastic bags, and think that this bill will assist in this mindset. Thank you for considering moving this bill forward.

Warmest Mahalo,

Shannon



February 6, 2011

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

The Honorable Angus McKelvey, Chair
House Economic Revitalization and Business Committee

From: Tim Shestek
Senior Director, State Affairs

Re: **HB 998 - OPPOSE**

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) must respectfully oppose HB 998, legislation that would impose a \$0.10 tax on each recyclable plastic bag provided to customers at all businesses within the State. 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.

A growing number of states and cities around the United States – including California, New York, Delaware, Rhode Island, Chicago, New York City and Tucson – have passed legislation to promote at-store programs to collect plastic bags and product wraps for recycling as a practical and effective means to reduce waste.

In 2009, 850 million pounds of plastic bags and wraps were recycled in the U.S., and the rate has gone up 31% since 2005. Right now there are more than 18,000 places to recycle bags in the United States including at major grocery stores and national retailers. Not only can consumers recycle plastic grocery bags at these at-store drop off programs but consumers can also include bags from newspapers, dry cleaning, bread and produce together with the wraps around cases of soda, paper towels or diapers.

Furthermore, more than 90% of consumers reuse their plastic bags for various household and other functions such as trash can liners, picking up after their pets, as a storage bags when traveling, for holding wet clothes or kitchen messes after preparing food. Any suggestion that all plastic grocery bags are “single use” products is incorrect. One unintended consequence of this law could force consumers to purchase new plastic bags to replace the retail bags they previously reused. Such an unintended consequence does not make environmental sense.

In addition, since this bill would only impose a tax on plastic bags, in all likelihood consumers will simply choose paper bags; a decision that will result 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.



ACC encourages your committees to instead consider legislation from 2008 (HB 2434) that would have established a statewide recycling program for plastic bags. ACC was supportive of this approach to reducing bag waste and disposal and would welcome the opportunity to discuss this concept further. In our view, this approach is a much more consumer and business friendly way of addressing this issue and does not result in the environmental issues outlined above.

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 Hawai'i based representatives Red Morris or John Radcliffe at 808-531-4551.

February 9, 2011

To: House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection and
House Committee on Economic Revitalization and Business

From: Susan Houghton, Director of Public Affairs and Government Relations

Re: Safeway Comments for HB 998

I am writing to offer Safeway's comments on HB 998. Our company operates 19 stores in Hawaii – of which 13 are on the island of Oahu.

We applaud your desire to tackle this important issue. We believe it is extremely important to encourage all consumers to reduce the use of both paper and plastic bags. Both have significant effects on the environment.

We are aware that Maui and Kauai have both already adopted strict plastic bag bans, however, we believe a fee-based system on both plastic and paper is the preferred route. The city of San Francisco completely banned plastic bags several years ago – but did not address the issue of paper bag use. As a retailer with 15 stores in that city, we saw our costs for paper bags increase substantially – by more than \$1 million a year. This figure is in addition to the costs we were already absorbing to provide paper bags to our customers.

We believe consumers need a strong disincentive to truly change their behavior. By placing a fee on both plastic and paper, you would be encouraging all consumers to think "reusable." Safeway provides a number of low-cost reusable bag options and we would be happy to participate in an initial reusable bag-giveaway program to promote this important concept. We would also be happy to provide free paper or plastic bags to any customer on such federally approved low-income programs as WIC or Food Stamps.

The key to HB 998 is also retailer uniformity. In order to ensure there is no competitive advantage, the legislation must apply to all retailers- regardless of size or origin. While we would prefer a preemption clause that creates geographic uniformity as well, we also understand the need for local control and county-specific ordinances.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views on this important legislation. Should you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (925) 467-2212 or George Glukfeld, our Hawaii district manager at (808) 524-4554.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Houghton
Director of Public Affairs and Government Relations

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2011 9:59 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: vanxl31@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB998 on 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM HB998

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jerome Bautista
Organization: Individual
Address: Honolulu
Phone:
E-mail: vanxl31@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/9/2011

Comments:

As a person that lives in Waikiki I strongly support this bill. Waikiki beach, Fort De Russy park, Ala Moana Beach Park, and Kapiloani Park are littered with plastic bags. It is a shame that the natural beauty of landmarks such as Diamond Head and Sans Souci beach have to be marred by the sight of plastic grocery or ABC bags. Many of these plastic bags make it into our oceans, along with its contents, endangering the depleted ecosystems in our reef areas. Maui and Kauai have already made the move to help preserve their ecosystems and help make consumers and retailers more responsible for their actions. It is a small step towards becoming more reliant upon biodegradable and reusable products that are better for the environment and ultimately more sustainable.

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2011 11:12 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: nanakulibeachboy@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB998 on 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 2/10/2011 11:00:00 AM HB998

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Jared Kalanikou
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: nanakulibeachboy@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/9/2011

Comments:

I am opposed to HB 998 as it stands now. I would like to offer the following amendments.

1. "Under §342H-A Definitions" section 2, please add bags that contain pesticides, soils amendments, fertilizers, etc. As a farmer, I often take a trip to town to do my grocery shopping and purchase chemicals like Roundup and Miracle Grow at the same place. I do not want to put the chemical in a reusable bag due to contamination and hazardous reasons. Also, I need the bags just in case the container leaks or breaks which has happened.
2. Exemption for flowers and other agricultural products. For example, I purchase loose flowers from a store, it cannot be placed in the reusable bags. It will get crushed and the water on it will leak right through.
3. Another exemption that I wish the chair would include are plastic bags that are reusable. Unlike most environmentalists who probably throw their bags away, I store them and use it as trash bags, can liners, storage for vegetables and fruits in my refrigerators (the ones provided at the produce section is too weak), storage for meats to keep it from freezer burn, container for individually used diapers, waste bag for food scraps, leis and flowers, etc. If these items are banned or stores stop providing it, I will end up purchasing more plastic bags for everything else causing just as much plastic as before.

In addition, can you include an amendment that would prohibit any store from selling reusable bag that contain lead, chromium, and pesticide residue. Many of these bags are made in China and can be just as harmful to the environment and humans.

If this proposal is passed, it will increase the cost of living for many local people on fixed and middle income. I will need to pay for these bags fees and purchase more Glad trash bags of different sizes and for different purposes. Hope you consider amending the bill to consider these types of people.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.