

**SB 1363**



## HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (HFIA)

1050 Bishop St. Box 235  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Fax : 808-791-0702  
Telephone : 808-533-1292

DATE: Friday, February 25, 2011    TIME: 9:00 a.m.    PLACE: CR 211

TO: COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair; Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

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

RE: SB 1363 RELATING TO ENVIROMNENTAL PROTECTION

Chairs & Committee Members:

HFIA supports **SB 1363**, as a means of encouraging consumers to reduce the use of both paper and plastic single use bags.

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 hassles associated with counting each bag at the point of sale**.

Without a fee on paper, our current plastic bag ban bills will result in a shift to paper bags. Paper bags can cost as much as 10 times more than plastic bags. The increased cost of providing paper bags is absorbed by the cost of other items, resulting in higher prices for the consumer. There is little upside for the environment.

It would be very helpful if the legislature would apply single use bag laws uniformly to all counties. Stores use bags as branding tools and lose money when they have to manufacture a different bag for each county because of inconsistent rules and regulations.

If we want to encourage reusable bag use, a fee is a good way to do so. A plastic bag ban does not accomplish this goal.

**Plastic bag bans do not help the environment because 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.**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

February 25, 2011

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

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

**Re: Safeway Support for SB 1363 SD1**

I am writing to lend Safeway support for SB 1363 SD1. 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.

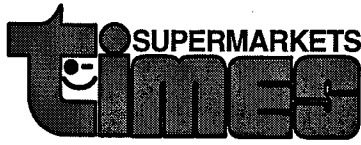
We believe consumers need a strong disincentive to truly change their behavior. By placing a fee on both plastic and paper, you are encouraging all consumers to think “reusable.” Safeway provides a number of low-cost reusable bag options and we would be happy to participate in an initial reusable bag-giveaway 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 SB 1363 SD1 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



February 23, 2011

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair

Mr. Chairman,

We appreciate the opportunity to submit our testimony and express our support for SB 1363 SD1. As you may know Times Supermarket is based on Oahu and operates 20 stores with locations in Maui, Kauai and Oahu.

As an island base company, we understand the constraints of limited space and the preservation of the unique landscape of Hawaii. It is for this reason that we support your efforts in mitigating challenging issues such as single use bags, and the disposal of bags in landfills.

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 the 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 would 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 SB 1363 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 SB 1363 SD1, 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 SB 1363 SD1. 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,

Bob Gutierrez  
Director of Government Affairs, Times Supermarket



Surfrider  
Foundation.

Feb. 23, 2011

Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

**RE: Strong Support for Senate Bill 1363 – Relating to Environmental Protection**

Dear Chair Kim and Members of the Committees,

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 SB1363, 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 and Kauai.

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 if it reduces our waste stream.

The Hawaii Chapters are supporting SB1363 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 ALGAROBIA ST., #1107 • HONOLU, HI 96826

(808) 942-3841 • [www.surfrider.org/oahu](http://www.surfrider.org/oahu) • [scoleman@surfrider.org](mailto: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.

Personally, I respectfully suggest that an amendment be made to SB1363 so that the \$.25 fee is lowered to a more manageable amount like \$.15 per bag and that the bill does not pre-empt the bans on Maui and Kauai. 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. Just as many countries in Europe and countless other countries around the world have introduced legislation to reduce the proliferation of single-use plastic bags, I hope Hawaii will soon make them a thing of the past. 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



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

Committee: WAM  
Room: 211  
Hearing Date: 2/25/2011 9:00:00 AM  
Testimony of Rachel Harvey  
In Support of Senate Bill 1363

Good afternoon Senators,

I am writing to comment in support of **Bill SB1363**. Regulating single-use plastic bags will help make Hawaii a model state for sustainable change. I 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. 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 plastic 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 community coordinator for Plastic Free Hawaii (Kailua Chapter), a coalition of community members and businesses that endeavor 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

