

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY KALBERT K. YOUNG
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON ENERGY AND
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AND ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AND BUSINESS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 1363, S.D. 2

March 22, 2011

RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Senate Bill No. 1363, S.D. 2, requires businesses to collect an unspecified offset fee for distribution of every non-reusable checkout bag provided to a customer. A portion of the fees are to be deposited into a special account in the State general fund for expenditure by the Department of Health for expenses related to the administration and enforcement of this bill.

As a matter of general policy, this department does not support the creation of any special account within the general fund of the State for specific purposes. General fund program requirements should be reviewed on a statewide basis and allocated to programs based on statewide priorities within available resources.

SB1363

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 AND BUSINESS
S.B. 1363 S.D.2, RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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

March 22, 2011
10:40 a.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health supports the intent of this measure to reduce
2 plastic bag waste, with reservations about this bill as written.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** The bill imposes substantial administrative duties on the department with
4 unspecified resources. The added cost to the department is estimated to be \$1,000,000. This bill allows
5 businesses to retain an unspecified percentage of offset fees collected as revenue subject to income tax
6 but exempt from excise tax. The handling of the offset fee and monthly reporting to the department also
7 imposes an additional burden on stores. Also unspecified is the portion the department is to be deposit
8 into the general fund, and how much the department may retain to implement the program. Penalty
9 amounts are also unspecified. The handling of the offset fee and monthly reporting to the department
10 also imposes an additional burden on stores.

11 **Purpose and Justification:** This measure requires businesses having an unspecified gross annual
12 income or more to charge an unspecified "offset fee" for each non-reusable checkout bag provided to
13 their customers. Exemptions remain for bags used for food items, bulk food purchases, fresh produce,
14 prepared food for take-out, live animals, newspapers, and laundry/dry cleaning uses. Stores must state

1 the offset fee separately and prominently on any record of sale, and submit monthly an unspecified
2 percentage of fees collected to the department. Of this amount, the department is to deposit unspecified
3 percentages into the general fund and a special account for administration, enforcement, outreach and
4 education, and to fund litter cleanups. Businesses may retain an unspecified percentage of fees collected
5 as taxable revenue.

6 The department generally supports the reduction of solid waste, litter, and the use of petroleum
7 resources. The reduction of plastic bag waste through disincentives is a prudent idea.

8 The measure attempts to set a minimum statewide fee-based standard for non-reusable checkout
9 bags. Plastic bag reduction ordinances for both the County of Kauai and County of Maui just took effect
10 in early January 2011. The County of Hawaii has attempted to pass a similar ordinance without success
11 and may be reconsidering the issue soon.

12 This measure is more stringent than at least one current county ordinance because it applies the
13 offset fee to non-profits (i.e., museum gift shops) or other non-incorporated booster organizations who
14 conduct fundraisers (i.e., huli huli chicken sales). The department is concerned about possible conflicts
15 between the enforcement of this measure and current County of Maui and County of Kauai ordinances.

16 The department would require new staff and resources in order to process payments and receipts
17 of fees from affected businesses in the state, and conduct outreach and education. The measure also
18 requires the department to enforce the law, which may possible conflict with the current enforcement
19 role of counties with applicable non-reusable checkout bag ordinances. In addition, the department will
20 have to evaluate any claims of undue hardship, and manage litter cleanup events. The department would
21 issue contracts with the counties to conduct litter cleanups. We estimate the annual department costs to
22 implement this bill as follows:

23 1) Community outreach, education, litter cleanups = \$350,000;

- 1 2) Rulemaking and implementation (i.e., monitoring, inspections, enforcement) = 6 FTE =
- 2 \$550,000; and
- 3 3) Annual audit = \$100,000.

4 Therefore, the total cost per year is \$1,000,000.

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

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March 21, 2011

To: The Honorable Danny Coffman, 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: **SB 1363 SD 2 - OPPOSE**

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) must respectfully oppose SB 1363, legislation that proposes to impose a per bag charge on each recyclable plastic and paper bag provided to customers at certain retail establishments. Though we support the intent of reducing bag litter and waste, we believe the imposition of a consumer bag charge is an unnecessary financial burden on consumers. Encouraging consumers to use reusable bags and recycle their plastic and paper bags can certainly be done without the added cost burden of a per bag charge.

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. There are more than 12,000 recycling bins throughout 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. Collected bags and film type plastics can be used as feedstock in the production of other products, such as new bags, pallets, containers, crates, and pipe

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. 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.

ACC encourages your committees to instead support 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, the state of Hawaii can encourage the use of reusable bags, while also encouraging consumers to recycle paper and plastic bags without the imposition of a consumer charge that will raise grocery prices for families.

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.





HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (HFIA)

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

DATE: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 TIME: 10:40 a.m. PLACE: CR 312

TO: COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Rep. Denny Coffman, Acting Chair

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION & BUSINESS

Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair

Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Vice Chair

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

RE: SB 1363, SD 2 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL 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.



Progressive Democrats of Hawai'i

<http://pd-hawaii.com>

2457 Lamaku Pl, Honolulu, HI 96816

email: info@pd-hawaii.com

tel: 808.371-9334

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Representative Denny Coffman, Chair

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVIVALIZATION & BUSINESS
Representative Angus McKelvey, Chair
Representative Isaac Choy, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, March 22, 2011

TIME: 10:40 AM

PLACE: Conference Room 312

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB1363 RELATING TO HEALTH

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

I am testifying on behalf of Progressive Democrats of Hawai'i (PDH) in strong support of Senate Bill 1363.

In the most recent edition of the Honolulu Weekly, in an article by Stuart Coleman, the Hawai'i coordinator for the Surfrider Foundation, there was a reference to Kamilo Beach on the Big Island:

“Since the dawn of the Plastic Age 50 years ago, our shores have become inundated by a tsunami of plastic pollution. During one visit to Kamilo Beach on the Big Island’s South Point, Moor called the area ‘Plastic Beach’ because what looked like sand was mostly a thick layer of micro-plastics and petroleum-based refuse.”

