

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
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**Tuesday, March 13, 2012
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

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

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

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

BRIAN SCHATZ
LT. GOVERNOR



FREDERICK D. PABLO
DIRECTOR OF TAXATION

RANDOLF L. M. BALDEMOR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION
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To: The Honorable Denny Coffman, Chair
and Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

Date: Tuesday, March 13, 2012
Time: 9:00 A.M.
Place: Conference Room 325, State Capitol

From: Frederick D. Pablo, Director
Department of Taxation

Re: S. B. 2511 S.D. 2, Relating to Environmental Protection

The Department of Taxation (Department) appreciates the intent of S. B. No. 2511 and offers the following information and comments for your consideration.

This measure requires all businesses in the State to collect a fee of \$0.10 on each single-use checkout bag provided to a customer of that business, and to remit the fees collected to the Department of Health, for distribution as described in the measure. The business is allowed to retain up to twenty percent of the fee in 2013 and up to ten percent of the fee thereafter. The measure provides that the business will be subject to Hawaii income tax under Chapter 235 and general excise tax under Chapter 237, Hawaii Revised Statutes, on the amount retained by the business.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.



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

S.B. 2511, S.D. 2, RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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

March 13, 2012

9:00 a.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The department supports this measure.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure requires the department to undertake substantial administrative
3 duties at a significant cost to implement the checkout bag fee program. The annual cost to the
4 department is estimated to be at least \$800,000 and could rise to \$1,400,000. In the first year of the
5 program, businesses could retain up to 20 percent of collections and up to 10 percent each year
6 thereafter. The bill would allocate \$800,000 of the annual collections to the Department of Health to
7 administer the program. The remainder of fees will be divided with an 80 percent allocation for the
8 natural area reserve fund and 20 percent to the environmental response revolving fund.

9 **Purpose and Justification:** This measure requires all businesses in the state to charge a 10-cent fee for
10 each single-use checkout bag provided to their customers. The fee may increase to 25 cents in 2017 if a
11 single-use checkout bag reduction goal is not met. Exemptions remain for bags used for food items,
12 bulk food purchases, fresh produce, prepared food for take-out, live animals, newspapers, and
13 laundry/dry cleaning uses.

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1 The department supports the reduction of solid waste, litter, and the use of petroleum resources.
2 We believe that a fee of 10 or 25 cents will provide an effective disincentive and reduce plastic bag
3 waste. Further, as the agency of the state responsible to maintain pristine water quality standards in our
4 streams and ocean, we believe it is appropriate that revenues from this fee on a pollutant be invested not
5 only in pollution prevention programs but to also protect and enhance the source of our island's drinking
6 water. The health of our people will be enhanced by improving and maintaining the health of our
7 watersheds. Please support and adopt this bill into law.

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

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UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII*
MĀNOA

March 12, 2012
RL: 2295

SB 2511 SD2
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
Public Hearing – Tuesday, March 13, 2012
9:00 a.m., State Capitol, Conference Room 325

By
David Penn, Environmental Center
IN SUPPORT

Dear Chair Coffman, Vice Chair Kawakami, and committee members,

The Environmental Center supports Senate Bill 2511, which would require businesses to collect a fee for single-use checkout bags provided to customers. This measure would promote decreased reliance on single-use bags and in turn help to reduce consumption of energy and natural resources; reduce litter and landfill waste; and protect human and ecosystem health, particularly in the ocean environment.

The preamble to this measure includes legislative findings that call for strengthening water quality measures such as reducing discharge of pollutants in developed areas. We suggest that this objective may be easier to achieve if the fees collected under this measure are shared with environmental planning and management programs administered by the state department of health that focus on surface water protection and pollutant load reduction, in addition to the hazardous substance response programs already identified in SD2. The natural areas reserve fund is an important resource for “preserv[ing] in perpetuity specific land and water areas which support communities, as relatively unmodified as possible, of the natural flora and fauna, as well as geological sites, of Hawaii.” Hawaii Revised Statutes § 195-1. However, we need massive water quality management improvements throughout our watersheds, not just in the mauka areas generally included in natural area reserves, in order to repair the damage and minimize the cumulative negative impacts felt in the lower watersheds, along the shoreline, and in the ocean.

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



COORDINATING GROUP ON
ALIEN PEST SPECIES

House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
Tuesday, March 13, 2012
9:00 a.m., Conference Room 325
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of SB 2511 SD2

Aloha Chair Coffman and Members of the Committee,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **supports SB 2511 SD2, *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

THE TRUST *for* PUBLIC LAND

CONSERVING LAND FOR PEOPLE

**THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND'S TESTIMONY
IN SUPPORT OF SB 2511 SD 2
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Tuesday, March 13, 2012, 9:00 a.m., Room 325**

The Trust for Public Land's Hawaiian Islands Program supports SB 2511 SD2 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
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524-8563 (office), 783-3653 (cell)



Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
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nature.org/hawaii

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting S.B. 2511 SD2 Relating to Environmental Protection
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
Tuesday, March 13, 2012, 9:00AM, Room 2325

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 SD2, 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.

