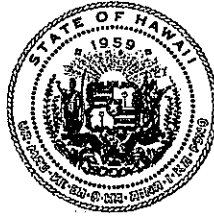
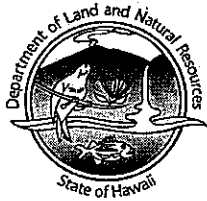


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION & BUSINESS

Tuesday, March 20, 2012
8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2511, SENATE DRAFT 2, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Senate Bill 2511, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1 requires the collection of a 10 cent fee on single-use checkout bags. Among other recipients, portions of the revenues generated would be deposited into the Natural Area Reserve Fund for watershed protection. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.

Fortunately there are cost-effective and long-term solutions to reverse the trend of forest degradation. The Department's Watershed Program supports public-private partnerships to leverage state funds and provide a diverse range of local jobs. However, funding for these efforts is not sufficient and forest losses continue. In 2000, the State Legislature directed the Department to identify additional funding sources to protect Hawaii's watershed forests. But a decade later, the only dedicated funding source for watershed partnerships is the Natural Area Reserve Fund (NAR Fund), which receives a percentage of the State Conveyance Tax from the sale of real property. With recent cuts to the State general funds, a variety of natural resource programs have increasingly relied on the NAR Fund. This has significantly compromised the funds allocated to watershed protection. In Fiscal Year 2011, 11 partnerships split \$1.25 million, and the five island-based committees that control invasive species and contribute to watershed protection have no authorized dedicated funding whatsoever. Their general fund allocation was eliminated, and they now receive annual legislative allocations from the NAR Fund. In recent years, the NAR Fund has become the funding source for a variety of worthy natural resource programs. But its capacity is stretched to the limit as it is carved up into smaller and smaller shares. While watershed partnerships have typically been able to leverage dedicated state funds with at least 1:1 matching funds, declining state revenues have reduced their ability to find matching contributions. This significantly compromises their ability to protect and maintain priority watershed areas into the future.

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

GUY H. KAULUKUKUI
FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

An October 2011 statewide poll demonstrated Hawaii's residents' willingness to support increased funding of watershed protection. In addition to a high rating of urgency to protect upland forests for water supplies, 78% of respondents were supportive of increasing funding of watershed protection from \$1 million to \$11 million. When respondents were presented with various means by which the increased funds could be raised, a majority supported the use of environment-related taxes (7.4 out of 10, with 10 indicating "Strong Support"). While the proposed bag fee is not a tax, these results suggest that the public recognizes the immediate need to significantly increase investments in watershed protection.

This measure reduces and mitigates damage from single-use checkout bags while providing wide-ranging benefits to Hawaii's environmental and economic health for current and future generations. Funds deposited in the natural area reserve fund would implement the Department's *The Rain Follows the Forest* plan (available online at <http://Hawaii.gov/dlnr/rain>) to protect Hawaii's sources of water, which are threatened from hotter and drier conditions from climate change, as well as loss of watershed forests.

The actions proposed in the plan protect the natural resources threatened by the consumption of single-use checkout bags from deforestation, fossil fuel use, and marine debris pollution. In addition to increasing fresh water supplies, forests prevent erosion that muddies beaches, coral reefs, and fisheries. Forests reduce Hawaii's greenhouse gas emissions, and mitigate many damaging impacts from climate change. Protection sustains the native wildlife and plants unique to our islands and sacred to the Hawaiian culture. The Department's goal is to double the level of forest protection in the next ten years, requiring approximately \$11 million per year. This initiative will create over 150 local jobs. Projects are ready in each county to begin reaching job creation and accomplishment targets. Funds would be allocated in a statewide competitive process to maximize effectiveness and accountability.

Forests are enormous economic assets in Hawaii. In addition to protecting the coral reefs, beaches, and wildlife that make Hawaii a desirable visitor destination, forests are essential to provide water at affordable rates. Hawaii's native forests absorb moisture from rainfall and passing clouds that condense on the thick vegetation and can increase groundwater supply by up to 50%. However, over half of forests have already been lost to invasive species, causing extensive water loss across landscapes. Even a small percentage reduction in groundwater recharge can cost millions per year in increased pumping to transport water for human use. When groundwater levels decline to a point that they cannot be pumped, expensive alternative water sources are needed - long transport pipes, new wells, and even desalination plants. With forest degradation ongoing and accelerating, the longer Hawaii waits to take significant action to halt this destruction, the higher the costs will be to reverse the damage and ensure Hawaii's water supply and natural beauty for current and future generations.

Senate Bill 2511, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1 is a responsible measure that would both reduce damage from bag consumption while providing dedicated funding for essential environmental programs.

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96843



March 19, 2012

PETER B. CARLISLE, Mayor

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ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.
Manager and Chief Engineer

ELLEN E. HIRAYAMA, P.E.
Deputy Manager and Chief Engineer

The Honorable Angus L. K. McKelvey, Chair
and Members
Committee on Economic Revitalization and Business
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Conference Room 312
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair McKelvey and Members:

Subject: Senate Bill 2511, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1,
Relating to Environmental Protection

The Board of Water Supply, City and County of Honolulu (BWS), supports Senate Bill No. 2511, SD 2, HD 1, which provides the State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and the Department of Health with needed funding to sustain its watershed protection programs that protect and conserve priority forests and groundwater aquifers.

The BWS is participating in several watershed protection partnerships with DLNR, landowners, organizations and community groups to implement forestry management projects that improve the health of Oahu's forest reserves and groundwater aquifers. A stable source of funds will ensure partnership programs and projects are sustained and expanded for future generations.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 2511, SD 2, HD 1.

Very truly yours,

ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.
Manager and Chief Engineer

ALAN M. ARAKAWA
Mayor



DAVID TAYLOR, P.E.
Director

PAUL J. MEYER
Deputy Director

DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793-2155
www.mauiwater.org

Testimony of the Maui County Department of Water Supply
Supporting S.B. 2511 Relating to Environmental Protection
House Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business
Tuesday, March 20, 2012, 8:30 a.m. House Conference Room 312

The Maui County Department of Water Supply supports S.B. 2511 to provide funding to the Department of Land and Natural Resources' statewide watershed management initiative "Rain Follows the Forest." Funding this initiative will direct revenues toward comprehensive and sustained protection of Hawai'i's forest watersheds, a critical natural resource needed to secure our finite supply of fresh water.

The Maui County Department of Water Supply's mission is to provide clean water efficiently to approximately 35,600 services on Maui and Molokai. Supplying fresh potable water is critical to meeting the demand of diverse sectors throughout the County including agriculture, commercial, residential, economic development which includes hotels and resorts. Maintaining the supply of efficient quantities is a challenge based on numerous threats to water supply including population increase, climatic conditions such as declining rainfall and the loss of habitats and upland forests linked to water recharge, fog water supply and source availability. In the past 40 years, Maui's population has increased on average by 45%. The draft Maui Island Plan projects Maui's population to increase by 42% by 2030. Increased populations (i.e. residential, non-residential, visitor) will have an impact on resources such as land, water and the natural environment resulting in a negative impact upon our quality of life. In addition to the trend of increased population, one of the greatest threats to Maui's native forest is the destruction caused by non-native, invasive animals and plants. According to the report "Watershed Threats" produced by the East Maui Watershed Partnership, nearly two-thirds of Maui's original forests have already been lost. Many other landscape transformations such as agricultural practices of clearing native vegetation and the introduction of invasive species through horticulture and agricultural industries in the past have all severely reduced the capacity of the forest ecosystem to recharge Maui's aquifers.

"By Water All Things Find Life"

In concert with the objectives of the "Rain Follows the Forest" our Department has provided financial support to seven Watershed Partnerships on Maui and Molokai to ensure upland watersheds are fully functioning so fresh water resources can be utilized and enjoyed by the people of Hawai'i in perpetuity. Since 1995, we have provided \$7.07 million dollars of funding to seven Watershed Partnerships comprised of a total number of 54 of partners. The partners represent ranchers, federal, state, county and local government, water utilities, large landholders, fire task forces, non-profits, non-government associations, public land trusts, the King Kamehameha schools and many representatives from the private business sector.