Way & Means Committee

Date: February 20, 2011

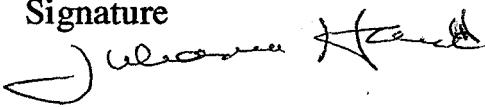








Strong Support – SB 1363 SD1 Relating to Plastic Bags

Dear Sen. David Ige, Chair, Michelle Kidani Vice Chair and Committee Members:

We are writing in strong support of SB 1363 SD1 relating to plastic bags. We as a society need to do our part in protecting the environment. One simple thing that we can do is to charge customers a nominal fee of 25 cents for a plastic bag to encourage them to bring their own, as so many countries in Europe already do. According to someone who participated in a recent Kailua Beach clean up, 17 buckets filled with plastic bags were collected. Although the fee for the bag is nominal, it will likely cause a significant decrease in the number of bags taken at the check out, thereby significantly decrease the amount of plastic bags that end up in the ocean.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

	Name (Print)	Signature	Address
1.	Julianna Heud		Po Box 235732 Honolulu 16, HI 96822
2.	Marilyn Kay Larsen		77 Karsten Dr. #2 Wahiawa, HI 9678
3.	S. Yee		3680 LILIOE PL. HI 968
4.	ROBERT SIMMONS		1279 AUPU PU. PL KAILUA HI 967
5.	Ona Lee		3680 Lilioe Pl. 96816
6.	Lois Bender		6710 Hanalei Dr. #150A Honolulu 96825
7.			2161 Nuanuan #1005 Hon 96817
8.	REXIE LINDLEY		Po Box 725 Honolulu HI 967
9.	Annie Worth		1747 E.W. Way Honolulu HI 96816

Lorie J. Leiminger

Ms. Lorie Leiminger  
Honuakaha  
545 Queen St Apt 517  
Honolulu, HI 96813-5073

1. U. C. Vivian Carlson 322 Aoloo ST #1801 Kailua HI 96734
2. P. J. Callahan PATTI CALLAHAN 94 HO'ONANEA ST. HILO, HI 96720
3. Jean King Jean King P.O. Box 10517 Honolulu HI 96816
4. Anne C. Fong 580 Uluhaku St, Kailua, HI 96734
5. Davis Bernstein 94 Hoonanea st Hilo HI 96720
6. Mauvine King 2475 Pali Highway, Hono. HI 96817
7. Virginia Wood 2426 Oahu Ave Honolulu, HI 96822
8. Abby Williamson 47-017 ~~St~~ Lilipuna, Kaneohe, HI 96749
9. Sabrina Swift 1640-D Oo lane, Honolulu, HI 96817

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 23, 2011 5:23 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Cc:** Nickdub389@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1363 on 2/25/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/25/2011 9:00:00 AM SB1363

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Nick  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [Nickdub389@yahoo.com](mailto:Nickdub389@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/23/2011

Comments:

Control waste flow now. Become the authority on implementing control of the overconsuming supermarket industry; push toward a regulated, food market industry.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 23, 2011 9:34 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Cc:** nlowen@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1363 on 2/25/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/25/2011 9:00:00 AM SB1363

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Nicole Lowen  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [nlowen@gmail.com](mailto:nlowen@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/23/2011

**Comments:**

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I urge you to pass this bill. A fee on single-use bags is a proven way to greatly reduce the number of disposable bags used and encourage a switch to reusable bags. The argument that this measure will negatively affect retailers in the food industry has simply not proven true in other places that have implemented bag fees or bans, and the environmental benefits greatly outweigh any temporary inconvenience while consumers get used to bringing their own bags. Additionally, the fees charged can cover the administrative costs of implementation, costing the taxpayer nothing.