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Representative Denny Coffman, Chair
Representative Derek Kawakami, Vice Chair
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
State Capitol, Honolulu, HI 96813

HEARING Tuesday, March 13, 2012
 9:00 am
 Conference Room 325

RE: SB 2511, SD2 Relating to Environmental Protection

Chair Coffman, Vice Chair Kawakami, and Members of the Committee:

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

RMH supports SB2511, SD2, 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 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

RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII
1240 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 215
Honolulu, HI 96814
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LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS*

League of Women Voters of Hawaii

49 South Hotel Street, Room 314 | Honolulu, HI 96813

www.lwv-hawaii.com | 808.531.7488 | voters@lwvhawaii.com

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Rep. Denny Coffman, Chair

Rep. Derek S.K. Kawakami, vice Chair

Tuesday, March 13, 2012 9:15 Conference Room 325
SB2511, SD2 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT of SB 2511 S.D.2

Anna Hoover, Legislative Committee Member, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Coffman, Vice Chair Kawakami and Members of the Committee:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports a fee for single use plastic bags and the use of some of the resulting funds for the natural area reserve fund.

Curtailling the use in Hawaii of plastic bags by imposing a fee on each bag will discourage their use resulting in fewer bags to be disposed of with some improperly finding their way to our landscape and waters. The images we see of sea turtles ensnared in plastic bags that have washed from mauka areas is but one of many examples that causes us all to reflect on the impact of plastic bags on the natural environment.

The League supports placing some of the collected funds into the natural area reserve fund where it will be used for protecting native ecosystems and habitats for rare native plants and animals and protecting forested watersheds for water recharge.

It is the position of the League of Women Voters that environmental protections and anti-pollution positions aim to prevent ecological degradation and to reduce and control pollutants before they do harm. Environmental protection and pollution control, including waste management should be considered a cost of providing a product or service. Our position is that consumers must expect to pay some of the costs of environmental protection.

We ask you to pass SB 2511 S.D. 2.



HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (HFIA)

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

TO: COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Rep. Denny Coffman, Chair
Rep. Derek S.K. Kawakami, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, March 13, 2012
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 325

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.



CONSERVATION COUNCIL FOR HAWAI'I

Testimony Submitted to the Senate Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

Hearing: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 325

Support for SB 2511 SD 2 Relating to Environmental Protection

Aloha. Mahalo nui loa for introducing and hearing SB 2511 SD 2. 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 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 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. 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*

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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, SD-2

INTRODUCED BY: Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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.

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 3/12/12

Joyce Masamitsu
Associate Director
State Public Policy, West Area



Verizon Wireless
15505 Sand Canyon Avenue
Irvine, CA 92618
Phone 949 286-8688
Mobile 949 233-0925
Fax 949 286-8009
joyce.masamitsu@VerizonWireless.com

March 13th, 2012

The Honorable Denny Coffman, Chair
Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

RE: Testimony Senate Bill 2511 – Single Use Check Out Bags

Dear Chair Coffman and Members of the Committee,

This letter is written on behalf of Verizon Wireless to request an amendment to Senate Bill 2511, legislation that would create a special state fund and require retailers to collect a fee from their customers for every single use bag they are provided. While Verizon Wireless embraces the author's goals to encourage the use of reusable bags, we request the exclusion of bags that are made of materials that are made of recycled materials and are decomposable that also support green policies proactively adopted by many companies.

Verizon Wireless bags distributed nationally to our retail stores reflects our commitment to support green policies. The bags we provide our customers are biodegradable, made of 100% recycled materials and do not fell any trees in the manufacturing process. Verizon Wireless bags are made primarily from bamboo pulp and do not require the felling of trees in its production. This environmentally friendly policy therefore does not encourage clear-cutting deforestation practices of either old or new growth trees that could otherwise require decades for full environmental recovery. Verizon Wireless bags carry the "Perf" logo that marks the endorsement of the Petroleum Environmental Research Forum. An international non-profit organization, whose members recognize the importance of a clean, healthy environment and are committed to supporting cooperative research in the manufacturing of products that include the use of petroleum.

Verizon Wireless works every day to protect our environment and to give our customers opportunities to do the same. Environmental stewardship is ingrained in our heritage, and we take pride on having a positive influence on the environment in which we operate. The state of Hawai'i should not adopt a policy to dictate what green initiatives companies may choose to adopt, but instead should encourage local business operators to embrace green policies of their choice that best fit their operational needs and cost structures.

In addition to adopting an enterprise wide policy to provide environmentally friendly bags to our customers, Verizon Wireless as a good corporate citizen has instituted voluntary recycling programs to promote environmentally friendly alternatives for electronic waste management. Verizon Wireless

joined forces with HopeLine in 2001 to create a company wide recycling program that would aid victims of domestic violence. The *HopeLine® Phone Recycling and Reuse Program* collects no-longer-used wireless phones and equipment in any condition from any service provider. With the funds raised from the sale of the refurbished phones, Verizon Wireless donates wireless phones and airtime to victims, and provides funding and other contributions to non-profit domestic violence shelters and prevention programs across the country. In 2010 Verizon Wireless awarded \$10,000 in Domestic Violence Hopeline Grants; 75 wireless phones with 225,000 minutes of service (estimated value \$22,500) to shelters and domestic violence agencies throughout the state of Hawaii.

For the above stated reasons, Verizon Wireless does not feel that participation in a mandated, statewide requirement to impose a new fee on our customers for bags we provide is justified by the states interest in supporting green initiatives and instead penalizes companies who have proactively adopted alternative green policies.