This is a clear indication that our over use of and reliance on plastics is having a real impact, not just out in the ocean, thousands of miles from here, but also right here on our beautiful shores. According to the EPA, millions of sea birds, marine mammals, sea turtles and fish die each year due to ingestion of and entanglement in plastics. In addition to protecting these creatures, this bill will also reduce the number of these bags that wind up in our landfills. After the disastrous spill from our landfill recently onto the Leeward Coast, it is clear that we need to reduce our waste, and this bill is a good start.

It is also a misconception that single-use plastic bags are free. Retailers spend thousands of dollars every month to provide these bags to their customers, but retailers are most certainly passing that cost on to their customers. And this is not a tax. It is a fee that consumers can easily avoid by simply bringing their own bags to use instead of the single-use plastic bags the use of which this fee is meant to curb.

I would ask that the bill be amended to reinsert the fee amount at 25 cents. While I understand the desire to keep the fee low, while attempting to keep it as effective as possible, if the goal is to use the fee to adjust the behavior of shoppers, the fee needs to be substantial enough so that the customer "feels it" every time to shop. I believe the capping the fee at 25 cents per bag would do that, without inflicting hardship on any customer.

I would also ask that this bill not preempt the progress made by the bans implemented on Maui and Kauai. Again, if the goal is to transition away from the use of these bags, it seems counter productive to override these bans in favor of a fee.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Josh Frost

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Frost". The signature is stylized with a large initial "J" and a prominent flourish at the end.

Co-Chair



March 21, 2011

Representative Denny Coffman, Acting Chair
Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

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

Re: SB1363 SD2: Relating to Environmental Protection

Dear Acting Chair Coffman, Chair McKelvey and Vice-Chair Choy,

We appreciate the opportunity to submit our testimony and express our support for SB 1363 SD2. 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 SD2 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 SD2, 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 SD2. 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

March 21, 2011

To: House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
The Honorable Denny Coffman, Acting Chair

To: House Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business
The Honorable Angus L. K. McKelvey, Chair
The Honorable Isaac W. Choy, Vice Chair

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

Re: Safeway Support for SB 1363 SD2: Relating to Environmental Protection

I am writing to lend Safeway support for SB 1363 SD2. 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 SD2 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

Representative Denny Coffman, Acting Chair
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

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

State Capitol, Honolulu, HI 96813

HEARING Tuesday, March 22, 2011
10:40 am
Conference Room 312



RE: **SB 1363, SD2, Relating to Environmental Protection**

Chairs Coffman and McKelvey, Vice Chair 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 SB1363, SD2, which requires businesses to collect an unspecified off-set fee for the distribution of every non-reusable checkout bag. Undeniably, this proposal is a practical and manageable option to an outright ban on single-use checkout bags and places the responsibility for the careless discard and misuse, or the wise re-use and management, of these items on the ultimate consumer. While Hawaii's retailers unquestionably support the broadest use of reusable tote bags as the ultimate solution for the environment, 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 request the following amendments:

1. **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.
2. **Business records:** Retail is a highly competitive industry. Since internal operations such as purchases are propriety information, we request language that would assure absolute confidentiality: "The record shall be submitted to the department on a quarterly basis or as directed by the department; provided that any proprietary information obtained by the department shall be kept confidential and shall not be disclosed to any other person."
3. **Exclusions to "non-reusable checkout bags"** (List starting on Page 3): Requested amendments:
 - a. Replace (2) with: "Loose items, such as fruits, vegetables, nuts, grains, candies, or small hardware items;"
 - b. Replace (8) with: "Laundry, dry cleaning or garment bags, including bags provided by hotels to guests to contain wet or dirty clothing."
 - c. Add (9): Bags provided by pharmacists to contain prescription medications.
4. **Fees:** We believe this appropriate: 10-cent off-set fee, with a 25% retailer / 75% government split.
5. **Effective Date: July 1, 2013:** This will allow businesses sufficient time to adjust inventories / bag re-orders, and to reprogram IT and POS systems; and the Department of Health time to promulgate rules and develop reporting and collection forms.

We respectfully request your consideration of our amendments 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



CONSERVATION COUNCIL FOR HAWAI'I

Testimony Submitted to the House Committee on Energy and Environment Protection
and House Committee on Economic Revitalization and Business

Hearing: Tuesday, March 22, 2011

10:40 am

Room 312

Support for the intent of SB 1363 SD 2 Relating to Environmental Protection

Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports the intent of SB 1363 SD 2, which requires businesses to collect a fee for the distribution of every non-reusable checkout bag. This will 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.

If you decide to stick with a fee for single-use disposable bags, we urge you to leave intact the bans in Kaua'i and Maui counties. Eliminating these bans at this stage would undue a lot of training and effort put into the current law and would allow more, not less use of plastic bags on those islands.

The Department of Health should receive enough funding to fully implement, support, and enforce the programs proposed in legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Marjorie Ziegler



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

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

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

President: Maura O'Connor * Vice-President: Hannah Springer * Treasurer: Kim Ramos * Secretary: Rick Barboza

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

Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler



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

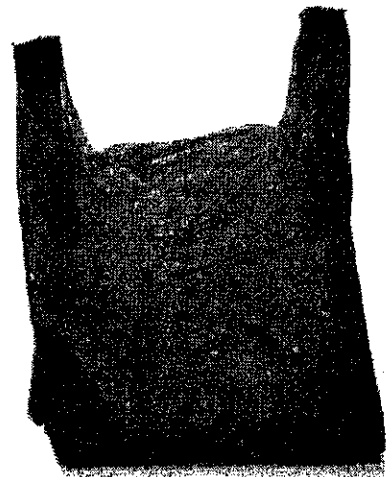
March 22, 2011, 10:40 a.m.
(Testimony is 3 pages long)

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 1363 SD2

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

The Hawai'i Chapter of the Sierra Club *strongly supports* SB 1363 SD1, which creates an offset fee for the use of all single use bags (whether paper or plastic) and incentivizes retail stores to encourage the use of less-impactful bags. An offset fee smartly creates a direct market reflection of the actual economic and environmental costs created by the abuse of single-use bags in Hawai'i.