Thank you,

Nicole Lowen  
Honolulu, 96816

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 23, 2011 9:25 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Cc:** marah.hardt@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1363 on 2/25/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/25/2011 9:00:00 AM SB1363

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Marah Hardt  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [marah.hardt@gmail.com](mailto:marah.hardt@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/23/2011

**Comments:**

At the least, the choice to use a plastic or paper bag needs to reflect the cost this decision has on the environment—a fee helps to raise awareness that these decisions have consequences. Ultimately, the concept of using free single-use plastic bags must become a thing of the past, though the plastic itself never will. Our environment- from the middle of the ocean to the landfills in the center of the continents cannot support more needless plastic production. Please institute this ban as a first step, and show the world how Hawaii is leading the way to help bring a brighter, cleaner future to our planet.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 23, 2011 9:25 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Cc:** marah.hardt@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1363 on 2/25/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/25/2011 9:00:00 AM SB1363

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Marah Hardt  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [marah.hardt@gmail.com](mailto:marah.hardt@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/23/2011

**Comments:**

At the least, the choice to use a plastic or paper bag needs to reflect the cost this decision has on the environment—a fee helps to raise awareness that these decisions have consequences. Ultimately, the concept of using free single-use plastic bags must become a thing of the past, though the plastic itself never will. Our environment- from the middle of the ocean to the landfills in the center of the continents cannot support more needless plastic production. Please institute this ban as a first step, and show the world how Hawaii is leading the way to help bring a brighter, cleaner future to our planet.

**Hawai'i Senate Committee on Ways and Means – Decision Making Hearing on SB1363**  
Friday, February 25, 2011, Conference Room 211 at 9am

**RE: Strong Support for Senate Bill 1363 – Significant Reduction of Non-reusable Checkout Bag Usage**

Aloha Chair Ige, Vice-chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mele Coleman and I am a part-time 2L at William S. Richardson School of Law and a law-intern at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I strongly support the forward movement of SB1363 because it provides the legislature with an opportunity to significantly reduce the excessive use of non-reusable checkout bags without creating an unfunded state mandate; the bill will pay for itself and possibly make the state money.

SB1363 is the best compromise of all the “bag bills” introduced this legislative session because it significantly enhances environmental protection, has the potential to produce revenue for the state and affected businesses, and preserves the consumers’ freedom of choice. SB1363 also presents the legislature with an opportunity to bring uniformity to Hawai‘i’s non-reusable checkout bag laws without undermining any county ordinances already in effect. Statewide legislation is the best way to address this issue because it will result in the greatest benefit to the environment and the least confusion for our state’s residents and visitors.

The success of similar bills suggests that SB1363 will quickly result in a significant reduction of non-reusable checkout bag usage in Hawai‘i; Washington D.C.’s five-cent fee on non-reusable plastic checkout bags decreased the city’s usage by over 80% in the first month of implementation.<sup>i</sup> If SB1363 causes an 80% reduction in the use of non-reusable bags, I estimate that the state will earn approximately twenty-four million dollars per year.<sup>ii</sup> Moreover, affected businesses will not be harmed by SB1363, and may even benefit because currently they pay for the bags that they give away for free.<sup>iii</sup> The D.C. success story is not the only precedent to support the passage of this bill. Governments worldwide have significantly reduced non-reusable checkout bag usage and thus environmental degradation through either bans or fees. San Francisco, Manhattan Beach, Malibu, Los Angeles, Edmunds (WA), Outer Banks (NC), California, Mexico City, Rio de Janeiro, Bangladesh, Scotland, France, West Bengal, Zanzibar, Switzerland, Rwanda, Denmark, Germany, South Africa, Somalia, Botswana, the Philippines, American Samoa, Mumbai, Ireland, India, Canada, China, Tanzania, Taiwan, Australia, Italy,



New Zealand, and South Africa have all taken measures to reduce non-reusable checkout bag usage in an effort to protect their natural environment.<sup>iv</sup>