S.B. 2511 would require Verizon Wireless to either abandon a national environmentally friendly policy to use bags made of 100% recycled, biodegradable materials and that do not require the felling of trees. It is in fact ironic that reusable bags as defined in this bill, are not particularly "green" because they do not have to be biodegradable and will eventually be disposed of by the user. Unlike large volume grocers who may provide hundreds or thousands of bags to their customers daily, and at multiple locations, Verizon Wireless does not see a cost-benefit to the imposition of a state mandated program to collect a fee at point of sale from our customers for every bag we provide them. The potential revenues generated from our ability as a retailer, to retain 10% - 20% of the single use bag fees we collect, does not offset the disruption to national, environmentally friendly programs we have in place today and will drive unnecessary costs to our business.

In closing, Verizon Wireless asks Chair Coffman and Members of the Committee to amend S.B. 2511, S.D. 2, to exclude bags that are made from recycled materials, are biodegradable and support alternative green initiatives.

Thank you for your consideration of this amendment to Senate Bill 2511.

March 12, 2012

To: Chair Coffman, Vice Chair Kawakami, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

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

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

I am writing to lend Safeway support for SB 2511 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 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 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,



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



3375 Koapaka Street, D-108
Honolulu, HI 96819

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

March 13, 2012

House Committee on Energy and Environment Protection:

Re: SB 2511 SD2: Relating to Environmental Protection

Dear Chairs Coffman, Vice Chair Kawakami, and Members of the Committee,

We appreciate the opportunity to submit our testimony and express our support for SB 2511 SD2. 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 that best method for doing so is by implementing a fee. There are various models throughout the United States that address the use of single use bags, and while some are similar throughout states such as California, they lack a uniformed approach. Hawaii 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 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, 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. 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.

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 12, 2012

The Honorable Representative Denny Coffman
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Testimony supporting SB2511 SD2 Relating to Environmental Protection

Chair Coffman 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.

Respectfully,

Bob Loy
Interim CEO
Director of Environmental Programs

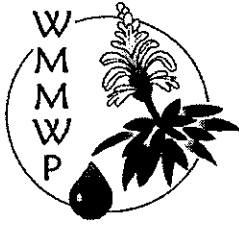
Testimony of Bryan Plunkett
Supporting S.B. 2511 SD 2 Relating to Environmental Protection
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Tuesday, February 13, 2012, 9:00AM, Room 325

Castle & Cooke Resorts, LLC is a member of the Lana'i Forest & Watershed Partnership and we support the Department of Land and Natural Resources' "Rain Follows the Forest" watershed protection initiative. We hope you will too.

Lana'i is significantly dependent on fog drip for aquifer recharge of potable water, so protecting the forests and watershed is critical to providing drinking water for Lana'i resident now and in the future. 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.

Mahalo for your support,

Bryan Plunkett
Conservation Manager
Ofc 808-565-3218
Cell 808-559-04444
Email: bplunkett@castlecooke.com



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 12, 2012

Supporting S.B. 2511 SD 2
Relating to Environmental Protection
House Energy and Environmental Protection Committee

Aloha Legislators,

The West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership Supports SB 2511 SD2 to provide funding to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for watershed protection programs. Identifying funding sources for the DLNR's "Rain Follows the Forest" watershed protection initiative is a highly worthy cause.

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

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

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

By unanimous consent and on behalf of our partners,

Mahalo nui loa,

Christopher N. Brosius
Watershed Coordinator



Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

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

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

March 13, 2012, 9:00 A.M.
(Testimony is 3 pages long)

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 2511 (SD2)

Aloha Chair Coffman and Committee Members -

The Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, with 10,000 dues-paying members and supporters, **strongly supports** SB 2511 (SD2), although we request the defective date be corrected. This measure creates an offset fee for most single-use bags (whether paper or plastic) and incentivizes retail stores to encourage the use of less-harmful bags. An offset fee smartly places a fee on one of our environmental problems to fund clean water for our keiki.

I. Reducing Our Opala Problem.

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

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

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

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

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 business in Hawai`i -- Costco and Wholefoods -- do not offer its customers plastic bags. These businesses are flourishing. The switch by Wholefoods alone kept 100 million plastic bags out of the environment between April 22, 2008 and the end of 2008.

III. Single Use Bags Tax Our Environment.

Single use bags contribute to litter and pose a threat to avian and marine life in Hawai`i. As noted by NOAA,⁴ plastic photo-degrades -- breaking down into smaller and smaller pieces due to exposure to solar UV radiation. However, when in water plastic does not get direct sunlight exposure, therefore breakdown happens much more slowly in the aquatic environment. So far as we know, plastics do not ever fully “go away,” but rather break down into smaller and smaller pieces, sometimes referred to as microplastics.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TO: COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Rep. Denny Coffman, Chair
Rep. Derek S.K. Kawakami, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, March 13, 2012
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 325

FROM: KYD, Inc. – Dexter Yamada, President and CEO

RE: SB 2511 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Chairs & Committee Members:

KYD, Inc. **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.**

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.

Sincerely yours,

Dexter Yamada
President/CEO

kawakami1 - Marissa

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 10, 2012 1:12 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: kimhoffman@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kim Hoffman
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kimhoffman@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/10/2012

Comments:

This bill is a good step toward a community that is more environmentally safe and aware. Plastic is dangerous for the environment and the minor inconvenience of bringing your own bags is a small price to pay for a healthier environment.

kawakami1 - Marissa

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 10, 2012 2:02 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: gutierrezaluis@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Luis Gutierrez
Organization: Individual
E-mail: gutierrezaluis@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/10/2012

Comments:

kawakami1 - Marissa

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 10, 2012 5:10 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: lynchelsea@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: EEP.docx

Testimony for EEP 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Chelsea Arnott
Organization: Individual
E-mail: lynchelsea@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/10/2012

Comments:

EEP
HB 2260

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I am in support in HB 2260 SD2 relating to the single-use checkout fees.