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



I. Reducing Our Opala Problem.

Hawai'i is faced with a solid waste crisis. The proliferation of single use bags directly contributes to this problem. They tax our economy and environment when they are littered or placed in our overflowing landfills. For example, a recent study conducted in Seattle concluded -- even with a high 13% recycling rate (greater than the national average of 3-5%) -- approximately 1,650 tons of plastic bags were put into the landfill annually.¹ The net cost to Seattle and ratepayers of collecting, transferring and disposing of waste was calculated to be approximately \$121 per ton or approximately \$200,000 for plastic grocery bags.

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

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

II. Consumers Already Indirectly Pay for Single Use Bags.

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

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

It should be noted that two highly successful businesses in Hawai'i -- Costco and Wholefoods -- do not offer its customers plastic bags. These businesses are flourishing.

The switch by Wholefoods alone kept 100 million plastic bags out of the environment between April 22, 2008 and the end of 2008.



III. Single Use Bags Tax Our Environment.

Single use bags contribute to litter and pose a threat to avian and marine life in Hawai'i -- the endangered species capitol of the world. As noted by NOAA,⁴ plastic photo-degrades -- breaking down into smaller and smaller pieces due to exposure to solar UV radiation. However, when in water plastic does not get direct sunlight exposure, therefore breakdown happens much

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

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

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

more slowly in the aquatic environment. So far as we know, plastics do not ever fully “go away,” but rather break down into smaller and smaller pieces, sometimes referred to as microplastics.

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



IV. Potential Revenue Gain

Assumed Facts:

De facto population total as of 2009: 1,391,017⁵ (low number; 2010 census data indicates a total population of 1,360,211)
 Number of bags used per person: 354⁶

5 Cent Fee (HB 998, HD1)

(Total bags x fee x percentage bags sold)

De facto Population	Bags Consumed, per Person, per Year	Annual Single-Use Bag Consumption	At 50% Bag Reduction, Annual Tax Revenue	At 60% Bag Reduction, Annual Tax Revenue	At 70% Bag Reduction, Annual Tax Revenue	At 80% Bag Reduction, Annual Tax Revenue	At 90% Bag Reduction, Annual Tax Revenue
1391017	354	492420018	\$12,310,500	\$9,848,400	\$7,386,300	\$4,924,200	\$2,462,100

10 Cent Fee (HB 998)

De facto Population	Bags Consumed, per Person, per Year	Annual Single-Use Bag Consumption	At 50% Bag Reduction, Annual Tax Revenue	At 60% Bag Reduction, Annual Tax Revenue	At 70% Bag Reduction, Annual Tax Revenue	At 80% Bag Reduction, Annual Tax Revenue	At 90% Bag Reduction, Annual Tax Revenue
1391017	354	492420018	\$24,621,001	\$19,696,801	\$14,772,601	\$9,848,400	\$4,924,200

⁵ De facto population is defined as the number of persons physically present in an area, regardless of military status or usual place of residence. It includes visitors present but excludes residents temporarily absent, both calculated as an average daily census. Available at <http://hawaii.gov/dbedt/info/economic/databook/db2009/>

⁶ The Wall Street Journal, based on UN reports, estimated 10 billion paper and 100 billion plastic shopping bags are consumed annually in the US. Using population statistics, that results in 354 plastic bags per person. Most estimates are higher -- roughly 400 to 500 plastic bags per person.

25 Cent Fee (SB 1363) (25% given to retailer)

De facto Population	Bags Consumed, per Person, per Year	Annual Single-Use Bag Consumption	At 50% Bag Reduction, Annual Tax Revenue	At 60% Bag Reduction, Annual Tax Revenue	At 70% Bag Reduction, Annual Tax Revenue	At 80% Bag Reduction, Annual Tax Revenue	At 90% Bag Reduction, Annual Tax Revenue
1391017	354	492420018	\$46,164,377	\$36,931,501	\$27,698,626	\$18,465,751	\$9,232,875

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

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 10:56 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: kwager@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB1363 on 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM SB1363

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kylie Wager
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: kwager@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 3/18/2011

Comments:

As a J.D. candidate at the William S. Richardson School of Law, I adamantly support SB 1363 with a minimum imposed fee of \$.15 per non-reusable plastic bag.

Our duty to reduce plastic use in the Pacific rises within a context of economic disparity, floundering natural resources, and an environment in peril.

Plastic became a commodity during the mid-twentieth century, an era of vast commercialization that was predicated on false beliefs in an endless oil supply and "disposable" lifestyles without consequence.

We must transform our current paradigm of living from one of waste to one of preservation in order to maintain and enhance the character, beauty, and viability of our island community. Reducing single-use bag use will propel a movement toward achieving this goal.

For the reasons aforementioned, I respectfully request that you pass SB 1363.

Mahalo,
Kylie Wager
J.D. Candidate 2014
William S. Richardson School of Law

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2011 11:26 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: merway@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1363 on 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM SB1363

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Marjorie Erway
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: merway@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2011

Comments:

This bill is needed, at the very minimum. Let's get on with saving the ocean and landfills. Please completely support his measure. Mahalo for your consideration.

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2011 10:43 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: merway@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1363 on 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Testimony for EEP/ERB 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM SB1363

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Marjorie Erway
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: merway@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/20/2011

Comments:

As you are considering this bill, please ensure that the plastic bag bans in Maui and Kauai Counties remain intact and are not overridden by the fee. Please support this addition to this important bill.