The Watershed Partnerships collectively address a variety of threats to the watershed including activities such as: ungulate control through fencing and targeted hunting practices; eradication of invasive weeds and plants; reforestation and vegetation of upland areas and other habitats critical to the recharge and protection of water supply; and suppression and management of wild land fires resulting in the loss of forests. These efforts have successfully resulted in essential tangible outcomes and deliverables and include: fence installation, maintenance and monitoring resulting in a reduction in the feral animal populations; eradication of invasive weeds and plants (nearly 35,000 acres); hunting programs to increase access for hunters and reduce feral animal populations; restoration of forests with native species of plants and trees; documentation, protection and research of rare species; establishment of volunteer programs in all watersheds; interpretive hikes and field studies; resource monitoring and mapping; installations of trails, camps and helicopter landing zones; educational presentations and displays at public events and schools; and landscape level watershed protection through the protection and out planting of native plant species and Countywide community garden projects.

In addition to these positive outcomes, funding the watersheds has resulted in innovative research and development of technology and best management practices that address greater cost efficiency of watershed management and protection of our water supply. Best management practices include the ability to conduct thermal surveys to monitor feral animal control; detailed high resolution aerial GIS resource mapping to illustrate the effectiveness of invasive plant and ungulate control and revegetation/reforestation efforts; resource monitoring to analyze trends with regard to cost efficiency of various management methods; and the development of pest pollution prevention protocols, to name a few examples.

Sustaining these successful achievements will be challenging. State financial support through the funding of the statewide watershed management initiative "Rain Follows the Forest" is a critical factor necessary to maintaining these efforts. Through a dedicated funding source of state dollars, greater leverage can be achieved by matching funds that provide existing support. In Maui, it is estimated that for each dollar of State funding, the watershed partnerships are able to match it with three dollars from County and community based contributions, private and non-profit entities. Additionally, with a dedicated source of funding from the State, greater match opportunities can be provided with new organizations and additional sources of private funding. Is it worth it? Consider the economic value of the forests and water recharge as sited from a University of Hawaii study which states:

- \$4.6 to 8.5 billion for the recharge to our aquifers alone. That's according to a study of the Ko'olau forest on 'Oahu, prepared by the University of Hawai'i Economic Research Organization in 1999.
- When aesthetic values, water quality, climate control, biodiversity, and other forest services were calculated, the total value is estimated at \$7.4 to 14 billion. (Excerpted from "Last Stand - The Vanishing Hawaiian Forest" prepared by The Nature Conservancy, Hawaii.)

The Department of Land and Natural Resource's initiative to provide a dedicated state funding source to ensure that the mauka watersheds are fully functioning so fresh water resources can be enjoyed by the residents and visitors of Hawai'i is important for the provision of a sustainable water supply. Despite all of the successful achievements accomplished by Maui's Watershed Partnerships, long term sustainable funding would bolster the capacity of the Partnerships to not only sustain their ongoing efforts, but to also implement activities they have not been able to address due to the limited availability of resources. Outreach, education and volunteer programs could be expanded to accomplish more and garner more support for the issues that face our water supply. More invasive weed control and biological control efforts could be implemented for the highest priority native rainforest species that threaten vital watershed functions for Maui's population. Fire suppression and prevention management practices to prevent loss of forest acreage needs additional long term financial support. Additional State funding will provide long term, sustainable leverage to implement a holistic approach toward an on-going Island wide collaborative effort.

Respectfully Submitted,



David Taylor, P.E.
Director of Water Supply

TAXBILLSERVICE

126 Queen Street, Suite 304

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: MISCELLANEOUS, Single-use checkout bag fee

BILL NUMBER: SB 2511, HD-1

INTRODUCED BY: House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

BRIEF SUMMARY: Adds a new part to HRS chapter 342H to establish a single-use checkout bag fee. On January 1, 2013 requires all businesses in the state to charge and collect a fee of 10 cents for each single-use checkout bag that is provided to customers. After July 1, 2016 if the department of health determines that the statewide distribution of single-use checkout bags has not decreased by at least 25% from the effective date of this act, then the fee shall increase to 25 cents on January 1, 2017. Each customer transaction receipt shall show the number of single-use checkout bags provided and the amount of the fee charged.

Allows a business to retain: (1) up to 20% of the bag fees collected between 1/1/13 and 12/31/13; and (2) up to 10% of the bag fees collected from 1/1/14 and thereafter. All fees retained shall be subject to HRS chapters 235 and 237 provided that any taxes imposed on the fees retained shall not be charged to the customer. Requires businesses subject to the single-use bag fee requirements to conduct educational outreach to their customers regarding the single-use checkout bag fee program.

No later than the last day of each month, businesses subject to the single-use bag fee are to remit to the department the fees collected by the last day of each month, less the allowable amount retained, during the immediately preceding month; provided that a small business may remit the fees on a quarterly basis on the last day of the month following the end of a quarter. Businesses shall be subject to penalties and interest for late or underpaid fees. Fees collected shall be deposited into a special account of the environmental management special fund provided: (1) the first \$800,000 of the fees collected annually shall be expended by the department of health for administrative, education, audit, compliance, and enforcement activities associated with collection of the single-use checkout bag fee; (2) of the remaining balance: (a) 20% shall be deposited into the environmental response revolving fund; and (b) 80% shall be deposited into the natural area reserve fund to be expended by the department of land and natural resources for watershed protection, restoration, and acquisition.

Violations of the single-use bag fee program shall be subject to a fine of no less than \$1,000 for each violation. Further establishes provisions relating to injunctive and other relief, interaction with any county ordinances, and business reporting of the number of single-use checkout bags provided to customers and the number of reusable bags provided to customers.

Requires the department of health to submit to the legislature an annual report, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session, delineating the department's efforts to effectuate the single-use bag fee program, the number of single-use bags distributed, the statewide reduction rate in the amount of single-use bags distributed, and any recommended policy changes needed to better effectuate the single-use bag fee program.

No later than 3/31/13, each business that is required to charge and collect the single-use checkout bag fee shall submit to the department of health a one-time report listing the number of single-use checkout bags and reusable bags provided to customers by that business for the 2012 calendar year.

Defines "single-use checkout bag," as: (1) a bag made of plastic that is less than 2.25 mils thick, or a paper package or sack, whether recyclable or non-recyclable, that is provided by a business to a customer, and is designed for one-time use to contain and transport merchandise. A single-use check out bag does not include: (1) bags used by customers inside a business to package loose items, such as fruits, vegetables, nuts, grains, or candies, or small hardware items; (2) bags used to contain or wrap frozen foods, meat or fish, flowers or potted plants, or other items to contain dampness; (3) bags used to protect or transport prepared foods or bakery goods; (4) bags provided by pharmacists to contain prescription medications; (5) newspaper bags for home newspaper delivery; (6) door-hanger bags; (7) laundry, dry cleaning, or garment bags, including bags provided by hotels to guests to contain wet or dirty clothing; (8) bags sold in packages containing multiple bags intended for use as garbage, pet waste, or yard waste bags; (9) bags used to contain live animals, such as fish or insects sold in pet stores; or (10) bags used to transport chemical pesticides, drain-cleaning chemicals, or other caustic chemicals sold at the retail level; provided that this exemption shall be limited to one bag per customer. Defines "reusable bag" as a bag with handles that is specifically designed and manufactured for multiple reuse and is made of: (1) cloth or other machine-washable fabric; or (2) durable material suitable for reuse, including plastic that is at least 2.25 mils thick.

This act shall be repealed on December 31, 2017 and HRS section 342G-63(c) shall be reenacted in the form in which it read on the day prior to the effective date of this act.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2050

STAFF COMMENTS: While the legislature has acknowledged that the excessive use of single-use checkout bags is a hazard to the environment, rather than a ban or limitation on the use of such check out bags, this measure proposes a single-use checkout bag fee on each single-use checkout bag that is provided to customers with the revenues derived from the fee deposited into the environmental response revolving fund and the natural area reserve fund for watershed protection, restoration, and acquisition. While each single-use checkout bag provided to customers may cost customers 10 cents per bag, it is questionable whether: (1) the fee imposed would encourage customers to use reusable bags; or (2) the amount derived from this program is sufficient to address the requirements of the stated program areas.

That said, lawmakers and taxpayers should recognize this proposal for what it is, that is, it is nothing more than another way to raise more money to fund questionable state programs. While proponents may argue that such a fee will discourage consumers from using single-use check-out bags, the real reason for this measure is merely to raise more money to fund government programs. As such, the department of health should be ashamed for having introduced this measure initially as it expands government at a time when everyone realizes that state government has grown beyond what taxpayers are able to support. It attempts to hide behind the environmental argument that single-use plastic bags litter the state's environment. Since the Neighbor Island counties have already moved to ban the use of these bags, this measure really will apply only to Honolulu.