Legislation to reduce the amount of plastic bags in the environment is long over due. Being surrounded by water, our aquatic resources suffer the most from our over use of plastic bags. Hawaii should be a leader in environmental legislation and instead we are always behind in adopting even the simplest and most practical rules. This bill is a good start to reducing plastic bags and will also benefit both the vendors and residents in the future by taxing plastic bag use.

Please show your support for Hawaii's environment and pass HB 2260.

Thank you,
Chelsea Arnott
Kailua Resident

kawakami1 - Marissa

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 10, 2012 5:29 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: jmar5404@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: EEP.docx

Testimony for EEP 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Taylor Marsh
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jmar5404@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/10/2012

Comments:

EEP
HB 2260

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I am in support in HB 2260 SD2 relating to the single-use checkout fees.

Plastic waste in our environment, especially marine ecosystems, is causing irreversible damage to the economy, public health, and nature. This is a huge problem in Hawaii and should be dealt urgently. I strongly feel that Hawaii should be a leader in environmentalism and should better stewards to the land in general. This your opportunity to ensure a healthy and clean environment for Hawaii's future generations.

Please show your support for Hawaii's environment and pass HB 2260.

Thank you,
Taylor Marsh
Ahuimanu Resident

kawakami1 - Marissa

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 10, 2012 9:19 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: pbdocberry@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Paul Berry
Organization: Individual
E-mail: pbdocberry@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/10/2012

Comments:

Please vote YES on SB2511. Invasive species are overwhelming our essential watershed, and this bill supplies badly needed watershed protection funding while limiting plastic waste statewide.

Paul Berry

kawakami1 - Marissa

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 10, 2012 11:10 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: johnswee@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: John Sweeney
Organization: Individual
E-mail: johnswee@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 3/10/2012

Comments:

This is an important step in securing a more abundant and sustainable future for our islands!

kawakami1 - Marissa

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 11, 2012 8:31 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: mh@interpac.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Cory Harden
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mh@interpac.net
Submitted on: 3/11/2012

Comments:

Please protect the 'aina by keeping millions of single-use bags off the land. Mahalo.

kawakami1 - Marissa

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 11, 2012 8:49 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: mariyakai@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mariya Gold
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mariyakai@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/11/2012

Comments:

Now is the time to take action and do what we can to support our environment in the most sustainable ways possible. It's incredibly easy to bring reusable bags to the store when your shopping and it's the least we can do in support of keeping Hawaii beautiful and our oceans clean. Let's set an example for others to follow!!!

kawakami1 - Marissa

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 11, 2012 9:36 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: jbautista619@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jerome Bautista
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jbautista619@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/11/2012

Comments:

I'd like to thank the committees and legislature for bringing this bill back on the table. SB2511 is an important bill for Oahu, a step in the right direction for its environment, and provides much needed funding for watershed improvement. Living in Waikiki, the single use plastics litter the beaches and parks, detracting from the beauty tourists come for. Single-use plastics are one of the main items picked up at the beach clean ups I've been to. So many people are now using the reusable bags, and passing this bill will reinforce the sentiment that the majority of Oahu residents want, a cleaner environment for the people and for its flora and fauna. Please consider passing this bill. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

kawakami1 - Marissa

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 11, 2012 9:59 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: preble@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sarah Preble
Organization: Individual
E-mail: preble@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/11/2012

Comments:

Please vote to help Hawaii eliminate litter by supporting this bill. People need to be reminded that it is very easy to carry a reusable or simply do without a bag for small purchases.

kawakami1 - Marissa

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 11, 2012 11:15 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Javier Mendez-Alvarez
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 3/11/2012

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern:

March 11. 2012

I can appreciate the effort to cut down on the use of single-use bags however why do we as customers have to be penalized for the retailer having single-use bags in their establishment. Shouldn't it be that if the retailer chooses to provide single-use bags to their customers that they should be paying the fee? I'm not against the idea of the bill however I'm not completely in favor of the customer having to pay. I am in full support of reducing waste especially when it affects our Watershed but there has to be better ways than having customers and patrons of retail establishments pay the fees. We already pay enough fees.

Aloha,
Cherith Andrade

kawakami1 - Marissa

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 11, 2012 10:41 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: mlspadaro@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: Testimony SB 2511 - in support.doc

Testimony for EEP 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mary Spadaro
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mlspadaro@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/11/2012

Comments:
I support SB 2511.

It is unfortunate that we have not succeeded in banning single use plastic bags, but this is the next best step.

These bags are killing bird and sea life on an ever larger scale. This is caused by both the microscopic plastic particles from decomposed plastic that are ingested and cause starvation as well as entanglement in plastic bags. Most of the bags labeled degradable here in Hawaii, are actually only PHOTO degradable, meaning they do not degrade in the landfill and persist in the environment for generations in or out of the landfill. (Oh, and need I remind anyone that we have limited "landfull" space?)

Please pass this bill.