SB1363 is the best of the seven “bag bills” because: (1) a twenty-five cent fee is a large deterrent and thus will positively change consumer behavior (HB998 will be less effective because it only imposes a ten cent fee); (2) SB1363 pays for itself and may produce significant revenue for the state and affected businesses (although HB998 allows businesses to keep a portion of the fee, it does not allocate funds to pay for the administration and enforcement of the bill); (3) SB1363 applies to all plastic bags (SB1370, SB1059, and HB1401, which impose a ban on non-biodegradable plastic bags, will cause consumers to use biodegradable plastic bags, which are just a lesser evil.<sup>v</sup> HB891, which imposes a ban that allows only compostable plastic bags, is not much better because compostable products must be sent to a composting facility after being used.<sup>vi</sup>); (4) SB1363 applies to both paper and plastic non-reusable bags (SB1370, SB1059, HB1401, HB891, and HB1601 apply only to plastic bags and thus will result in an increase in the consumption of non-reusable paper bags); and (5) SB1363 preserves the consumers’ freedom of choice (unlike the five ban bills introduced). Please move SB1363 forward. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Sincerely,

Mele Coleman

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i Lauren Markoe. How D.C. Beat the Plastic Bag Lobby. OnEarth. Nov. 11, 2010. Available at: <http://www.onearth.org/article/how-dc-beat-the-plastic-bag-lobby>.

ii This calculation depends on SB1363 imposing a twenty-five cent fee. The average American uses about 500 plastic bags per year (Hawai‘i Health Guide. Bring Your Own Bag: Kaua‘i and Maui nix single-use plastic bag use in 2011. Jan. 10, 2011. Available at: <http://www.hawaiihealthguide.com/healthtalk/display.htm?id=892>), and about 1.3 million people live in the state of Hawai‘i (U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates 2010. Available at: <http://www.census.gov/popest/eval-estimates/eval-est2010.html>).

iii Under SB1363, businesses will receive about six cents per bag; currently businesses pay at least two cents per plastic bag and five cents per paper bag (True Cost of Single-Use Bags. Available at: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/37637308/The-True-Cost-of-Single-Use-Plastic-Bags>).

iv See Plastic Bag Reduction Around the World. Available at: <http://plasticbags.planetark.org/about/othercountries.cfm>

v ‘Biodegradable’ plastic bags may not be as eco-friendly as thought. The Telegraph, Earth News. Mar. 11, 2010. Available at: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/earthnews/7422006/Biodegradable-plastic-bags-may-not-be-as-eco-friendly-as-thought.html>

vi Emily Sohn. ‘Biodegradable’ Doesn’t Always Mean Earth-Friendly. Apr. 2, 2010. Available at: <http://news.discovery.com/earth/garbage-biodegradable-earth-month.html>.

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

WAM Public Hearing  
Room 211  
February 25th, 2011, 9:00am

Testimony of Robert Barreca  
Co-Chair of Surfrider Foundation Oahu Chapter  
In Support of Senate Bill 1363

Good afternoon committee members.

My name is Robert Barreca and I am the Co-Chair of Surfrider Foundation Oahu Chapter. I am writing in support of SB 1363 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

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 23, 2011 8:52 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Cc:** scoleman34@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1363 on 2/25/2011 9:00:00 AM  
**Attachments:** SF-SB1363-BagFeeTestimony.doc

Testimony for WAM 2/25/2011 9:00:00 AM SB1363

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Stuart Coleman  
Organization: Surfrider Foundation  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [scoleman34@gmail.com](mailto:scoleman34@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/23/2011

**Comments:**

Legislation to ban single-use plastic bags is win-win for Hawaii By Stuart H. Coleman for The Honolulu Star-Advertiser

POSTED: 01:30 a.m. HST, Feb 16, 2011

Our landfills are so overloaded that the City and County of Honolulu tried to ship tons of our trash to the mainland last year.