Taxpayers need only to recall the fiasco of the "bottle tax" on beverage containers. Instead of providing a financial incentive to consumers to recycle their beverage containers, the bottle tax merely created a surplus of funds because beverage containers were not being returned for the nickel deposit fee and for those that were returned and redeemed, the bulk are probably returned by school groups, nonprofits and the homeless who scavenge the parks and streets to provide a source of income. Despite the return of some of these containers, the balance in the beverage container fund has soared to over \$30 million.

And while lawmakers may think that this is a penalty on those consumers who chose not to return their beverage containers, note well that this is more than \$30 million that is not circulating in the state's economy, creating the jobs that Hawaii's people so desperately need.

Under the proposed measure, a fee is imposed for each bag provided to the consumer. A business would have to bag a customer's purchases, then complete the transaction after counting the number of single-use checkout bags it provided to the customer. Although the proposal would allow the business to retain a portion of the fees collected, the actual amount will depend on the number of bags "sold" to customers and, therefore, it is impossible to determine whether or not the fee amount retained will be sufficient or insufficient to cover the cost of compliance with the program. Note well that the amount of the retained fee will be subject to the state's general excise and income taxes. Thus, as drafted, this fee merely adds to the cost of doing business in Hawaii. So much for lawmakers' lofty promise not to affect the state's fragile economy.

Taxpayers should also be wary of the fact that supporters of this measure are the beneficiaries of the proceeds, the environmental response revolving fund and the natural area reserve fund, the later of which is already the recipient of part of the conveyance tax. However, unlike the conveyance tax which will constantly be paid as real property changes hands, should this fee be successful in discouraging the use of these bags and the funds dry up, what then will they do to keep the program funded? The only alternative to severely cutting back a bloated program is to raise taxes. Thus, adoption of this fee now will surely promise an increase of general taxes in the future. Not only that, but the Honolulu City Council is already considering a ban on such bags. What then is the use for this legislation?

If the intent of this proposal is truly to protect the environment from the misuse and abuse of single-use bags, then just ban the use of such bags as the three Neighbor Islands have already done. This disingenuous attempt by lawmakers is so transparent in its attempt to raise new revenues that it is an insult to taxpayers who are already overburdened and who have had to endure the addition of more and more taxes in recent years as lawmakers try to close the budget gap. Retailers might just welcome such a ban as it would reduce their costs since they would not have to provide bags as a courtesy. Ah, but that would mean that there would not be another source of money for lawmakers to spend.

It should be noted that in an effort to reduce the use of single-use checkout bags, several businesses have their own programs to encourage consumers to utilize reusable bags and such programs have been successful in reducing the number of plastic or paper bags provided to customers. Others, like the big box stores, do not provide their customer any type of bags to take away their purchases and that system seems to work just as well.

Some advocate this measure because it will produce much needed funds to address Hawaii's watershed issues. Obviously the dilemma of Hawaii's watersheds is not of a high priority to the point where lawmakers have been willing to appropriate general funds for that program. Thus, this measure represents nothing more than an expansion of government by raising new revenues, revenues that will no longer be available in the economy to be spent on goods and services that drive the creation of jobs. To a large degree, this measure is another step in creating a dysfunctional government and stunts the economic growth of the community. If the watershed issue is so critical, then lawmakers need to re-prioritize the spending of the precious tax dollars that they already have. It is certainly an indictment that lawmakers do not know how to do their jobs of allocating the resources they already have.

To reiterate, this proposal is nothing more than a grab for money. It is one more measure that will increase the cost of living and doing business in Hawaii while truly not accomplishing the goal of "cleaning up the environment" that it seems to hide behind. Lawmakers may have been successful in tricking taxpayers once with the "bottle bill," but a second time is truly reprehensible.

Digested 3/19/12



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

HEARING Tuesday, March 20, 2012
 8:30 am
 Conference Room 312

RE: **SB 2511, SD2 HB1 Relating to Environmental Protection**

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

Retail Merchants of Hawaii (RMH) is a not-for-profit trade organization representing 200 members and over 2,000 storefronts, and is committed to support the retail industry and business in general in Hawaii. Through November 2011, retail generated \$25.6 billion in sales and paid over \$1 billion in GET. The retail industry is one of the largest employers in the state, employing 25% of the labor force.

RMH supports SB2511, SD2, HD1, which requires businesses in the State to collect a fee for single-use checkout bags provided to a customer; allows businesses to keep twenty per cent of the fees for the first year of the program and ten per cent of the fees thereafter, subject to income and general excises taxes; requires fees to be collected on single-use checkout bags not prohibited by county ordinance; deposits all fees into a special account in the environmental management special fund; requires first \$800,000 of all fees collected to be expended by DOH for costs relating to administrative, education, audit, compliance, and enforcement activities associated with the fee; requires any remaining fees collected to be deposited in the environmental response revolving fund and the natural area reserve fund.

This measure is a practical and manageable option to an outright ban on plastic bags and places the responsibility for the careless discard and misuse, or the wise re-use and management, of these items on the consumer. Hawaii's retailers unquestionably support the broadest use of reusable tote bags as the ultimate solution for the environment. However, we do know that consumers' acceptance and use of reusable bags will not be universal, affordable or practical at all times. This measure allows us to provide options as demanded by our customers.

SB2511, SD1, HD1 represents an understanding of and consideration for the concerns and issues proffered by all the stakeholders over the past two years. We urge its passage. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Carol Pregill, President



3375 Koapaka Street, D-108
Honolulu, HI 96819

Phone: (808) 831-0811
Fax: (808) 831-0833

March 20, 2012

House Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business

Re: SB 2511 SD2, HD1: Relating to Environmental Protection

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

We appreciate the opportunity to submit our testimony and express our support for SB 2511 SD2, HD1. As you may know Times Supermarket is based on Oahu and operates 26 stores with locations in Maui, Kauai and Oahu.

As an island based 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 policies 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, Kauai, and Hawaii Island 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 2511 SD2, HD1 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 2511 SD2, HD1 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 waiver 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 would be able to ensure better enforcement of the law and create additional revenue in jurisdictions that currently would be exempt from SB 2511 SD2, HD1. The idea is to maximize the revenues generated by the law to better address the purposes of this bill and educate consumers on conservation and re-useable product practices. We do have concerns about the reduction in fee allocation as currently worded, but look forward to continuing the positive dialog about this bill.

Page Two

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 19, 2012

To: Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Choy, and members of the House Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business

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

Re: Safeway Support for SB 2511SD2, HD1: Relating to Environmental Protection

I am writing to lend Safeway support for SB 2511 SD2, HD1. 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 Hawaii Island, Maui and Kauai have 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 2511 SD2, HD1 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. We are concerned with the reduced allocation for businesses that collect the fee after the initial phase-in of the measure, but look forward to continued positive dialog with you about this measure.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan", with a long, sweeping underline.

Susan M. Houghton, Director of Public Affairs and Government Relations



HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (HFIA)

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

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

DATE: Tuesday, March 20, 2012
TIME: 8:30 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 312

FROM: Hawaii Food Industry Association - Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

RE: SB 2511 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Chairs & Committee Members:

HFIA **strongly supports** this measure, as a means of encouraging consumers to **reduce the use of both paper and plastic single use bags**. This bill ensures that our environmental protection bills relating to single use plastic bags are consistent and effective.

Our stores are on track to spend \$30K-\$60K more per store annually on bag costs in counties where plastic is banned. In order to cover these costs retailers need part of the fee to go back to the retailer. Otherwise retailers will still be losing money due to the cost of paper and ultimately be **forced to pass that cost on to the price of food.**

Without a fee on paper, our current plastic bag ban bills will simply result in a shift to paper bags. **Paper bags are less environmentally friendly than plastic bags and cost as much as 10 times more than plastic bags.** We appreciate that this bill allows the fee to be implemented on all islands, which ensures that all islands will see a reduction in the use of single use bags. 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

The Pacific Resource
PARTNERSHIP



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

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

SB 2511, SD2, HD1 – Relating to Environmental Protection
Tuesday, March 20, 2012
8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 312

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

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

PRP supports SB 2511, SD2, HD1- Relating to Environmental Protection which requires businesses in the State to collect a fee for single-use checkout bags provided to a customer.