Everyone has the option to take their own bag to the store and avoid the fee. I've been taking my own bag to the store for 10 years.

kawakami1 - Marissa

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 11, 2012 11:08 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: patbak1@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Byron W. Baker
Organization: Individual
E-mail: patbak1@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 3/11/2012

Comments:

SB 2511 is the last throwaway bag bill standing, so I support it. I hope that in future sessions the Legislature will revisit the topic and act to eliminate disposable bags altogether.

kawakami1 - Marissa

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 11, 2012 2:45 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: redahi@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: B.A. McClintock
Organization: Individual
E-mail: redahi@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/11/2012

Comments:
Please support.

kawakami1 - Marissa

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 11, 2012 3:40 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: rob@surfbeyond.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rob Barreca
Organization: Individual
E-mail: rob@surfbeyond.com
Submitted on: 3/11/2012

Comments:

I support this bill because it is the start to addressing the plastic pollution problem in the marine environment, as well as support our watersheds with revenue from the fee. This bill has overwhelming public and industry support. I will continue to vote for legislators who listen to what the public wants.

kawakami1 - Marissa

From: randy ching [oahurandy@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 11, 2012 4:33 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: in support of SB2511, SD2 - relating to environmental protection

SB2511, SD2 (in support)
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
Hearing on Tuesday, March 13 at 9 a.m. in conference room 325

Chair Coffman, Vice Chair Kawakami, and members of the committee,

I support SB2511, SD2. It is a win-win bill that will decrease the number of single use bags going into our landfills and it will generate revenue to protect our watersheds by fencing our native forests. It will also create 150 FTE jobs.

Please pass this wonderful bill. Mahalo.

Sincerely,

Randy Ching
Honolulu
oahurandy@yahoo.com

Testimony for the

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

9:30AM

Room 211

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2511

Aloha Law Makers,

I am Diana Sellner, a current sophomore at Kalani High School and a Senior Girl Scout.

Passing SB2511 would create a win, win situation. The goal of the bill is not to charge people for their paper and plastic checkout bags; but rather to encourage people to switch over to reusable bags. The money that is generated from the bill will go to protect Hawaii's endangered Watershed.

Plastic and paper bags are not only a nuisance but an eye sore as well. The bags are so light; they are easily swept up by the wind and blown all over the city; into our streets, parks, streams, and on to our beaches. The ones that make it out to the ocean pose as an even bigger threat. Once in the ocean they will never break down. The bags are left to drift, posing as a danger to precious marine life.

We are living in a manner that is not sustainable to our planet. My friends and I, the future generation of Hawaii, wake up every morning to see the World single handedly being destroyed by people's ignorance to make a change. SB2511 would give people the necessary push towards changing their habits and creating a sustainable world without plastic and paper bags.

Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii counties have already put bag legislation in play. Now it is time to get Oahu and the entire state on board, together.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

kawakami1 - Marissa

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 11, 2012 6:36 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: ndavlantes@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Nancy Davlantes
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ndavlantes@aol.com
Submitted on: 3/11/2012

Comments:

I have testified in support of this before 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.

Thank you for accepting testimony from me again.

Nancy Davlantes
Kaneohe

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

RE: House EEP Public Hearing
Conference Room 325
3/13/2012, 9:00am
Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2511 SD2

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.

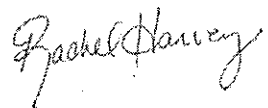
Our taxpayer dollars are being used to subsidize the cost of waste. Much of this money could be redirected to benefit our state. Similar laws have been passed worldwide and have proven to be successful. For example, when Washington D.C. instituted its recent five-cent fee, bag use declined from an average 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

kawakami1 - Marissa

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 11, 2012 9:17 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: palmtree7@earthlink.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: janice palma-glenie
Organization: Individual
E-mail: palmtree7@earthlink.net
Submitted on: 3/11/2012

Comments:

Aloha,
Please support this valuable, single-use bag bill.
Mahalo,
Janice Palma-Glennie

Testimony for the

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Rep. Denny Coffman, Chair

Rep. Derek S.K. Kawakami, Vice Chair

Conference Room 325, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2511

Chair Coffman 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.

Bottle deposits are an excellent example of how just a little premium (\$0.10) for bgs 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.

kawakami1 - Marissa

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 11, 2012 11:45 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: maguinger@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Mary A. Guinger
Organization: Individual
E-mail: maguinger@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/11/2012

Comments:

It took me 5 years to train myself to bring my bags to the grocery store.
I think it would of help to pay for a bag to bring the importance of having your own bag when shopping.
This will keep Hawaii beautiful and create a new market in making gorgeous Hawaiian Bags that becomes "a must buy" for both tourists and locals. ALOHA!

kawakami1 - Marissa

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 12:32 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: hangonrider@msn.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Anthony Ferreira
Organization: Individual
E-mail: hangonrider@msn.com
Submitted on: 3/12/2012

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it does not benefit anyone that wants to use our land for recreation.

TO: Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

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

HEARING: 9 a.m. Tuesday, March 13, 2012

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

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony on SB2511, SD2 which would impose fees on checkout bags and require reporting by businesses and the Department of Taxation. This bill refers to checkout bags as "single-use," but our family, and many others we know, uses the typical plastic and paper bags many times over. **The top litter problems in Hawaii, according to the Ocean Conservancy are cigarettes, lids/caps and food wrappers/containers.** Shouldn't the top three litter problems be addressed before we try to tackle those that are less prevalent? We already have anti-littering laws. Are they being enforced? And if bags are such a huge problem, why are there so many exceptions listed in this bill?

I oppose this measure for various reasons, including the following.

Our family uses (and re-uses) plastic bags, paper bags and cloth bags, depending on the purpose. We've found that the typical cloth bags do not hold up as well as paper bags. Cloth bags also take up more space than plastic bags. Plastic bags offer some water protection when it rains. We therefore often prefer plastic and sometimes paper bags.