**More on plastic pollution**

The Surfrider Foundation and the Sierra Club Hawaii are hosting a free screening of the new film, "Bag It," at 6 p.m. today in the state Capitol auditorium; a panel discussion on the plastic-bag issue will follow. In the past six months, we have seen our opala (trash) problem cause a huge fire down on the docks, where the huge bales of trash had festered for months. More recently, we witnessed a toxic flood of trash and medical wastes flowing from our landfills down to the Leeward Coast after the heavy rains in January. Faced with such disastrous fires and flood, it's time to talk trash. We have to reduce our waste stream and take better care of our island home.

As part of the Surfrider Foundation's national Rise Above Plastics Campaign, tens of thousands of volunteers in Hawaii and across the country have stopped using single-use plastic bags and bottles. Every person who stops consuming these wasteful products saves each year an estimated 400-500 single-use plastic bags and 160 plastic bottles from going into our landfills and trashing our environment. Collectively, we have already made a huge difference, but we still have a long way to go.

Americans go through more than 100 billion plastic bags each year, yet less than 5 percent is ever recycled. Most of these petroleum products end up clogging our landfills, which are already overflowing. Studies show that removing plastic bags from the landfills will extend their use by years.

Some governmental officials say that the bags can simply be burned at the HPOWER plant, but this is a costly solution that only leads to more air pollution, global warming and tons of toxic ash that end up at the landfills (250 tons per day at \$100/ton). This ash and residue

is full of heavy metals and dioxins that are extremely toxic, and investigators are still trying to determine how much of this was spilled along the Leeward Coast last month.

Plastic bags are like toxic tumbleweeds, and our island breezes blow them out to sea. Floating in the ocean, they look like jellyfish and are often eaten by sea turtles and other endangered creatures. Plastics of all kinds are the No. 1 source of marine debris, and millions of seabirds, fish, marine mammals and sea turtles die each year due to ingestion and entanglement.

Most people in Hawaii now realize that wasting more than 350 million single-use plastic checkout bags each year is wasteful and bad for the environment. The solution is simple: Stop using them and bring your own reusable tote bags. That's why we support Senate Bill 1059, which would ban plastic bags, and House Bill 998 and Senate Bill 1363, which would impose a small fee on all single-use plastic and paper bags in order to remind people to bring their own reusable ones.

There has been a groundswell of support in Hawaii and across the world for legislation to reduce the use of single-use bags. In Maui, Kauai and counties around the country, bans on plastic bags went into effect in January. In Washington, D.C., a 5-cent fee on plastic bags dropped usage 80 percent in the first year. The fee bills would also bring in needed revenue, and they are not taxes because they can be avoided just by bringing a reusable bag. Seeing the wisdom of this common-sense legislation, a coalition of stores like Safeway and Times and the Retail Merchants of Hawaii now supports the fee bills.

Most of us use plastic bags only for the short trip home from the store, but they last hundreds of years. How wasteful! That's why the Rise Above Plastics Coalition supports these bills, which will charge a fee on single-use plastic and paper checkout bags to cover the "hidden costs" (almost 17 cents per bag) that taxpayers spend to subsidize the collection and disposal of these wasteful products.

Reducing the proliferation of plastic and paper bags is a win-win scenario for the state and the stores, the people and the environment. It's time to take better care of our island home.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 23, 2011 10:35 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Cc:** joyofpilates@mac.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1363 on 2/25/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/25/2011 9:00:00 AM SB1363

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Joy Silver  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [joyofpilates@mac.com](mailto:joyofpilates@mac.com)  
Submitted on: 2/23/2011

**Comments:**

Non-reusable plastic and paper bags take an incredible amount of resources for the amount of time they are actually used. Plastic bags blow around easily and end up in the ocean, which may harm wildlife and/or break into millions of toxic pieces. We also have overfilling landfills, we need to encourage reusable bags as to not produce more trash. I would also like to see the bans Maui and Kauai counties have already enacted be preserved for plastic bags.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 23, 2011 4:36 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Cc:** seaclifffitness@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1363 on 2/25/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/25/2011 9:00:00 AM SB1363

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Jessica Spurrier  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [seaclifffitness@yahoo.com](mailto:seaclifffitness@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/23/2011

Comments:

Committee members,

I am writing in strong support of efforts reduce plastic bag use on Oahu. Despite struggling to pay bills in these tough economic times, I would gladly pay \$.25 if I fail to bring a reuseable bag with me to the grocery store. That quarter can help to minimize the size of our landfill and the pollution of our local water and land.