The measure intends to reduce the adverse impact of single-use checkout bag waste on our natural environment by establishing an offset fee for the distribution of single-use checkout bags and then directing the fee revenues to help mitigate the damaging effects of single-use checkout bags. The fee would also help consumers reduce the use of single-use checkout bags and thereby reduce waste and unnecessary hazard to the natural environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views with you and we respectfully ask for your support on SB 2511, SD2, HD1.

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting S.B. 2511 HD1 Relating to Environmental Protection
House Committee on Economic Revitalization and Business
Tuesday, March 20, 2012, 8:30AM, Room 312

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of Hawaii's native plants, animals, and ecosystems. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands for native species in Hawai'i. Today, we actively manage more than 32,000 acres in 10 nature preserves on Maui, Hawai'i, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Kaua'i. We also work closely with government agencies, private parties and communities on cooperative land and marine management projects.

The Nature Conservancy supports S.B. 2511 HD1, and the proposed offset fee on single-use check out bags. The production, distribution, use, and disposal of single-use check out bags are a significant contributor to litter in Hawai'i, are a threat to marine and bird life, and contribute to greenhouse gas emissions that exacerbate the effects climate change.

Climate change is an imminent and unprecedented threat to natural systems (e.g., forests, coastlines, coral reefs, wetlands) and to every person in Hawai'i that—whether they know it or not—depends on services from the natural environment for their livelihoods, health and welfare. Even if we drastically reduce CO2 emissions now, we will still feel the effects of climate change. In Hawai'i, science indicates that this may include:

- More frequent and more severe storms, and increased runoff and siltation;
- Overall, less rainfall and therefore less fresh water;
- Higher temperatures that may affect the health of forested watersheds;
- Climatic conditions even more conducive to invasive plants, insects and diseases;
- Sea level rise and high wave events that will harm coastal areas and groundwater systems; and
- Ocean acidification that will inhibit the growth of protective coral reefs.

We must plan and implement mitigative and adaptive measures to ensure the resilience of our natural and human systems. One of the most effective tools we have to help address the effects of climate change in Hawai'i is to protect our forests. Healthy Hawaiian forests that are not overrun by invasive species act like a sponge, collecting rain and moisture from passing clouds, slowly delivering fresh water into streams and aquifers, absorbing greenhouse gases, and reducing runoff and siltation into near shore waters during storm events.

For these reasons, we support this measure and particularly favor the allocation of a portion of the revenue generated to protect Hawaii's forested watersheds. We also support the allocation of revenue for program management by the State and affected businesses.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

S. Haunani Apoliona Christopher J. Benjamin Anne S. Carter Richard A. Cooke III Peter H. Ehrman Kenton T. Eldridge
Thomas M. Gottlieb James J.C. Haynes III J. Douglas Ing Mark L. Johnson Dr. Kenneth Y. Kaneshiro Bert A. Kobayashi, Jr.
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THE TRUST *for* PUBLIC LAND

CONSERVING LAND FOR PEOPLE

**THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND'S TESTIMONY
IN SUPPORT OF SB 2511 SD 1 HD 1
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
House Senate Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business
Tuesday, March 20, 2012, 8:30 a.m., Room 312**

The Trust for Public Land's Hawaiian Islands Program supports SB 2511 SD1 HD1 relating to environmental protection, which charges a fee for single use plastic bags and allocates revenues from such fees to the Natural Area Reserve fund and watershed protection which could support the Department of Land and Natural Resources' "Hahai No Ka Ua i Ka Ulula'au" - "The Rain Follows the Forest" watershed protection initiative.

Watershed conservation has proved to be a cost-effective alternative to expensive water-treatment technology in keeping drinking water clean. Natural hydrological systems recharge and cleanse the watershed. Native forests increase the availability of water by absorbing it, storing it, and releasing it slowly during times of scarcity.

In 2001, the Trust for Public Land and the American Water Works Association conducted a study of 27 water suppliers and discovered that the more forest cover a watershed has, the fewer dollars water suppliers (e.g., county boards of water supply) must spend on treatment costs. According to the study, for every 10 percent increase in the source area's forest cover, treatment and chemical costs decreased approximately 20 percent, up to about 60 percent forest cover. For example, when 60 percent of the watershed is forested, average annual treatment costs are \$297,110. When only 10 percent is forested, average annual costs rise to \$923,450.

One of the clearest demonstrations of the economic value of watershed conservation came in 1989, after the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ordered New York City to build a \$6 billion to \$8 billion water-filtration plant that would cost \$300 million a year to operate. Instead, the city got EPA's permission to spend \$1.2 billion over the first ten years to restore and protect its watersheds, letting a 2,000 square-mile forest do the work of the water filtration plant. Similarly, the city of Auburn, Maine, saved \$30 million in capital costs and an additional \$750,00 in annual operating costs by spending \$570,000 to acquire and protect land in its watershed.

Offsetting the negative environmental impacts of single use plastic bags by investing in the health of our native forest watersheds is a wise one. It will pay off in avoided treatment costs, and clean drinking water for future generations.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify -



Lea Hong
Hawaiian Islands Program Director
1136 Union Mall, Suite 202
524-8563 (office), 783-3653 (cell)

From: Rachel A. Harvey, Ph.D.
Community Coordinator, Plastic Free Hawaii, Kokua Hawaii Foundation
316 Keaniani Street
Kailua, HI 96734

RE: House ERB Public Hearing
Conference Room 312
3/20/2012, 8:30am
Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2511

Aloha Representatives,

I am writing to comment in support of Senate Bill 2511. Regulating single-use plastic and paper bags with a fee will help make Hawaii a model state for sustainable change. Further, I appreciate that revenues from bag fees will support the natural area reserves fund and the watershed initiative.

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. The U.S. goes through 100 billion plastic bags each year, requiring 12 million barrels of oil to produce, and less than 5% are ever recycled.

It is equally important to regulate the use of single-use paper bags. Not only do paper bags use far more fossil fuel in production and manufacturing, but they also require twenty times as much fresh water as plastic bags. Additionally, most paper comes from tree pulp, so the impact of paper bag production on forests is enormous. A 2008 article from the National Cooperative Grocers Association states that each year the United States consumes 10 billion paper grocery bags, requiring 14 million trees. Paper bag production delivers a negative blow to the fight against climate change and global warming. Forests (major absorbers of greenhouse gases) have to be cut down, and then the subsequent manufacturing of bags produces greenhouse gases.

Reusable bags allow new avenues for marketing and save the retailer and consumer money. Reusable cloth and nylon bags can be purchased for a dollar (or are sometimes free) and used for years and years. Consumers actually pay hidden costs for so-called free bags. Further, reducing the consumption of single-use plastic bags will bring in money for our state and save money in clean-up costs. The taxpayer cost to subsidize the recycling, collection, and disposal of plastic

and paper bags is often 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.

This bill effectively addresses the issue of single-use check out bag 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) by the Kokua Hawaii Foundation. We are a coalition of community members and businesses striving 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rachel Harvey".

Rachel Harvey



CONSERVATION COUNCIL FOR HAWAI'I

Testimony Submitted to the House Committee on Economic Revitalization and Business

Hearing: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 312

Support for SB 2511 SD 2 HD 1 Relating to Environmental Protection

Aloha. Mahalo nui loa for introducing and hearing SB 2511 SD 2 HD 1. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports this bill, which establishes a fee for single-use checkout bags provided to customers. SB 2511 will encourage people to use reusable bags when shopping. It will reduce solid waste in our landfills as well as litter on the land and in the ocean. SB 2511 SD 2 HD 1 is also consistent with local policies to reduce single-use disposal bags in Kaua'i and Maui counties.

CCH is dedicated to protecting native Hawaiian plants, animals, and ecosystems for future generations, and we are very concerned about the harm to seabirds, sea turtles, monk seals, dolphins, and whales caused by plastic bags and other marine debris. We also appreciate the energy savings that would be realized by reducing the number of single-use checkout bags manufactured for, and shipped to Hawai'i.

We support the proposal in SB 2511 SD 2 HD 1 to allocate funds from the bag fees to the Natural Area Reserve Fund, which supports so many important programs for the benefit of Hawai'i's people, including the Natural Area Reserves System, Forest Stewardship Program, Natural Area Partnership Program, Watershed Partnerships, and the Youth Conservation Corps.