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2011 11:44 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: pandiorama@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1363 on 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM SB1363

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Andrea Hamblin
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: pandiorama@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2011

Comments:

Rachel Harvey
316 Keaniani St.
Kailua, HI 96734,
racheharvey@gmail.com

Committee: EEP/ERB
Hearing Date: 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM
Testimony of Rachel Harvey in Support of Senate Bill 1363

Good morning Representatives,

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.

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 bags is more than double 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. This simple fee would help make shoppers aware of the economic and environmental costs of single-use bags in Hawaii. Single-use bags are simply not in Hawaii's sustainable future and strong efforts should be made to discourage their continued use.

I strongly recommend that the plastic bag bans in Maui and Kauai Counties remain intact and are not overridden by the fee.

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

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2011 9:08 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: jbautista619@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1363 on 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM SB1363

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jerome Bautista
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: jbautista619@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/20/2011

Comments:

I am writing in support of this bill for businesses to charge a fee for the distribution of non-reusable bags at POS. This is one step closer towards a plastic bag ban in the entire state of Hawaii. Maui and Kauai already have a plastic bag ban intact and are reducing the waste seen in their lands. Having a fee for plastic bags would help businesses and consumers rely on the use of reusable bags more. Working in the retail industry, nothing feels worse than passing an expense on loyal customers. This would help businesses consider eliminating plastic and going with biodegradable. At the very least it will be better for the environment as biodegradable will eventually decompose. Consumers would be more prone to use their reusable bags to avoid the fee. It's one step closer towards ultimately having a statewide plastic bag ban, so I am in support of this bill.

Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Rep. Denny Coffman; Acting Chair EEP
Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business
Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair and Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Vice Chair
Date: 3/22/11. Room: 312
Strong Support – SB 1363 SD2 Relating to Plastic Bags

Dear Honorable EEP & ERB Committee Members:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1363 SD2 relating to plastic bags.

The Danes have an old folk saying "We have only the land, the sea and our brains." And the Danes have used their brains to create an island nation that is the Hobbit of the world in environment conservation.

I noticed when living there 14 years ago, that everyone back then brought their own backpacks or cloth bags for groceries. Although reusable bags were available too for purchase at Danish supermarkets, very few shoppers forgot their own. And in Denmark two conveyor belts half the width of ours enable shoppers to pack their own groceries. Most of the Danes carry backpacks, while here most of our tourists backpacks do the same. Then too, a lot of shoppers on O'ahu use a car to pick up groceries, so a BYO system is even less of an inconvenience. Shopping carts in Europe require a deposit, so you often take them to your home when it's loaded up with groceries, since the Danes bike more and have fewer cars (a \$20,000 car is \$60,000 after taxes). But the carts do get returned for the deposit reimbursement later.

Denmark's folk saying could fit Hawaii but Hawai'i would bring Aloha to the mix and we are still mindful of the Kahuna's teaching. So I draw my own testimony by quoting from pg.28 of ***HO'OPONO: the Hawaiian Way to Put things Back into Balance*** by Pali Jae Lee:

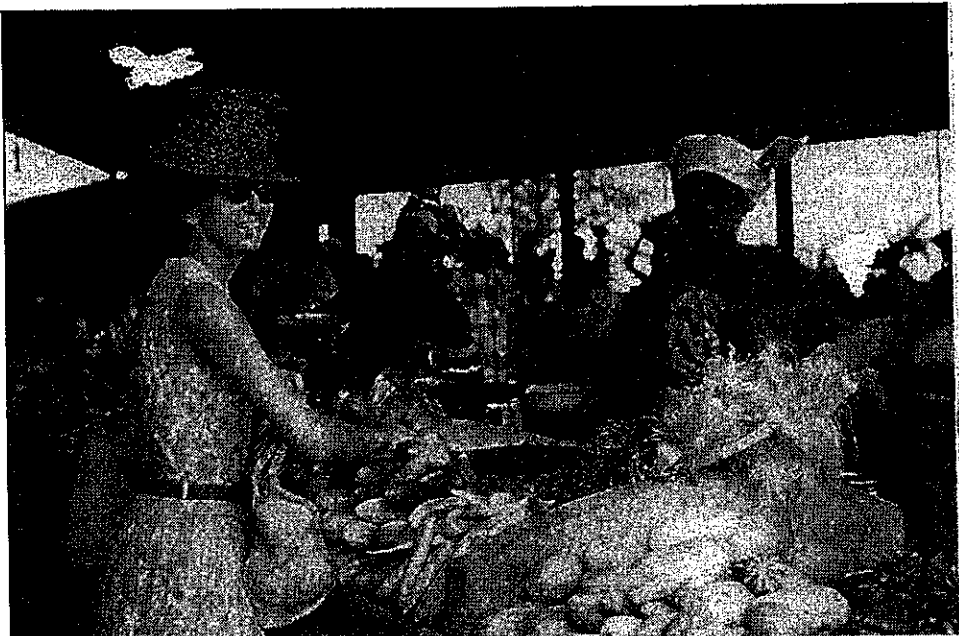
"It is said that during ancient times, the people ...were able to communicate with each other even if they were miles apart. Today this is called ESP, but then it was just a natural process of communication. As they were all a part of the whole, they saw no difficulty in one part reaching another."

So, the ancients had no secrets from each other's hearts and minds; yet today's modern society encouraging competition and existential alienation competes for our attention. We didn't inherit the earth from our ancestors; we have it on loan from our keiki.. 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 decreasing the amount of plastic bags that end up in the ocean we hold in trust. In Holland, it is about the same, mostly 20 cents for a bag. 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. The Dutch bring all fresh fruits and vegetables to the check-out counter in small bags which are made from corn not plastic.

I think we worry about the tourist industry being negatively affected by this bill. But the reverse is possibly the case. A past September visitor from Shaoshan, China, emailed me back this month 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.

"I know other countries lifestyles and people do make do without PLASTIC BAGS. I served in the Peace Corps for 2 years and no one had plastic bags. We used cloth grocery bags."