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 government. We appear to be in a "biggering and biggering and biggering" mode, to quote Dr. Seuss, and bigger government is something we do not need.

Rather than imposing new taxes or fees, government should operate more efficiently. Since retailers are supporting this, they should simply charge the fees and then donate to their favorite environmental groups on their own.

Please vote "no" on this bill.

Rachel E. Neville
Honolulu, HI

March 12, 2012

House Committee of Energy and Environmental Protection
Rep. Denny Coffman, Chair
Rep. Derek Kawakami, Vice Chair

RE: Testimony in support of SB2511 SD2, Relating to Environmental Protection

I support SB 2511 SD2 which would fund watershed protection and provide an incentive to decrease the number of plastic bags floating around our island. Businesses and retailers have supported this bill as do the environmental advocacy and on-the-ground conservation groups. Watershed protection has always been woefully underfunded. During the strong storms of the past week, I saw the familiar brown patch of muddy runoff that hung about the nearshore waters of O'ahu. I can't see it now, but it probably settled on the reef—killing and thereby the habitat fish depend on.

If watershed protection is not ramped up now, the problem will only get worse. Protecting forests ensures our water supply will be renewed, anchors soil to mountain and protects the reef that fish need for habitat.

I see plastic bags floating around O'ahu every day and an incentive for people to use less of them would only be a good thing. Thank you for hearing this bill and for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

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

Rachel Neville

kawakami1 - Marissa

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 8:56 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: brilana@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brilana Silva
Organization: Individual
E-mail: brilana@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/12/2012

Comments:

kawakami1 - Marissa

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 9:15 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: kahi@sustainablecoastlineshawaii.org
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: Sustainable Coastlines Hawaii - 2011 ALL CLEANUPS DATA.xls

Testimony for EEP 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: kahi pacarro
Organization: Sustainable Coastlines
E-mail: kahi@sustainablecoastlineshawaii.org
Submitted on: 3/12/2012

Comments:

Being a beach cleaning organization, we support measure SB2511 because it will be reducing the amount of plastic bags washing on our shores. At our clean ups we quantify our collections. In 2011 we tallied 653 plastic shopping bags which represents only around 65% of collections. We feel this unnecessary shopping luxury is a burden on society and most importantly our wildlife.

SUSTAINABLE COASTLINES HAWAII COLLECTION TOTALS

Total weight:

Household and Personal		Totals
Batteries (household e.g. AA)		44
Bleach/Cleaner Bottles		67
Cigarette Butts		9319
Clothing, Shoes		160
Condoms		23
Diapers		21
Drug Baggies		76
Lighters		216
Paper/ Cardboard		109
Pens		127
Syringes		14
Tampons/Tampon Applicators		29
Tobacco Packaging/Wrappers		356
Toys (including balls)		161
Food and Food Related		Totals
6-Pack Holders		15
Aluminum Cans		575
Caps, Lids		9580
Cups, Plates, Forks, Knives, Spoons		566
Food Wrappers/Containers		1409
Glass Bottles		1165
Lollipop sticks		118
Plastic Bottles		2838
Pull Tabs		180
Straws, Stirrers		507
Fishing and Fishing Related		Totals
Bait Containers/Packaging		28
Buoys/Floats		318
Crab/Lobster/Fish Traps		208
Crates / Buckets		21
Fishing Line		53
Fishing Lures/Light Sticks		61
Fishing Nets		85
Rope		337
Construction Related		Totals
Building Materials		108
Pallets		13
Plastic Sheeting/Tarps		92
Strapping Bands		91
Other		Totals

\$ 28.75

\$ 58.25

\$141.90

Bags (paper)	146
Bags (plastic)	653
Cardboard boxes and packaging	107
Glass bottle pieces	5305
Organic waste	98
MICROPLASTIC	67644
Resin pellets (aka 'nurdles' or 'mermaid's tears')	219
Plastic tubing	1000
Plastic of unknown origin	5551
Polystyrene/FOAM	3241
Total items	113054
Total weight:	12086
TOTAL participants	1479

kawakami1 - Marissa

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 9:16 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: kahi@sustainablecoastlineshawaii.org
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: kahi pacarro
Organization: Sustainable Coastlines
E-mail: kahi@sustainablecoastlineshawaii.org
Submitted on: 3/12/2012

Comments:

Being a beach cleaning organization, we support measure SB2511 because it will be reducing the amount of plastic bags washing on our shores. At our clean ups we quantify our collections. In 2011 we tallied 653 plastic shopping bags which represents only around 65% of collections. We feel this unnecessary shopping luxury is a burden on society and most importantly our wildlife.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND HOUSING
AND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
AND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
TECHNOLOGY

TESTIMONY FOR SENATE BILL N.O. 2511

From: Dorothy Clegg
Support: YES!!!
February 28, 2012

I believe that this committee has the obligation to the citizens of the State of Hawai'i to approve SB 2511. By passing this bill it will make Hawai'i one-step closer to becoming the first **plastic bag free state** in the U.S. It will prove our commitment to sustainability and to the Clean Energy Initiative 2030. It will also demonstrate to the nation that Hawai'i continues to be a forerunner in becoming a sustainable state.

The implementation of this SB 2511 it will still give consumers a choice. They can either pay \$0.10 for a paper/plastic bag or bring their own reusable one. Even though this is not the answer to becoming fully sustainable, it's a start. With this bill we can begin to make an effective contribution to a sustainable future.