Please invest in Hawai'i's natural environment, its people, and our future by supporting SB 2511 SD 2 HD 1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Ziegler
Executive Director



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 220 • Honolulu, HI 96814

President: Hannah Springer * Vice-President: Julie Leialoha * Treasurer: Rick Barboza * Secretary: Maka'ala Ka'auomoana
Directors: Lida Pigott Burney * Koalani Kaulukukui * Robin Kaye
Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler



THREE MOUNTAIN ALLIANCE

Hawai'i Dept. of Public Safety
 Hawai'i Dept. of Land & Natural Resources
 Kamehameha Schools
 National Park Service
 The Nature Conservancy
 US Fish & Wildlife Service
 USDA Forest Service
 US Geological Survey
 Natural Resources Conservation Service

PO Box 52 • Hawai'i National Park, HI • 96718 • Ph 808.985.6197 • FX 808.985.6029

Testimony of the Three Mountain Alliance
Supporting S.B. 2511 HD1 Relating to Environmental Protection
 House Committee on Economic Revitalization and Business
 Tuesday, March 20, 2012, 8:30AM, Room 312

The Three Mountain Alliance Watershed Partnership **supports** the Department of Land and Natural Resources' "Rain Follows the Forest" watershed protection initiative. We hope you will too.

The largest Watershed Partnership in the state, the Three Mountain Alliance (TMA) was formed in 2007 and covers 1,116,300 acres on the Island of Hawaii. With 9 partners, the overall goal of the Three Mountain Alliance is to sustain the multiple ecosystem benefits of the three mountains of Kīlauea, Mauna Loa, and Hualālai by responsibly managing its watershed areas, native habitats and species, historical, cultural, and socio-economic resources for all who benefit from the continued health of the three mountains.

Approximately 85% of the total TMA land area is comprised of native ecosystems. The TMA contains some of the largest expanses of intact native forest remaining in the Hawaiian Islands (approximately 50% of the State's remaining native forests). Currently, partners (private, federal, and state) maintain over 84,000 acres of protected areas committing well over \$1M each in invasive species control, fence maintenance, and restoration activities annually. In addition, there are 11 watershed protection projects within the TMA area that are "Shovel Ready"* and will protect over 42,000 acres of additional forested watershed. As demonstrated in the table below, the state funds currently committed to these projects are leveraged over 10:1. Additional funds will ensure their completion and expedite the needed protection of these critical resources.



THREE MOUNTAIN ALLIANCE

Shovel Ready Watershed Protection Units Summary

	Land Owner	Acres Protected	Non-State Funds	State Funds	Total Committed Funds	Estimated Total Project Costs	Balance Needed to Complete
	Private Land	11275	\$2248000	\$230000	\$2480000	\$4000000	\$1520000
	Public Land	25800	\$3916400	60	\$3916400	\$5565000	\$1648600
	Business/Other	5400	\$387500	\$300000	\$687500	\$2250000	\$1562500
	TOTALS	42275	\$6551000	\$530000	\$7081000	\$11815000	\$4734000

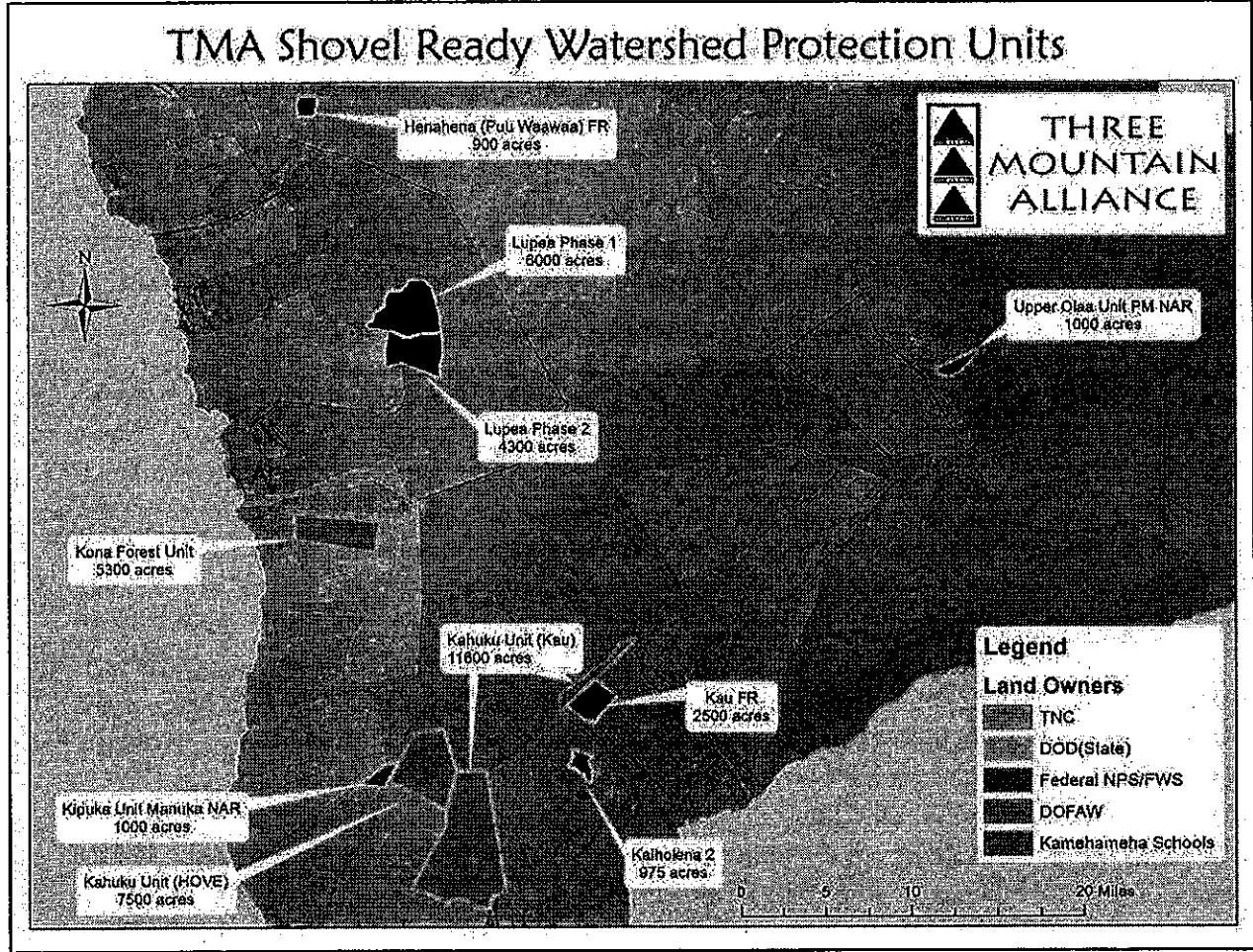
*Shovel Ready: Projects that have had their planning, environmental compliance, and permitting completed, or will be completed in the next six months. Implementation has already commenced on some of these projects.

Healthy Hawaiian forests that are not overrun by invasive species act like a sponge, collecting rain and moisture from passing clouds, slowly delivering fresh water into streams and aquifers, absorbing greenhouse gases, and reducing runoff and siltation into near shore waters during storm events. The DLNR's watershed initiative proposes a sound investment in our forests, which are the source of nearly all the islands' supply of fresh water. The watershed protection and invasive species programs supported with state funds and leveraged several

times over with matching funds from county, federal and private sources help to ensure success in protecting our watershed resources for current and future generations.

Thank you for taking our testimony in to consideration.