(Note: grocery bag): The #3rd goal of the Peace Corps is bringing the world back home. Kennedy's Peace Corps celebrates its 50th Anniversary this year.

Africa had no middle class then, but poor and well-off alike felt no need of plastic bags. I was making only \$75 a month, So the concern that poor people won't obtain a reusable grocery bag is nonsense. Safeway has offered to participate in an initial reusable bag-giveaway program in its earlier testimony. And a thoughtful Quaker friend of mine just bought bags to give to the River of Life in Chinatown. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Julianna FreeHand
Honolulu, HI

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2011 10:28 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: abaalto@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1363 on 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM SB1363

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: anthony aalto
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: abaalto@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/20/2011

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz and Galuteria and members of the committees,

Aquaculture is an important and growing source of protein in the national diet. As we seek environmentally responsible ways to boost our capacity to feed ourselves, renovating and extending our ancient fishpond system is a smart initiative that is already attracting international attention.

Please support this bill.

Mahalo

anthony aalto

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 11:17 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: 1000WordsHawaii@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1363 on 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM SB1363

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Nicole LaTorre
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: 1000WordsHawaii@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/21/2011

Comments:

Hawai'i House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection &
Hawai'i House Committee on Economic Revitalization and Business

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

Aloha Chair Coffman, Chair McKelvey, Vice-chair Choy, and Members of the Committees,

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 have a B.S. in Marine Biology and worked in the marine conservation field before starting law school. I am a member of Surfrider Foundation, Conservation Council for Hawai'i, and Sierra Club.

I strongly support the forward movement of SB1363 because it has the potential to significantly reduce the State's excessive use of non-reusable checkout bags in a manner that balances the concerns of the State, environmentalists, businesses, and citizens of Hawai'i in general. You should also support the forward movement of SB1363 because it enhances environmental protection while preserving the consumers' freedom of choice, and has the potential to produce revenue for the state and affected businesses. In addition, SB1363 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; it is important that SB1363 not be amended to abolish Kaua'i and Maui County ordinances because the laws can exist in harmony with one another and those counties should be allowed to keep the ordinances they worked so hard to pass. However, I strongly feel that statewide legislation is the best way to address this issue because it will result in the greatest benefit to the environment.

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.ⁱ 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.ⁱⁱ 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.ⁱⁱⁱ 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.^{iv}

I urge the Committees to not allow SB1363's off-set fee to fall below fifteen-cents. An off-set fee that is too low may not deter consumers from using the bags and may not produce enough revenue for the State and businesses to benefit from or at least not be adversely affected by the bill. I know that some people are urging the bill be passes with only a five-cent fee, but I do not feel that amount will significantly enhance environmental protection and thus the law will need to be amended at a future time to ensure the bill accomplishes its purpose. Please move SB1363 forward with a fee of no less than fifteen cents. Also, please ensure businesses continue to receive a percentage of the fee that ensures the law will not unnecessarily burden them. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Sincerely,

Mele Coleman

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 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 a 25-cent off-set fee scenario, businesses will receive about six cents per bag under SB1363; 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>

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 12:58 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: surfergirl808@msn.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1363 on 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM SB1363

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: ROXANNE RIVERO
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: surfergirl808@msn.com
Submitted on: 3/21/2011

Comments:

Here since a child.. I support the bill, with some general reasons why (protect our environment/food-chain from plastic pollution, free up landfill, reduce oil dependence, etc.).

I believe we should pursue the most aggressive action reducing the use of plastic bags, which would include keeping the current bans on Kauai and Maui. Eliminating these bans at this stage would undue a lot of training and effort put into the current law and would allow more, not less use of plastic bags on those islands.

The Department of Health should receive enough funding to fully implement, support, and enforce this act.

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 1:02 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: surfrideroahu@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1363 on 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM SB1363

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Tim Tybuszewski
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: surfrideroahu@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/21/2011

Comments:

The benefits of this bill are far to long to long to describe in this short testimony. I feel that reducing the overall use of single use plastic bags in Hawaii is crucial to our marine environment, therefore we should allow the bans on Maui and Kauai to continue while placing a fee on single use plastic bags in Oahu and Hawaii island. The fee will allow the DOH to receive the proper funding it needs in order to implement the tasks it has been given.

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 1:20 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: s.fineran@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1363 on 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM
Attachments: bag the bags.docx

Testimony for EEP/ERB 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM SB1363

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Stacey Fineran
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: s.fineran@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/21/2011

Comments:

I strongly support a ban or a charge for plastic bags on Oahu. Kauai and Maui have successfully implemented a plastic bag ban and are leading the state in a sustainable direction. This bill will help bring less plastic into our oceans, which mean healthier ecosystems. After speaking with residents on Kauai, I know that it may take a little getting used to for those citizens who only use disposable plastic, but they will learn to bring their own bags to the shops they frequent. The residents I spoke with on Kauai said that after some getting used to they love it. Even the baggers at the grocery stores said that they are happy that the ban is in place.

Mahalo for your time and please vote yes on the SB1363.

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 1:22 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: rob@surfbeyond.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1363 on 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM SB1363

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Robert Barreca
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: rob@surfbeyond.com
Submitted on: 3/21/2011

Comments:

I am writing in support of SB1363. I support this bill as a reduction in plastic bags will protect our marine environment from plastic pollution, protect the human food-chain from contamination from fish ingesting plastic particles, free up space in our landfill and reduce our oil dependence.

For the sake of future generations, we must begin aggressively reducing the amount of plastic and single-use waste with which we pollute our earth. Hawaii could be the first state to pass single-use bag legislation and a model for the rest of the country.

I would like to emphasize a few points regarding SB1363:

- We must take the most aggressive action to reduce our single use plastic consumption and not undo the bans that are currently in effect on Kauai and Maui, which would cause unneeded confusion.
- The bag fee should be 10-15 cents to both make an impact on consumer behavior and cover the amount needed for the Department of Health to fully implement, support and enforce this legislation.