I can not tell you how many HOURS each month I spend picking up litter at our beaches. Much of the litter I pick up is made of plastic, including "single use" plastic bags. I see beachgoers- both "local" and tourists- step over these bags as they blow toward the water. I can't believe it! The same people spending their free time at the ocean swimming or fish or taking in the beauty, are allowing our ocean to be poisoned! I teach my children that even if it isn't their trash, they need to be stewards of the environment and pick it up anyway.

Please do your part to ensure the health of our community and environment. By helping to change our collective behavior and reduce our use of plastic, we are taking important and urgently needed steps to preserve our finite resources and maintain the beauty of our island home.

Mahalo!

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**From:** Darrow Hand [doctordarrow@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 23, 2011 11:27 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** SB1363 - Strong support

Way & Means Committee

Date: 2/25/11. Room: Rm 211, 9:00 AM

Strong Support – SB 1363 SD1 Relating to Plastic Bags

Dear Sen. David Ige, Chair, Michelle Kidani Vice Chair and committee members:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1363 SD1 relating to plastic bags.

According to ABC News: San Francisco, Oakland, Malibu and the Outer Banks of NC have all banned their use, and Washington D.C. became the first major US metropolitan city to impose a surcharge. European countries have for years imposed surcharges. China and Japan have also taken actions to either ban them or impose a surcharge.

Critics may argue that imposing a surcharge would add hundreds of dollars a year to families' grocery bills and amount to a tax. This is not true. It assumes that the surcharge would not change behavior – which is the goal of this bill. In Kyoto, Aeon has seen its plastic bag use plummet some 80 percent after it began charging ¥5 (about 5 cents) per bag.

An estimated 89 billion plastic bags are distributed each year in the US. A great majority of these bags are used once and not recycled. Some litter our land, others our ocean. A 25 cents surcharge will dramatically decrease plastic bag waste.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Darrow Hand  
Honolulu, HI

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**From:** Julianna FreeHand [j.freehand@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 24, 2011 8:24 AM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** SB 1363 - STRONG SUPPORT

Way & Means Committee

Date: 2/25/11. Room: 211

Strong Support – SB 1363 SD1 Relating to Plastic Bags

Dear Sen. David Ige, Chair, Michelle Kidani Vice Chair and committee members:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1363 SD1 relating to plastic bags. We should charge a nominal fee of 25 cents for a plastic bag to encourage everyone to bring their own. Although the fee for the bag is nominal, it will likely cause a significant decrease in the number of bags taken at the check out, thereby significantly decrease the amount of plastic bags that end up in the ocean. We don't inherit the earth from our ancestors; we have it on loan from our keiki.

I noticed when in Denmark, an island nation 14 years ago, that everyone even then, brought their own backpacks or cloth bags for groceries. Although bags were available too for purchase at Danish stores, few shoppers did. Danes walk, bike or travel by public transport primarily since most cars conventional combustion type are taxed twice their value: i.e. \$20,00 would be \$60,000. Here most of our shoppers on O'ahu use a car to pick up groceries so discouraging the use of plastic bags is even less of an inconvenience.



In Holland according to a friend, it is about the same, mostly 20 cents for a bag. Most all bags are made from recycled plastic (so are most garbage bags), because that is a fairly easy production process, plus it is cheap and saves new source materials. And they are exploring a system of 'bag-bowls', which is a meter high column, with on top of that a transparent half open plastic bowl, where people can leave used but usable surplus plastic bags, for others to pick from there for free which seems to work.

I think we worry about the tourist industry being negatively affected. But the reverse is possibly the case. A past September visitor from Shaoshan, China, emailed me back this week regarding this bill, "China started charging for plastic bags two years ago. We carry cloth bags in our handbag everywhere, or you may just buy one from the shop. I had wondered why you guys still offered plastic ones when I was in Hawai'i."

Well this problem affects both our visiting TURTLES and the tourists too, since according to a woman who participated in a recent Kailua Beach clean up, seventeen buckets filled with plastic bags were collected. And that's just on ONE beach, which is one of the CLEANEST, beaches too. Let us set an example for our visitors that Hawai'i cares about the environment. Don't we expect visitors will enjoy their time on our beaches?

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Julianna FreeHand

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 24, 2011 9:55 AM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Cc:** dwamato@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1363 on 2/25/2011 9:00:00 AM

**Categories:** Green Category

Testimony for WAM 2/25/2011 9:00:00 AM SB1363

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Dan Amato  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [dwamato@hawaii.edu](mailto:dwamato@hawaii.edu)  
Submitted on: 2/24/2011

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 24, 2011 10:11 AM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Cc:** rbreeden76@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1363 on 2/25/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/25/2011 9:00:00 AM SB1363

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Renee Breeden  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [rbreeden76@gmail.com](mailto:rbreeden76@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/24/2011

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 24, 2011 12:47 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Cc:** kenzen808@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1363 on 2/25/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/25/2011 9:00:00 AM SB1363

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Ken Sentner  
Organization: surfrider foundation  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [kenzen808@gmail.com](mailto:kenzen808@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/24/2011

**Comments:**

A 25 cent fee is necessary to discourage people from using single-use paper or plastic bags. Lowering the fee will result in people not paying as much attention. The fee approximates the actual cost in processing these bags in the waste-stream, and should be borne by those who choose to use them.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 24, 2011 10:28 AM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Cc:** great2be@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1363 on 2/25/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/25/2011 9:00:00 AM SB1363

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Brent Paul  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [great2be@hotmail.com](mailto:great2be@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/24/2011

**Comments:**

The amount of time and resources used to create non reusable plastic bags is much more than its intended use - the 10 min. trip of transporting your goods from the store to your home. After that trip, a lot of bags are then discarded. Plastic non-reusable bags are very inefficient instruments of convenience, and are harmful to the environment. Keeping plastic bags out of Hawaii's waste treatment system will ease the burden on the landfills and waste treatment facilities which are both operating at, or over capacity. Also when the plastics are burned for energy, the byproduct is highly toxic and ends up in landfills. I support SB 1363 as I would like to encourage consumers to bring their own canvas bags. Bags are cheap (even free sometimes), easy to bring with you, good for the earth and our island. Also, I would like to see the bans that Kauai and Maui counties have already enacted be preserved for plastic bags.

Way & Means Committee

Date: 2/25/11. Room: 211

Strong Support – SB 1363 SD1 Relating to Plastic Bags

Dear Sen. David Ige, Chair, Michelle Kidani Vice Chair and committee members:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1363 SD1 relating to plastic bags. We should charge a nominal fee of 25 cents for a plastic bag to encourage everyone to bring their own. Although the fee for the bag is nominal, it will likely cause a significant decrease in the number of bags taken at the check out, thereby significantly decrease the amount of plastic bags that end up in the ocean. We don't inherit the earth from our ancestors; we have it on loan from our keiki.

I noticed when in Denmark, an island nation 14 years ago, that everyone even then, brought their own backpacks or cloth bags for groceries. Although bags were available too for purchase at Danish stores, few shoppers did. Danes walk, bike or travel by public transport primarily since most cars conventional combustion type are taxed twice their value: i.e. \$20,00 would be \$60,000. Here most of our shoppers on O'ahu use a car to pick up groceries so discouraging the use of plastic bags is even less of an inconvenience.

In Holland according to a friend, it is about the same, mostly 20 cents for a bag. Most all bags are made from recycled plastic (so are most garbage bags), because that is a fairly easy production process, plus it is cheap and saves new source materials. And they are exploring a system of 'bag-bowls', which is a meter high column, with on top of that a transparent half open plastic bowl, where people can leave used but usable surplus plastic bags, for others to pick from there for free which seems to work.

I think we worry about the tourist industry being negatively affected. But the reverse is possibly the case. A past September visitor from Shaoshan, China, emailed me back this week regarding this bill, "China started charging for plastic bags two years ago. We carry cloth bags in our handbag everywhere, or you may just buy one from the shop. I had wondered why you guys still offered plastic ones when I was in Hawai'i."

Well this problem affects both our visiting TURTLES and the tourists too, since according to a woman who participated in a recent Kailua Beach clean up, seventeen buckets filled with plastic bags were collected. And that's just on ONE beach, which is one of the CLEANEST, beaches too. Let

us set an example for our visitors that Hawai'i cares about the environment.  
Don't we expect visitors will enjoy their time on our beaches?

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Julianna FreeHand

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**From:** Miya Tsukazaki [miyan@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 24, 2011 12:55 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of SB 1363

**Categories:** Green Category

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB1363

Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator David Ige, Chair  
Friday, February 25, 2011  
9:00 a.m.

Dear Chair Ige and WAM Members,

Please support SB1363 and the fee on all non-reusable checkout bags. The economic and environmental costs associated with BOTH plastic and paper bags are far outweighed by Hawaii's need to function more sustainably.

Aloha,

Miya Tsukazaki  
J.D. Candidate 2011  
University of Hawaii at Manoa  
William S. Richardson School of Law



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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 24, 2011 2:12 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Cc:** boarder\_chica@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1363 on 2/25/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/25/2011 9:00:00 AM SB1363

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Rachel Klain  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [boarder\\_chica@hotmail.com](mailto:boarder_chica@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/24/2011

Comments:

Oahu is an island that is surrounded by the ocean, by using plastic bags we are not only hurting the oceans, but also the land. People come from all over the world to see the beauty of these islands and by using and wasting unneeded plastic bags we are not only helping to destroy the natural beauty but also the tourism industry. Keep Hawaii beautiful and plastic free, the next generation will thank you

Way & Means Committee  
Date: 2/25/11. Room: Rm 211, 9:00 AM  
Strong Support – SB 1363 SD1 Relating to Plastic Bags

Dear Sen. David Ige, Chair, Michelle Kidani Vice Chair and committee members:

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According to ABC News: San Francisco, Oakland, Malibu and the Outer Banks of NC have all banned their use, and Washington D.C. became the first major US metropolitan city to impose a surcharge. European countries have for years imposed surcharges. China and Japan have also taken actions to either ban them or impose a surcharge.

Critics may argue that imposing a surcharge would add hundreds of dollars a year to families' grocery bills and amount to a tax. This is not true. It assumes that the surcharge would not change behavior – which is the goal of this bill. In Kyoto, Aeon has seen its plastic bag use plummet some 80 percent after it began charging ¥5 (about 5 cents) per bag.

An estimated 89 billion plastic bags are distributed each year in the US. A great majority of these bags are used once and not recycled. Some litter our land, others our ocean. A 25 cents surcharge will dramatically decrease plastic bag waste.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Darrow Hand  
Honolulu, HI

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 24, 2011 10:40 AM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Cc:** guircos@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1363 on 2/25/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/25/2011 9:00:00 AM SB1363

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Guilherme Costa  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [guircos@gmail.com](mailto:guircos@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/24/2011

**Comments:**

Hawaii is an island our garbage will pile up in landfills until the entire island is a pile of garbage solutions are here lets put them into action. We only ship in materials and nothing gets shipped out the landfill model has to be abolished we are destroying our ground water resources please lets move into the future sustainably. Thanks