The TMA Executive Committee



Shovel Ready Watershed Protection Units

Project Name	Land Owner	Area Protected	Non-State Funds	State Funds	State Committed Funds	Estimated Total Project Cost	Balance Needed to Complete
Lupea Phase 1	CS	6000	\$2745,000	\$165,000	\$1,800,000	\$2,000,000	\$20,000
Lupea Phase 2	CS	4300	\$500,000	\$0	\$500,000	\$1,100,000	\$1,000,000
Kaholena 2	TNC	975	\$3,000	\$17,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
Kona Forest Unit	USFWS-Refuges	5300	\$1,400,000	\$0	\$1,400,000	\$1,800,000	\$400,000
Oloa Unit	NPS	1200	\$579,000	\$0	\$579,000	\$965,000	\$386,000
Kahuku Unit (HOVE)	NPS	7500	\$530,000	\$0	\$530,000	\$530,000	\$0
Kahuku Unit (Kau)	NPS	11600	\$1,407,400	\$0	\$1,407,400	\$2,270,000	\$862,600
Herahena (Puu Waawaa) FR	State DOWAW	900	\$0	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$600,000	\$450,000
Kau FR	State DOWAW	2500	\$437,500	\$0	\$437,500	\$1,000,000	\$562,500
Kipuka Unit Manuka NAR	State DOWAW	1000	\$75,000	\$100,000	\$175,000	\$300,000	\$125,000
Upper Oloa Unit PM NAR	State DOWAW	1000	\$75,000	\$100,000	\$175,000	\$358,000	\$183,000
TOTALS		42275	\$6,751,900	\$382,000	\$7,133,900	\$11,823,000	\$4,689,100

Private Land
Public-Federal
Public-State



GLOBAL
ISLAND
PARTNERSHIP

Testimony in Support of SB 2511 Relating to Environmental Protection

House Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business

Public Hearing on 20 March 2012, 8:30am
Conference Room 312

Audrey Newman
Hawaii Green Growth Initiative
P.O. Box 535
Hoolehua, Hawai'i 96729

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

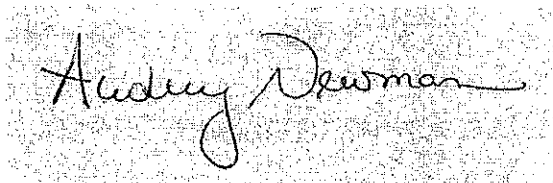
I am writing on behalf of the Hawaii Green Growth Initiative (HGG) in support of SB2511. HGG brings leaders from the energy, food and environmental sectors together to achieve Hawaii's sustainability goals and to be a model for building a green economy. Our members and advisors include more than 50 leaders from government, private, and non-profit organizations in Hawai'i.

HGG asks you to support SB2511 SD2 because it creates an innovative funding source to expand protection of Hawaii's watersheds and water supply while also reducing the use of plastic bags statewide. In particular, we ask you to support:

1. A 10 cent fee to be required for single-use checkout bags, which drain energy and environmental resources and cause significant damage to marine and terrestrial environments;
2. Allocating a majority of these funds into the Natural Areas Reserve Fund to implement the Department of Land and Natural Resources' *The Rain Follows the Forest Plan* to expand protection of Hawaii's priority Watersheds.
3. Allocating the first \$800,000 of all fees collected to be expended by Department of Health for costs relating to administrative, education, audit, compliance, and enforcement activities associated with the fee;
4. Depositing any remaining fees collected in the Environmental Response Revolving Fund and the Natural Area Reserve Fund; and
5. Automatically increasing the fee to 25 cents on 1 January 2017 if the department determines that the statewide distribution of single-use checkout bags has not decreased by at least seventy-five per cent from the effective date of this Act.

We ask for your strong support of SB2511. Implementation of SB2511 is an investment in Hawaii's future. Protecting Hawaii's watersheds is the most cost-effective way to protect Hawaii's fresh water supply - this water is essential for Hawaii's inhabitants, agriculture, environment, and energy (with the emerging potential for investment in biofuels). SB2511 will also help decrease our carbon footprint and marine debris threats to our ocean and lands.

Mahalo nui for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored, textured background. The signature reads "Audrey Newman" in a cursive script.

Audrey Newman

Senior Advisor,

Global Island Partnership (GLISPA)

Promoting action for island conservation and sustainable livelihoods.

www.glispa.org

March 19, 2012

The Honorable Representative Angus McKelvey
House Committee on Economic Revitalization and Business
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Testimony supporting SB2511 SD2 HD1 Relating to Environmental Protection

Chair McKelvey and Committee Members:

The Outdoor Circle (TOC) urges the passage of this proposed legislation.

Plastic bags are used by nearly everyone creating a huge national and statewide solid waste problem. In addition, millions of barrels of oil are used annually manufacturing them.

In Hawaii as elsewhere, plastic bags are a ubiquitous eyesore on our landscape. You cannot go anywhere without seeing plastic bags blowing in the wind, hung up on fences, littering our beaches and so on. The bags also are a threat to marine life.

This legislation will drastically reduce the number of plastic bags used in Hawaii. And when they are purchased from stores, the fees allowed by this legislation will help preserve our watersheds and thus ensure fresh drinking water for the future.

As the foremost grassroots organization dedicated to protecting the visual beauty of our islands The Outdoor Circle, on behalf of thousands of statewide members, strongly urges the committee to approve SB2511 SD2 HD1.

Respectfully,

Bob Loy
Interim CEO
Director of Environmental Programs



House of Representatives
Committee on Economic Revitalization and Business
Tuesday, March 20, 2012
8:30 a.m., Conference Room 312
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of SB 2511 SD2 HD1

Aloha Chair McKelvey and Members of the Committee,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **supports SB 2511 SD2 HD1, Relating to environmental protection**, which would require businesses to collect a fee for single-use bags at checkout. Part of the fee would provide critical funding for the Natural Area Reserves Fund (NARF) for watershed protection, which has been chronically underfunded for decades.

CGAPS appreciates this initiative as a source of funds for watershed protection, restoration, and acquisition. We also encourage DLNR to take a holistic view of priority actions, including the need for biocontrol and the prevention or control of pests that will spread into high-value watersheds if left unaddressed. Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,

Christy Martin
Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS)
Ph: (808) 722-0995



Testimony of the Maui Invasive Species Committee
Senate Bill 2511 SD2, HD1
Relating to Environmental Protection
Before the House Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business
Conference Room 312

March 20, 2012, 8:30AM

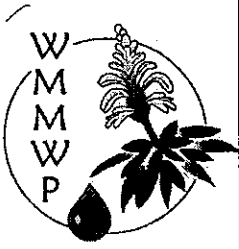
The Maui Invasive Species Committee (MISC) supports S.B. 2511 SD2, HD1, which will impose a fee on single-use bags, with revenue generated by the fee to support protection of our forested watersheds. Our native forests provide life-giving waters for human consumption and are home to plant and animal species found nowhere else in the world. Healthy forests also mean healthy reefs.

Hundreds of studies have documented the damage caused by invasive plants and animals. Resources to protect our forested watersheds have never been adequate. This bill will provide needed revenue, at least in the short run, to support watershed protection while simultaneously helping to limit the proliferation of plastic bags and reduce waste.

Please support this important initiative.

Thank you for your consideration and for your kōkua.

Teya M. Penniman
Manager



West Maui Mountains
Watershed Partnership
P.O. Box 13240
Lahaina, Hawai'i
96761
Phone (808) 661-6600
Fax: (808) 661-6604

**Watershed
Partners**

County of Maui
Dept. of Land &
Natural Resources
Ka'anapali Land
Company, LLC
Kahoma Land, LLC
Kamehameha Schools
Makila Land Co., LLC
Maui County
Department of Water
Supply
Maui Land &
Pineapple
Company Inc
Wailuku Water Co.
LLC
The Nature
Conservancy

West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership

March 17th, 2011

RE: Supporting S.B. 2782 & S.B. 2511

Relating to Environmental Protection
Aloha Legislators,

The West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership Strongly Supports SB 2782 and 2511 to provide funding to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for watershed protection programs. Identifying funding sources for the DLNR's "Rain Follows the Forest" watershed protection initiative is a highly worthy cause.

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

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

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

By unanimous consent and on behalf of our partners,

Mahalo nui loa,

Christopher N. Brosius
Watershed Coordinator

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 8:27 AM
To: ERBtestimony
Cc: samuel.chesser@ml.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/20/2012 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for ERB 3/20/2012 8:30:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Samuel Chesser
Organization: Individual
E-mail: samuel.chesser@ml.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

- I strongly support legislative efforts to reduce the use of paper and plastic bags.
- Over 400 plastic bags are used by each person annually.
- Nationally, we use an astounding 100 billion throwaway plastic bags every year made from some 12 million barrels of oil.
- These bags foul our open spaces, pollute our fragile marine environment and kill thousands of animals every year.
- We need to preserve our watersheds in order to ensure fresh drinking water for future generations.
- Please pass the single use bag fee bill and protect Hawaii's fragile environment.