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
MARCH 22, 2011, 10:40 am
(Testimony is 3 pages long)

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF SB 1363

Aloha Chair Coffman and Chair McKelvey, and Members of the Committee:

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.

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

I respectfully request that the fee be set at 15 cents, and that the business be allowed to retain 5 cents as an incentive. I also respectfully suggest that 1/3 (5 cents) of the offset fee go to the Department of Health, and the remaining 5 cents go into the general fund.

I also respectfully request that language is included to apply this fee to whatever disposable, single-use checkout bags that are distributed at the point of sale in Maui and Kauai counties which are not already covered in their plastic bag bans. I respectfully emphasize that language in the bill be retained such that the plastic bag bans in Maui and Kauai Counties not be affected (preempted) by this measure.

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>

HEARING OF EEP/ERB COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 22

10:40am

Rm 312

To the House Energy & Environmental Protection Committee

Rep. Hermina M. Morita, Chair

Rep. Denny Coffman, Vice Chair

&

To the House Economic Revitalization & Business Committee

Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair

Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Vice Chair

From: Annie Koh

Kanu Hawaii member and District 22 resident

Re: Bag Fee bill (SB 1363)

In Strong Support

Chairs & Committee Members:

I strongly support SB 1363. This bill does not override the plastic bag bans in Maui and Kauai Counties, which remain intact. What the proposed fee does do, is account for the true cost of single-use plastic bags in the rest of the state. The recent flooding at Waimanalo Gulch was a vivid reminder that trash doesn't just disappear after we put the garbage bag in the dumpster.

People may worry about the "inconvenience" of bag fees, but in fact, true-cost accounting helps people make better choices. Prior to moving to Honolulu, for five years I lived in Seoul, South Korea, where disposable bags and disposable cups have been subject to user fees. All consumers thought for a moment before deciding if they truly needed a plastic bag for their purchase.

Increasingly lightweight reusable bags have also made it simple for us to be prepared for unexpected purchases; indeed, many local entrepreneurs here in Hawaii have come out with their own versions of the reusable bag, a smart business move for both manufacturers and buyers.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Annie Koh

1650 Kanunu St. #610

Honolulu, HI 96814

Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Rep. Denny Coffman, Acting Chair EEP
Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business
Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair and Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Vice Chair
Date: 3/22/11. Room: 312
Strong Support – SB 1363 SD2 Relating to Plastic Bags

Dear Honorable EEP & ERB Committee Members:

:

We are writing in strong support of HB 998 HD1 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 5 to 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. Well this problem affects both our visiting TURTLES and the tourists too. And that's just on ONE beach, which is one of the CLEANEST, 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?

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.

Ramona Hussey
Kailua, HI

Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Rep. Denny Coffman, Acting Chair EEP
Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business
Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair and Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Vice Chair
Date: 3/22/11. Room: 312
Strong Support – SB 1363 SD2 Relating to Plastic Bags

Dear Honorable EEP & ERB Committee Members:

We are writing in strong support of HB 998-HD1 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 5 to 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. Well this problem affects both our visiting TURTLES and the tourists too. And that's just on ONE beach, which is one of the CLEANEST, 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?

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.

Wallace Nakagawa
Pearl City, HI

Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Rep. Denny Coffman, Acting Chair EEP
Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business
Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair and Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Vice Chair
Date: 3/22/11. Room: 312
Strong Support -- SB 1363 SD2 Relating to Plastic Bags

Dear Honorable EEP & ERB Committee Members:

We are writing in strong support of HB 998 HD1 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 5 to 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. Well this problem affects both our visiting TURTLES and the tourists too. And that's just on ONE beach, which is one of the CLEANEST, 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?

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.

Ted Talbott
Kaneohe, HI

Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Rep. Denny Coffman, Acting Chair EEP
Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business
Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair and Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Vice Chair
Date: 3/22/11. Room: 312
Strong Support – SB 1363 SD2 Relating to Plastic Bags

Dear Honorable EEP & ERB Committee Members:

We are writing in strong support of HB 998 HD1 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 5 to 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. Well this problem affects both our visiting TURTLES and the tourists too. And that's just on ONE beach, which is one of the CLEANEST, 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?

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Amanda S. Armstrong
Kaneohe, HI

Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Rep. Denny Coffman, Acting Chair EEP
Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business
Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair and Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Vice Chair
Date: 3/22/11. Room: 312
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Patti Callahan
Hilo, HI

Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Rep. Denny Coffman, Acting Chair EEP
Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business
Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair and Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Vice Chair
Date: 3/22/11. Room: 312
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify,

Anne C. Fong
Kailua,, HI

Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Rep. Denny Coffman, Acting Chair EEP
Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business
Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair and Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Vice Chair
Date: 3/22/11. Room: 312
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify,

Alice E. Talbott
Kaneohe, HI

Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Rep. Denny Coffman, Acting Chair EEP
Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business
Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair and Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Vice Chair
Date: 3/22/11. Room: 312
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify,

Mary A. Glover
Wajanae, HI

Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Rep. Denny Coffman, Acting Chair EEP
Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business
Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair and Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Vice Chair
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify,

Kay Larsen
Wahiawa, HI

Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Rep. Denny Coffman, Acting Chair EEP
Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business
Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair and Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Vice Chair
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify,

Davis Bernstein
Hilo, HI

Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Rep. Denny Coffman, Acting Chair EEP
Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business
Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair and Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Vice Chair
Date: 3/22/11. Room: 312
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify,

Beth Tartar
Honolulu, HI

Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Rep. Denny Coffman, Acting Chair EEP
Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business
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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,

Amanda Kautz
Honolulu, HI

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 7:08 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: megancook33@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1363 on 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM SB1363

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Megan Cook
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: megancook33@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/21/2011

Comments:
Rep. Marcus Oshiro and the Finance Committee:

I support this bill which takes aggressive steps to protect our special environment here in the islands. Simple plastic bags cause incredible damage to the land and sea life as well as aesthetics of our islands. Passing this bill will move our state in the right direction by reducing our dependence on oil and protecting our food supply from plastic pollution. I believe we should pursue the most aggressive action reducing the use of plastic bags, which would include keeping the current bans on Kauai and Maui. All islands will need to take large steps to ensure progress continues on this issue. Eliminating the bans on Kauai or Maui at this stage would undue a lot of training and effort put into the current law and would allow more, not less use of plastic bags on those islands.