However, to actually become a sustainable state we must BAN single-use plastic bags in every county of Hawai'i. Consider these facts on single-use plastic bags when contemplating your vote on HB 2260.

Most people are not aware that a plastic bag is only utilized for an average of 15 minutes, but takes an estimate 1000 years to biodegrade. Most Americans will accrue between 300-400 plastic bags a year, and only 8% of those are recycled. Think of how many bags in Hawai'i are used yearly, not just by the residents but include the 7.3 million yearly visitors.

Our definition of recycling plastic bags in Hawai'i is to ship them to either California or Asia. We ship these bags to our islands to be used for 15 minutes, only to ship 8% of them back to be recycled. However, this is merely 8% of all the bags that we consume. Where does the other 92% go? Into our over crowded landfills? Into our ocean? Do they actually make it to H-Power? In 2007 the EPA acknowledged that despite recent tightening of emission standards for waste incineration power plants, the waste-to-energy process still "create significant emissions, including trace amounts of hazardous air pollutants."

Once a plastic bag enters our landfill it photo-degrades into smaller particles, then finds its way into our water. Our fish ingests these smaller particles that are known as "plastic dust". Plastic dust is ingested by filter feeding marine animals. The dust and the bio-toxins, such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) that the plastic dust accumulates, are passed up the food chain to fish and humans. We are eating toxins when we consume fish from our ocean. How do these toxins affect our keiki, their bodies are not as strong or developed as adults to handle these poisons.

What happens if the plastic bags do not make it to our landfill but goes straight into our ocean? The study by C.J. Moore, "A Comparison of Plastic and Plankton in the Pacific Central Gyre." Concludes that the most identifiable plastics found in the Pacific Gyre were thin films, otherwise known as plastic bags." What are we doing to our ocean and its inhabitants?

It has been proven that implementing a tax on single use bags creates revenue. The "Plas Tax" implemented in Ireland during 2002, raised approximate revenue of \$9.6 million in the first 12 months, and slashed consumption by over 94%. The first year that Washington DC implemented its \$0.05 tax, they raised 2 million in tax revenue and dropped consumption by at least 80%.

Testimony has overwhelmingly shown that our community and businesses support HB 2260, with only a small minority objecting. Hawai'i, Maui and Kauai Counties have passed bills to **BAN plastic bags.**

Our tourists come from areas that have similar progressive legislation in effect: China, Philippines, Samoa; selective states in Australia, South Korea, most of the E.U. and selective cities on the continental US. Many people around this planet carry their own bags now; it has become a habit and a trend.

It is time for us, the people of Hawai'i to become responsible stewards of these islands we call home and the ocean that surrounds us. Let us pass on to our keiki a better Hawai'i, a sustainable Hawai'i.

By passing SB 2511 today, you as our leaders will be taking the first step in establishing a legacy of transformation to create a more sustainable Hawai'i. With this bill you will implement methods that do not harm the environment but improve it.

I urge you to pass SB 2511, making Hawai'i one-step closer to becoming the first state to be **plastic bag free**. This committee has the power to make this historic change.

Approve SB 2511

Thank you,

Dorothy M. Clegg

kawakami1 - Marissa

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 9:57 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: alan.y.nakamura@tsocorp.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Alan Y. Nakamura
Organization: Individual
E-mail: alan.y.nakamura@tsocorp.com
Submitted on: 3/12/2012

Comments:

TO: COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION Rep. Denny Coffman, Chair Rep. Derek S.K. Kawakami, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, March 13, 2012
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 325

RE: SB 2511 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION Chairs & Committee Members:

Please support 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.

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. The paper bags will also create a much greater burden on our landfills. 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, whether paper or plastic. 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.

Alan Y. Nakamura

kawakami1 - Marissa

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 10:13 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: kmgundersen@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Keren Gundersen
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kmgundersen@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 3/12/2012

Comments:

kawakami1 - Marissa

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 10:25 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: g_laarni@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Laarni Gedo
Organization: Individual
E-mail: g_laarni@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/12/2012

Comments:
Aloha,

I would be more than willing to pay a fee at the grocery store if I happen to forget my reusable bag at home/car, or if I can't (for some weird reason) carry a single piece of item, like an apple, out of the store, and into my car 15 feet away. In fact, I should be charged \$10 extra for being so wasteful and thoughtless.

~Laarni Gedo

kawakami1 - Marissa

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 11:02 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: oceandevotionhawaii@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lisa Kreitzer
Organization: Ocean Devotion Hawaii
E-mail: oceandevotionhawaii@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/12/2012

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to comment in support of Bill SB2511. 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, high rates of recycling, and a high landfill diversion rate, our facilities and landfills are overwhelmed. Legislating source reduction and behavior changing regulation is the targeted solution.

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

I have personally picked up hundreds of single-use plastic bags off of our beaches on the Windward side of Oahu. These bags can be seen caught in trees, up against fences and in our canals. Single-use plastic bags are especially dangerous once they land in our ocean. They pose a danger to the wildlife that we have present off our shores. I have collected many single-use plastic bags in the ocean off of Kailua, Waimanalo and Lanikai. There is simply no need for this type of pollution in our environment. I believe that this bill is an important first step in curbing this issue.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Lisa Kreitzer

Ocean Devotion Hawai'i

kawakami1 - Marissa

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 11:42 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: surfrideroahu@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Tim Tybuszewski
Organization: Individual
E-mail: surfrideroahu@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/12/2012

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

The reduction of a pollutant and the increase of funding to watershed protection are two things that our State greatly needs. The passage of this bill would benefit our States environment in numerous ways that could not be quantified. Please pass this bill.