Testimony for the

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION & BUSINESS

Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair

Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

8:30AM

Room 312

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2511

Chair McKelvey and members of the Committee: I am William Reese Liggett, 4947 Maunalani Circle, Honolulu 96813. I submit this testimony as a private citizen and as a career commercial real estate agent since 1990.

There is a solution for the serious problem of the proliferation and litter of plastic bags in SB2511. And there is a funding source for the protection of our precious and endangered watershed with this bill.

The public may complain at the thought of a low fee for bags, but they will soon forget as reusable bags become second nature to most of the population and the fees nevertheless become available to protect and improve our watershed.

As an inveterate litter picker-upper for the past 40 years, I can lustily testify to the ubiquitous nature of bag litter. SB 2511 will bring it under control.

Maui and Hawaii Counties are providing the lead—please put the whole state on this bandwagon. Even Honolulu has a bag control law in the works

Bottle deposits are an excellent example of how just a little premium (\$0.10) for bags will correct a big litter problem and reduce the plastic waste in our environment. Please pass this Bill 2511.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

From: randy ching [oahurandy@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 8:58 AM
To: ERBtestimony
Subject: in strong support of SB2511, SD2, HD1 - relating to environmental protection

SB2511, SD2, HD1 (in strong support)
House Committee on Economic Revitalization and Business
Hearing on Tuesday, March 20 at 8:30 a.m. in room 312

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

I am in strong support of SB2511, SD2, HD1. It is a win-win-win bill. Less opala everywhere, especially in the landfills; money to protect our watersheds while also creating 150 FTE jobs; badly needed revenue for the state.

Please pass this bill. Mahalo.

Sincerely,

Randy Ching
Honolulu
oahurandy@yahoo.com

TO: Members of the Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business

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

HEARING: 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 20, 2012

SUBJECT: SB 2511, SD2, HD1 Fees on Single-Use Bags - **OPPOSED**

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony on SB2511, SD2, HD1 which would impose fees on checkout bags and require reporting to the legislature. This bill refers to checkout bags as "single-use," but our family, and many others we know, uses the typical plastic and paper bags many times over.

The intent of this bill is to reduce the use of "single use" checkout bags and provide funds for watershed protection. I offer the following comments:

- Many bags made for reuse are also made of petroleum and require more energy to produce than standard "single use" plastic bags¹;
- Recommendations have been made that cloth and other bags made for reuse be washed regularly, which shifts the water usage from manufacturing plants to individual homes;
- According to "*Life Cycle Assessment of Supermarket Carrier Bags*,"² a cloth bag would need to be used 393 times in order to be a better option than a plastic bag that is reused 3 times;
- According to the Ocean Conservancy, the top three litter problems in Hawaii are cigarettes/butts, lids/caps and food wrappers/containers; and
- We already have anti-littering laws.

The proposed fee is simply a new tax, of which retailers are allowed to keep part and pay general excise tax on – a tax on a tax. The first \$800,000 of the balance collected will go to increase government, including introduction of audit staff in the Department of Health when we already have audit staff in the Department of Taxation.

Rather than imposing new taxes or fees, retailers could simply charge fees for bags and then donate to their favorite environmental groups on their own.

Please vote "no" on this bill.

¹ *An Inconvenient Bag*, The Wall Street Journal, September 26, 2008.

² Also see *The Mythical Benefits of Plastic Bag Bans Debunked*, OpenMarket.Org, September 20, 2011.

Rachel Neville
Honolulu, HI

March 19, 2012

Committee on Economic Revitalization and Business
Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Vice Chair

RE: Testimony in support of SB 2511

I support SB 2511, but think it will be more effective at reducing litter and providing an incentive for people to bring their own bags if the sunset date is removed. This bill will provide a stable source of funding for watershed protection which is sorely needed in this state. The connection between healthy forests and water supply has been recognized for over a century. Hawai'i's forests are already stressed due to invasive plants and animals and climate change will only make that worse. Without active and intense protection, the forest may not be able to provide the water capturing and filtration function that replenishes our water supply. If we want Hawai'i to be able to supply its own food and to not be plagued by frequent mudslides, the watersheds needs to be kept healthy in perpetuity—not just for five years.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rachel Neville".

Rachel Neville

March 19, 2012

To: Senators Angus L/K. McKelvey, Chair and Isaac W. Choy, Vice Chair,
Committee on Economic revitalization and business

From: Patrick Conant

Regarding: Testimony supporting SB 2511 SD2 HD1

I am very much in support of this much needed measure. This bill is an excellent "companion bill" to SB2782 since this bill can help provide funding for the goals outlined in SB2782, i.e. protection of our native forests and watersheds. The directing of those funds to the Natural Area Reserve Special Fund is the logical action since that fund has done more for watershed protection than any other entity since it was created. It funds the Natural Area Reserve System, the Natural Area Partnership Program, the Watershed Partnership Program and the Youth Conservation Corps. All of these organizations are dedicated to protection of native forests and watersheds. A major part of this work is alien weed control and alien ungulate control in our forests. These organizations have accomplished much in the relatively small fenced areas we have (small in comparison to all our native forests and watersheds on all non-private islands), thanks to efforts by the Division of Forestry and Wildlife and NGO's like The Nature Conservancy, Maui Land and Pineapple, Kamehameha Schools, Ulupalakua and Haleakala Ranches and others. But on the whole we have not done nearly enough. Our forests are not only under siege by alien weeds, but by alien wild ungulates, including game animals. If we don't support serious control of these aliens, we won't have the water to support our growing population. It takes money, and that is what this Bill is about. The funds are needed to get those alien weeds and fence wild ungulates out of our mauka native forests and protect our only source of pure water.

Testimony for the

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION & BUSINESS

Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair

Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

8:30AM

Room 312

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2511

Chair McKelvey and members of the Committee: I am Diana Sellner, dmsellner@gmail.com. I submit this testimony as a high school student and as a Girl Scouts member.

There is a solution for the serious problem of the litter of plastic bags in SB2511. And there is a funding source for the protection of our treasured and endangered watershed with this bill.

The public may complain at the mention of a small fee for bags, but they will soon forget this as reusable bags become second nature to most of the population and the fees ultimately contribute to protect and improve our watershed.

As an committed litter picker-upper for the past few years, I can strongly testify to the nature of bag litter. SB 2511 will bring it under control.

Maui and Hawaii Counties are providing the lead—please set the whole state on this bandwagon. Honolulu also has a bag control law in the works.

Bottle deposits are a perfect example of how just a little premium (\$0.10), for bags will correct a big litter problem and reduce the plastic waste in our environment. Please pass this Bill 2511.

Thank you so much for this generous opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2012 5:15 PM
To: ERBtestimony
Cc: davidlhenkin@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/20/2012 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for ERB 3/20/2012 8:30:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: David Henkin
Organization: Individual
E-mail: davidlhenkin@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/16/2012

Comments:
Please protect our watersheds and environment and pass this bill.

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

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION & BUSINESS

Mar 20, 2012, 8:30 am
(Testimony is 1 page long)
TESTIMONY IN STRONG FAVOR OF SB 2511

Aloha Chair McKelvey and Members of the Committee:

You have heard the compelling benefits that the Watershed Initiative-funding bag fee bill would have on the environment.

You are probably familiar with the economic benefits the "Bag Bill" will have on the State of Hawaii, consumers, and business owners alike.

SB 2511 is sure to be a legislative success story on par with 2002's Bottle Bill. How can we be so sure?

Hawaii's Watershed Initiative-funding bag bill is not dissimilar to Washington D.C.'s successful \$0.05 bag fee on all disposable carryout checkout bags, implemented in January of 2010. The District saw a drop from 270 million bags used in 2009 to 55 million in 2010, cited by D.C. officials, equating to an 80% reduction in bag use, translating to fewer production inputs, as well as less waste outputs, including trash and litter. A survey of 600 D.C. residents and 51 business owners found that since the fee was enacted, 75% of customers were using fewer bags while 78% of business owners experienced either **zero** or **positive** effect on their business. Revenue generated by the fee from bags that were taken went towards the clean up and protection of the Anacostia River, and has made a significant, positive impact on D.C.'s waterways.