Finally I ask that the Department of Health be allocated enough funding to fully implement, support, and enforce this act.

I look forward to seeing your decision and hope you will consider the chance you have with this act to make meaningful change for our islands' people and environment.

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 8:46 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: damiansempio@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1363 on 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM SB1363

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Damian Sempio
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: damiansempio@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/21/2011

Comments:

I stand in support of SB1363 and also in support of the plastic bag bans in Maui and Kauai Counties remain intact (are not overridden by the fee).

- I strongly support the bill SB1363. Single-use plastic bags are an incredibly wasteful and unnecessary use of oil. They add to our already overburdened landfills and are often blown into the surrounding environment and waterways. In Hawaii, this is particularly important as sea turtles mistake them for jellyfish and end up choking on the bags. The incineration of plastic bags at H-power also does not reduce our state's dependence on fossil fuels as the bags are made from oil and do not burn "clean".
- I believe we should pursue the most aggressive action reducing the use of plastic bags, which would include keeping the current bans on Kauai and Maui. Eliminating these bans at this stage would undo a lot of training and effort put into the current law and would allow more, not less use of plastic bags on those islands.
- The Department of Health should receive enough funding to fully implement, support, and enforce this act.

Ruey Hwu
2833 Leialoha Ave. Apt.4
Honolulu, HI 96816

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 9:45 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: mhesketts@mac.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1363 on 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM SB1363

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Marvin Heskett
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: mhesketts@mac.com
Submitted on: 3/21/2011

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Senator,

Please do the right thing and support the passage of SB1363. This bill has my full support as a father and an active member of our Hawaiian community. The time is now to address the global problems caused by our poor choice some 30 years ago to pursue disposable plastics. You support of this bill will help put Hawaii in the lead of a growing movement to protect our oceans from the destruction and harm caused by plastic bags. The evidence is overwhelming that we need to stop using easily disposable plastics as there is no real responsible alternative. Recycling is simply not working well enough, nor are rubbish control measures. As evident with the current tragedy in Japan and Hawaii, many forces go beyond our plans to contain and control plastic rubbish, spreading the pollution into the ocean. The effects on marine life are disastrous. As an elected leader from our island home, please do the right thing and support this bill as a starting point to addressing and improving our current slow motion plastic disaster.

Mahalo nui loa,
Marvin Heskett

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 10:21 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: jbpaulin@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1363 on 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM SB1363

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: joseph paulin
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: jbpaulin@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/21/2011

Comments:
I support SB1363 and encourage my representatives to also support SB1363



March 21, 2011

Committees on EEP & EBM

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

Dear Chairs McKelvey and Coffman 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 onto the Leeward Coast in Jan., 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 Kauai 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.)

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 11:25 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: abaalto@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1363 on 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM SB1363

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: anthony aalto
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: abaalto@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/21/2011

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Coffman and McKelvey and members of the committees.
Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Consumers already pay for disposable shopping bags - grocery stores don't give them away for free, they include the cost of the bags in the price of the products they sell.

This bill simply makes that cost more transparent and, in doing so, allows consumers to make an informed choice.

Experience in other cities and countries has shown that as soon as consumers are confronted by the cost of disposable bags they change their shopping habits.

Plastic bags impose a significant burden on our environment, filling our landfills, polluting our waterways, killing endangered turtles.

Using market forces is an excellent way to protect the environment. I urge you to support this bill, but in doing so I also urge you to leave intact the bans on such bags that were imposed by the democratically expressed will of the citizens of Maui and Kauai.

mahalo
anthony aalto

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 11:43 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: kenzen808@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1363 on 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM SB1363

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Ken Sentner
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: kenzen808@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/21/2011

Comments:
Please pass this bill to reduce single-use bags which pollute our ocean.

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 12:09 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: writetosheila@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1363 on 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM SB1363

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sheila Sarhangi
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: writetosheila@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/22/2011

Comments:

I support legislation to reduce the amount of plastic and paper bags consumed in Hawaii.

I also ask that the current bans on Kauai and Maui be kept in place.

Finally, the Department of Health should receive enough funding to fully implement, support, and enforce this act.

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 6:43 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: kevin.obrien.mt@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1363 on 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM SB1363

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kevin O'Brien
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: kevin.obrien.mt@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/22/2011

Comments:

I would like to show my support for this bill. If we are not able to completely ban plastic one-use grocery bags, then we should at least institute this fee. I would prefer a full ban, however.

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 7:04 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: fanceyclancey@msn.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1363 on 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM SB1363

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Shannon M. Clancey
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: fanceyclancey@msn.com
Submitted on: 3/22/2011

Comments:

- * I support the bill, with some general reasons why (protect our environment/food-chain from plastic pollution, free up landfill, reduce oil dependence, etc.).
- * I believe we should pursue the most aggressive action reducing the use of plastic bags, which would include keeping the current bans on Kauai and Maui. Eliminating these bans at this stage would undue a lot of training and effort put into the current law and would allow more, not less use of plastic bags on those islands.
- * The Department of Health should receive enough funding to fully implement, support, and enforce this act.

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 7:36 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: dankafabi@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1363 on 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM SB1363

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dana Fabiankovicova
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: dankafabi@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/22/2011

Comments:

Plastic are harming our oceans and species living in it, as well as our drinking water and consequently all people as they enter the life cycle. Let's eliminate use of plastic on the island!!!