Thank you

kawakami1 - Marissa

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 12:13 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: jenna@biodiesel.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jenna Long
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jenna@biodiesel.com
Submitted on: 3/12/2012

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, and many of these end up as litter in our waterways and the ocean. Nationally, we use an astounding 100 billion throwaway plastic bags every year, made from some 12 million barrels of oil, yet less than 5% are ever recycled. 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, and revenues from this bill will support these efforts. Please pass the single use bag fee bill and protect Hawaii's fragile environment.

Dear Representatives,

Please, please pass SB 2511 out of committee and, hopefully, into law. This is one of the most important bills for our state and will greatly reduce marine pollution while helping to fund watershed management.

The average Hawaii citizen uses over 400 bags a year. These bags end up clogging our landfills and drifting out into the ocean, killing our wildlife. We can directly put a stop to this. You have the power to directly put a stop to this.

This is the first bill I've ever seen where it seems like everyone is on board: grocery stores, environmentalists, businesses, DLNR, etc. How often does that happen?

Please, please pass this important bill out of committee and into law.

Sincerely,

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

kawakami1 - Marissa

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 2:21 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: robynp@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Robyn Petterson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: robynp@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 3/12/2012

Comments:

Over 400 plastic bags are used by each person annually, and many of these end up as litter in our waterways and the ocean. Please allow us to reduce our pollution with this bill.

kawakami1 - Marissa

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 5:39 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: scottcooney75@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Scott Cooney
Organization: Individual
E-mail: scottcooney75@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/12/2012

Comments:

I support this bill. Just about every day I swim from Tong's to Kaimana and back, and just about every time, I see at least one plastic bag floating around out there. We must do something to discourage their widespread use, and encourage people to bring their own reusable bags.

Thank you for considering my testimony.
-Scott Cooney, 96815

kawakami1 - Marissa

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 6:16 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: csdp@kyd-inc.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Carmelita Phillips
Organization: Individual
E-mail: csdp@kyd-inc.com
Submitted on: 3/12/2012

Comments:

kawakami1 - Marissa

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 6:56 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: kenzen808@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ken Sentner
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kenzen808@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/12/2012

Comments:

The time has come to take positive steps to protect our `aina. Please pass this bill!

I am writing to comment in support of SB2511. Requiring businesses in the State to collect a fee for single-use checkout bags will encourage residents of 'Oahu to use reusable bags. 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. After contacting Rep. Sharon E. Har of District 40 on this manner, she expressed her reservation to support the plastic bag bill. She feels that taxing plastic bags will be unjust to consumers. With that being said, we were forced to pay the .6 cent bottle fee, but we've adjusted. The outer-islands have been a great example to 'Oahu and have greatly adjusted to the bag ban. This bill effectively addresses the issue of plastic pollution by positively changing consumer behavior, decreasing external costs, and decreasing the amount of waste Hawaii produces. I support SB2511.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this manner.

Joylin K L Domingo, 91-1097 Namahoe St. Unit 4F, Kapolei HI 96707
Kailieha@hotmail.com, 808.226.8843

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

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Mar 13, 2012, 9:00 am
(Testimony is 1 page long)
TESTIMONY IN STRONG FAVOR OF SB 2511

Aloha Chair Coffman 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

kawakami1 - Marissa

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 2:06 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: sugarpinkbunny12345@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Comments Only
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Gina Colors
Organization: Individual
E-mail: sugarpinkbunny12345@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/13/2012

Comments:

In reviewing the context of reusable bag, I would like to extend my support and strongly agree for the reduction of paper and plastic bags. Each year over 400 plastic bags are used by each person, many of which end up in our waterways and the ocean. As a nation, 100 billion throwaway plastic bags every year, which is made from approximately 12 million barrels of oil is disposed. These bags are recycled, although at a percentage of only five percent. These bags blister the environment and the open spaces it occupies, such that the marine environments are polluted. It also kills thousands of animals every year. We need to preserve our watersheds in order to ensure fresh drinking water for future generations, and revenues from this bill will support these efforts. Please pass the single use bag fee bill and protect Hawaii's fragile environment.

kawakami1 - Marissa

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 4:00 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: leslieomcc@netscape.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for EEP 3/13/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Leslie McCarthy
Organization: Individual
E-mail: leslieomcc@netscape.net
Submitted on: 3/13/2012

Comments:

Aloha Law Makers,

My name is Leslie McCarthy, I am a Registered Respiratory Therapist from south Louisiana. In 2008 I had the opportunity and pleasure of living and working on Oahu for 6 months and was instantly stricken with Aloha fever. I returned to Oahu the following year for a 2 week vacation and in 2010 I worked and lived on Kauai for 3 months and there too, Aloha fever.

With my time spent on the islands, I consider Hawaii my second home and I would love to see SB2511 pass. This bill not only protects and preserves, it also teaches. Through it's passage, SB2511 can be used as another tool to educate everyone on how small changes make huge impacts on our world.

I have bags that I used while on Kauai in 2010 and I absolutely use them here in Louisiana and everytime I do, someone in the checkout line notices them. I frequently get the opportunity to share how Hawaii is already implementing there use. I support SB2511 and encourage it's passage all the way from Louisiana.

Thank you for protecting "Our" home, Leslie McCarthy, RRT