I urge you to solidify our State's environmental and energy leadership and make Hawaii the *first state* to pass such exciting and important environmental legislation.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Joy Leilei Shih

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2012 9:02 PM
To: ERBtestimony
Cc: octopus@maui.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/20/2012 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for ERB 3/20/2012 8:30:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rene Umberger
Organization: For the Fishes
E-mail: octopus@maui.net
Submitted on: 3/16/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 17, 2012 8:20 PM
To: ERBtestimony
Cc: mrgach@att.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/20/2012 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for ERB 3/20/2012 8:30:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Michael Reed Gach & Barbara T Gach
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mrgach@att.net
Submitted on: 3/17/2012

Comments:
Subject: Support for SB 2511

I am writing in support of SB 2511 to further reduce the waste of throwaway bags. Here on Maui we have had great success with plastic bags, and thus we should expand this type of program to paper bags. The common one time use bags pollute our environment - both land and marine waters.

This is for future generations and makes the public aware that we all should reuse our bags and other materials.

Please pass the single use bag free bill SB 2511.

Mahalo,

Michael & Barbara Gach
P.O. Box 1808
Kihei, HI 96753
808-874-8191

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 17, 2012 8:48 AM
To: ERBtestimony
Cc: jepsona001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/20/2012 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for ERB 3/20/2012 8:30:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Andrea Jepson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jepsona001@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/17/2012

Comments:

I strongly support legislative efforts to reduce the use of paper and plastic bags.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2012 10:44 AM
To: ERBtestimony
Cc: kimhoffman@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/20/2012 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for ERB 3/20/2012 8:30:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kim Hoffman
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kimhoffman@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/18/2012

Comments:

It's gravely important to stop putting so much plastic in our environment. The small inconvenience of bringing your own bag to the market is insignificant when compared to the overall improvement in personal and environmental health.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2012 6:01 PM
To: ERBtestimony
Cc: leeplace1@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/20/2012 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for ERB 3/20/2012 8:30:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Edmund Lee
Organization: Individual
E-mail: leeplace1@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/18/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2012 9:22 PM
To: ERBtestimony
Cc: ben-kota@purells.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/20/2012 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for ERB 3/20/2012 8:30:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ben Purell
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ben-kota@purells.net
Submitted on: 3/18/2012

Comments:

I am a student at WHEA, West Hawai'i Exploration Academy, and I am in support of this bill.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2012 9:42 PM
To: ERBtestimony
Cc: adair@fincher.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/20/2012 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for ERB 3/20/2012 8:30:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Adair Kathleen Fincher
Organization: Individual
E-mail: adair@fincher.com
Submitted on: 3/18/2012

Comments:
I support this bill!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 12:53 AM
To: ERBtestimony
Cc: danettekong@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/20/2012 8:30:00 AM
Attachments: 3-18-2012 per Plastic Bags.docx

Testimony for ERB 3/20/2012 8:30:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Danette Kong
Organization: Individual
E-mail: danettekong@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

March 18, 2012

Dear Senators:

Please take the very important step of passing SB2511, which discourages single-use checkout bags by charging extra fees for their use. Take away the convenience of our mindless submission to the wasteful use of these bags, which are so detrimental to the health and well-being of our people and environment.

In becoming more aware of the deadly consequences of using these bags, I find it impossible to ignore the role we all play in the destruction of our environment. As we are given the means for knowing better, help us develop ways to DO better. Encourage us, by your measures, to act more responsibly toward our Earth, and to model wise behavior for our children.

I would dearly love to see the land of my birth exist free of waste, litter, and pollution, preserving its beauty so that my son and all of our children in the future may experience even a small percentage of what we enjoy today. Thank you for considering this bill, for pondering its tremendous impact, and making it the law of our land.

Sincerely,

/s/ (The Rev.) Danette Kong

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 8:17 AM
To: ERBtestimony
Cc: clk5356@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/20/2012 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for ERB 3/20/2012 8:30:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Carolyn L Knoll
Organization: Individual
E-mail: clk5356@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

I strongly support legislative efforts to reduce the use of paper and plastic bags. Over 400 plastic bags are used by each person annually.

Nationally, we use an astounding 100 billion throwaway plastic bags every year made from some 12 million barrels of oil.

These bags foul our open spaces, pollute our fragile marine environment and kill thousands of animals every year. We need to preserve our watersheds in order to ensure fresh drinking water for future generations. Please pass the single use bag fee bill and protect Hawaii's fragile environment.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 9:37 AM
To: ERBtestimony
Cc: tshigemoto@abprop.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/20/2012 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for ERB 3/20/2012 8:30:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Tom H. Shigemoto
Organization: Kauai Watershed Alliance
E-mail: tshigemoto@abprop.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

Testimony of Tom H. Shigemoto
Supporting S.B. 2511 SD 2 Relating to Environmental Protection House Committee on Water, Land and Ocean Resources House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection Monday, March 20, 2012, 8:30AM, Room 312 McBryde Sugar Company, Ltd. is a member of the Kauai Watershed Alliance and we support the Department of Land and Natural Resources' "Rain Follows the Forest" watershed protection initiative. We hope you will too.

Alexander and Baldwin owns approximately 20, 000 acres of land on the island of Kauai, 12,000 acres of which are in the Conservation District, as classified by the State Land Use Commission. The Wainiha Valley encompasses 10,000 acres most of which is included in the Resource Subzone and a small portion in the Protective Subzone. Another 2,000 acres are situated in the Lihue-Koloa Forest Reserve mauka of Kalaheo also partially in both the Resource and Protective Subzones. Alexander and Baldwin has always recognized the importance of preserving our very precious water resources and continues to participate in conservation and preservation efforts by the State and organizations like The Nature Conservancy to accomplish their resource protection goals. The Nature Conservancy, as the managers of the Kauai Watershed Alliance has already completed an extensive fencing project on our Wainiha watershed to protect it from feral animals and also continues its quest to eradicate invasive plants in the Wainiha and Lumahai Valleys. Its efforts are only restricted by the funding resources that are so critical towards their efforts.

Healthy Hawaiian forests that are not overrun by invasive species act like a sponge, collecting rain and moisture from passing clouds, slowly delivering fresh water into streams and aquifers, absorbing greenhouse gases, and reducing runoff and siltation into near shore waters during storm events. The DLNR's watershed initiative proposes a sound investment in our forests, which are the source of nearly all the islands' supply of fresh water. The watershed protection and invasive species programs supported with state funds and leveraged several times over with matching funds from county, federal and private sources help to ensure healthy, managed natural resources that permit our survival in the middle of the vast Pacific.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 9:53 AM
To: ERBtestimony
Cc: palmtree7@earthlink.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/20/2012 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for ERB 3/20/2012 8:30:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: janice palma-glenie
Organization: Individual
E-mail: palmtree7@earthlink.net
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

Aloha,
please support this popular, "no brainer", overdue legislation NOW.
Mahalo.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 11:14 AM
To: ERBtestimony
Cc: brilana@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/20/2012 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for ERB 3/20/2012 8:30:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brilana Silva
Organization: Individual
E-mail: brilana@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 12:53 PM
To: ERBtestimony
Cc: ndavlantes@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/20/2012 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for ERB 3/20/2012 8:30:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Nancy Davlantes
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ndavlantes@aol.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

This is the third time I have submitted testimony in support of this and I do so again because I am so committed to the objective of reducing the problems caused by single-use plastic bags in a state with such an unique and fragile environment. I want Hawaii to be the first state that passes restrictions on these things statewide, and our sensitive marine environment demands that we do it.

We all know that these bags foul our open spaces, pollute our fragile marine environment and kill thousands of animals every year. Bag fees generated from this bill would provide funds to preserve our watersheds which have become seriously diminished in many areas.

Please pass the single use bag fee bill and protect Hawaii's fragile environment.

Thank you for accepting testimony from me again.

Nancy Davlantes
Kaneohe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 1:07 PM
To: ERBtestimony
Cc: manokes@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/20/2012 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for ERB 3/20/2012 8:30:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mark A Nokes, PhD
Organization: Individual
E-mail: manokes@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

Dear Representatives:

I strongly support SB 2511, the so-called "Bag Bill" that would place a small fee on single-use checkout grocery bags and generate funds to preserve and protect Hawaii's watersheds.

As an almost daily swimmer at Kapiolani Beach Park, I cannot count the number of times I have either retrieved plastic grocery bags from the ocean or intercepted them as the wind propelled them across the lawn toward the water. I have also observed fish with partially ingested plastic baths protruding from their mouths.

Besides the damage to our land and marine environment, these bags damage the watershed and endanger our drinking water supplies.

Please pass the single-use bag fee bill and protect Hawaii's environment.

Mahalo for your consideration.