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 8:30 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: lucas@kaulana.net
Subject: Testimony for SB1363 on 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM SB1363

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kauai Lucas
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: lucas@kaulana.net
Submitted on: 3/22/2011

Comments:

This week the 5th International Marine Debris Conference, sponsored by the United Nations and NOAA is taking place in Honolulu. Today, you, Hawai'i's legislators, can walk the talk on environmental responsibility.

In 2002 Ireland imposed a surcharge on single use plastic bags of 15 euro cents (20 U.S. cents) that cut use by 90 percent within a week.

In 2008 China banned the use of ultra thin, single use plastic bags. Saving the equivalent of 1.6 million tons of oil, and 40 billion plastic bags in the year since it was introduced.

Italy, which used 20 billion bags annually followed suit this year. Kauai and Maui Counties have successfully passed legislation banning bags. Two weeks ago while on Moloka'i, I was inspired by how readily the ban was implemented.

Today is, also auspiciously, the UN's International Water Day. Be the leaders we need, vote for the ban, and show the international community gathered in Hawai'i we will do our part to malama 'aina, malama i ka wai.

Aloha,
Kauai Lucas

morita2----Lahela

From: EEPtestimony
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 10:30 AM
To: morita2----Lahela
Subject: FW: Testimony for SB1363 on 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 8:49 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: lroth76@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1363 on 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM SB1363

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lauren Venu
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: lroth76@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/22/2011

Comments:
I support this important bill to remove plastics from our environment.

SB1363

February 24, 2011

Aloha,

I'm at writing to show my support for Hawaii SB 1363; requiring businesses to collect a 25 cent offset fee for distribution of every non-reusable checkout bag. I support this state bill because it still gives people the freedom to choose to use a plastic bag but at their own expense, and it encourages people to use reusable bags.

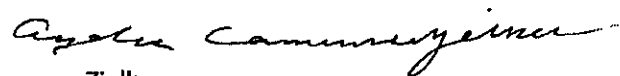
Many other similar bills in other states and countries have already succeeded in reducing non-reusable checkout bag consumption and therefore changing wasteful habits. I support this bill in hopes that people will begin using reusable bags and begin to understand there is a cost associated with single-use plastics. The fee should be at the least 25 cents per bag if not as much as \$1.00 in order to have a strong impact. Making the fee any less will weaken the purpose of the bill.

Plastic bags are a nuisance to landfill capacity, our welfare, and the marine environment. Our nation is running short on landfill space. Every month more and more landfills close. We need to make sustainable choices about our limited landfill space and reducing single-use plastic bags is a excellent first step. We have become accustom to using non-renewable resources at our dispose, thinking little about the impact is has on our welfare and our children's and grandchildren's welfare. Petroleum is a toxic and finite resource and we need to use it responsibly by moving away from disposable single use plastics.

We need to consider the impact on marine resources, especially on an island state like Hawaii. Everyday non-reusable checkout bags are carelessly littered into our ocean, compromising the life that depends on it, including humans. If plastic marine debris are not consumed by larger marine life, they may end up in the great North American garbage patch, where plastics will photodegrade into minute pieces that resemble plankton, then communed by the fish (that we eat), in effect poisoning our fish and ourselves.

I support SB 1363 because it is a step in the right direction to becoming more responsible and sustainable community. Not only will the bill benefit the DOH, but it will also benefit the welfare of our community and our precious finite resources.

Mahalo,



Aydee Camunas-Zielke

morita2---Lahela

From: EEPtestimony
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 10:31 AM
To: morita2---Lahela
Subject: FW: Testimony for SB1363 on 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 9:53 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: zielke@berkeley.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB1363 on 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM SB1363

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Eric Zielke
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: zielke@berkeley.edu
Submitted on: 3/22/2011

Comments:
I support SB 1363.

morita2----Lahela

From: EEPtestimony
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 10:32 AM
To: morita2----Lahela
Subject: FW: Testimony for SB1363 on 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 10:16 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: best.danie@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1363 on 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM SB1363

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Danielle Best
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: best.danie@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/22/2011

Comments:

Passing Bill SB1363 is an important and crucial step in reducing the energy and pollution crisis in Hawaii and will have national and global effects. A fee on plastic bag use is similar to deposits collected on recyclable plastics, glass, and cans. If that money can be channeled into useful programs, then there may be a potential reduction on individual taxes and an increase in budgeting for other programs. More importantly, it will encourage consumers to use dedicated bags, thus reducing the demand for non-biodegradable plastics produced, and reducing energy consumption. With the proper outreach, this bill could educate the public against a disposable lifestyle, reducing the wastes generated for already packed landfills. Also, it may help alleviate rubbish pollution and help to minimize impacts to our open spaces, oceans, and their habitats. Please support Bill SB1363, and take a great step in better community, national, and global stewardship.

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 10:59 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: miyan@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB1363 on 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM SB1363

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Miya Tsukazaki
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: miyan@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 3/22/2011

Comments:

Aloha, I am a third year law student at the William S. Richardson School of Law and I support this bill because it will help Hawaii be more sustainable. I support the most aggressive action reducing the use of plastic bags and keeping the current bans on Kauai and Maui. Eliminating these bans at this stage would undue a lot of training and effort put into the current law and would allow more, not less use of plastic bags on those islands. The Department of Health should receive enough funding to fully implement, support, and enforce this act. Thank you.

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 11:14 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: dreamsunshine3@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1363 on 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM SB1363

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Meg Murphy
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: dreamsunshine3@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/22/2011

Comments:

I support bill 1363 to put a charge on the use of plastic bags. The plastic that we use without thought has and continues to have a major impact on our Hawaii land and ocean as well as major health impacts. In the future, there will be no where to put these bags since our dumps are full and closing down. Help our future and put a charge on the use of single use plastic bags now!

coffman3 - Sean

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 9:04 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: mariyakai@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1363 on 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/ERB 3/22/2011 10:40:00 AM SB1363

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mariya Gold
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: mariyakai@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/22/2011

Comments: