

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION & BUSINESS

S.B. 2511, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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

**March 20, 2012
8:30 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.

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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Surfrider
Foundation.

March 19, 2012

Committee Chairs & Members of ERB

RE: Strong Support for Senate Bill 2511 – Relating to Environmental Protection

Hearing on Tue., 3/20, State Capitol, Conf. Rm. 312, 8:30am.

Dear Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Choy and Committee Members,

My name is Stuart Coleman, and I'm the Hawaii Coordinator of the Surfrider Foundation. With more than 5000 supporters and members across the state, the Surfrider Foundation strongly supports passage of SB2511, a bill designed to address the harms of single-use plastic and paper check out bags that are degrading the environment, harming marine life and overflowing our landfills. As part of a broad coalition of groups, Surfrider supports this statewide fee bill on all throwaway bags in conjunction with the existing plastic bag bans on Maui, Kauai and now on the Big Island.

According to the EPA, over a million sea birds, marine mammals and sea turtles die each year due to ingestion and entanglement in plastics. This bill would help people make the switch to reusable tote bags and help protect these sea creatures. If this many pets were killed each year by plastics, can you imagine the public uproar?! Yet each year, an estimated 40,000 Laysan albatross chicks die just on Midway alone, but we rarely hear about them. Because many of these creatures are endangered, we have a legal and moral obligation to protect them.

On Feb. 6, the Reserve Advisory Council (RAC) of NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries passed a resolution stating, "The Council believes a fee on single-use plastic and paper bags would reduce marine plastic pollution and litter throughout the islands and encourage the use of reusable bags." Approximately, 500 million single-use bags are used in Hawaii each year, and far too many end up polluting our streets, streams, coastlines and oceans. This bill will protect marine life, improve our natural environment and enhance the beauty of Hawaii for locals and visitors alike.

Governments across the world have successfully reduced plastic bag use, either through plastic bag bans, or through fees or taxes. Washington, DC passed a similar Bag Fee Bill in 2010, and consumption of plastic bags decreased 80% in the first year and raised funds for a program to clean up the Anacostia River in our nation's capitol. Similarly, SB2511 has provisions that will dramatically reduce the proliferation of plastic and paper bags, while also helping fund an important DLNR program to protect Hawaii's watersheds and sources of water. This offset fee is not a tax because it can be avoided when consumers bring reusable bags instead of wasting single-use plastic and paper bags, which is the whole purpose of the bill.

The following countries have all taken measures to reduce their plastic bag usage in an effort to protect their precious natural resources and valuable coastlines: Ireland, China, Tanzania, Taiwan, Australia, Italy, and South Africa. And many cities and counties have followed their lead. Eventually, all state governments will realize how economically wasteful and environmentally

damaging single-use plastics are. Will our state be a leader or a latecomer in this zero-waste movement? Hawai'i will only benefit by reducing our waste stream.

The Surfrider Foundation is supporting SB2511 because our mission is to preserve the health of our oceans and the quality of our beaches. Plastic bags that end up in the ocean or on our coastlines look like jellyfish and are often ingested by sea turtles, seabirds, and marine mammals, and they also adversely affect the entire marine food web. Because plastic does not biodegrade, it only breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces called "micro-plastics," which are often consumed by fish and filter feeders that mistake them for food. In the ocean, these micro-plastics attract toxic chemicals and persistent organic pollutants like PCB's, which accumulate and magnify as they make their way up the food chain and into our seafood. So this is a human health issue as well as an environmental hazard.

Single-use plastic bags are also a threat to our wallets, and everyone bears the cost of these so-called "free" bags. One California study showed that taxpayers spend as much as \$0.17 on each "free" plastic bag because they subsidize the recycling, collection, and disposal of these toxic tumbleweeds. Retailers have to pay for each bag (a price which is incorporated into the price of food and goods, then passed on to consumers) when they provide a consumer with a so-called "free" plastic bag. By reducing the amount of disposable plastic and paper bags in the environment and our landfills, the counties will save money from having to clean them up.

Over the last four years, I have spoken to scores of citizen groups and thousands of students across Hawaii about marine plastic pollution, the North Pacific Garbage Patch and the other four Gyres just like it in world's oceans. When I tell them about our legislative efforts to reduce single-use bags, the support for this kind of bag bill has been overwhelming. We have been working with a diverse and growing coalition of educational institutions, environmental groups, local businesses and grocery stores, government agencies like DLNR and DOH—more than 50 organizations and thousands of citizens. All of us are committed to passing this bill because we believe it's a win-win-win situation for the environment, the economy and the health of our people and our oceans.

Just as many countries in Europe, Asia, Africa and around the world have introduced legislation to reduce the proliferation of single-use grocery bags, I hope you all help us become one of the leaders in the country on this issue. Just as Hawaii led the way in many health care and environmental reforms in the past, we are now poised again to be one of the first states in the country to pass statewide legislation to reduce the pollution and waste from plastic and paper bags. The people of Hawaii have been waiting for this kind of popular, common sense bill, and the eyes of the world are watching to see what we will do. Mahalo for your time and consideration and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Stuart H. Coleman
Hawaii Coordinator
Surfrider Foundation
808-942-3841

SURFRIDER FOUNDATION • HAWAII CHAPTERS
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(808) 942-3841 • www.surfrider.org/oahu • scoleman@surfrider.org



**Testimony of the Hawaii Foodbank
Requesting an Amendment**

Before the Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business
House of Representatives, State of Hawaii
Tuesday, March 20, 2012

SB 2511, H.D. 1, Relating to Environmental Protection

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Choy and Members of the Committee, my name is Linda Chu Takayama and I am the Chair of the Hawaii Foodbank. We are requesting an amendment to SB 2511.

We are the largest nonprofit 501(c)3 agency in the state of Hawaii that collects, warehouses and distributes mass quantities of both perishable and non-perishable food to more than 183,000 individuals through 250 member agencies as well as food banks on the Big Island, Maui and Kauai – more than 12 million pounds last year.

The Hawaii Foodbank and many of its corporate donors are included in the definition of "business" in this bill. Our "customers" could be construed to be the social service agencies and individuals who receive the food we provide. Conversely, we could be viewed as the "customers" of our donors who contribute food to us regularly through corporate food drives and long-term collection programs.

Both the Foodbank and our beneficiaries would be adversely impacted by a fee on the plastic bags (usually recycled) that are often used for the donated food. This is of particular concern when food is distributed to individuals who have very limited, if any, ability to pay the fee, and the bill prohibits us from reimbursing them.

If it is not the intent of the Legislature to impose such a consequence, we respectfully request that a clarifying exemption be included in the list under the definition of "single-use checkout bag."

Your assistance in adopting such an amendment is appreciated. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

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

LATE TESTIMONY

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION & BUSINESS

March 20, 2012, 8:30A.M.
(Testimony is 3 pages long)

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 2511 (SD2, HD1)

Aloha Chair McKelvey and Committee Members -

The Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, with 10,000 dues-paying members and supporters, **strongly supports** SB 2511 (SD2, HD1), although we request the defective date be corrected and the sunset provision removed. 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

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

diverted from disposal at the landfill, plastic bags pose the single-most significant challenge to composting facilities, contaminating the compost, getting wrapped in the splines of processing equipment, and reducing the value of the compost product.

II. Consumers Already Indirectly Pay for Single Use Bags.

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

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

It should be noted that two highly successful 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

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

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

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

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

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.

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony of
Stephanie Nagata
Director, Office of Mauna Kea Management

S.B. 2511 SD2, HD1 Relating to Environmental Protection

House Committee on Economic Revitalization and Business

Tuesday, March 20th, 2012

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Choy and members of the committee on Economic Revitalization and Business. The Office of Mauna Kea Management (OMKM) respectfully submits testimony in support of SB2511, SD2, HD1.

OMKM, as a land manager of the summit of Mauna Kea, is a member of the Mauna Kea Watershed Alliance (MKWA), an organization composed of agencies and organizations committed to preserving the unique cultural, biological and physical lands that comprise Mauna Kea. Mauna Kea is sacred lands and is the birthing place of the Hawaiian Islands and the native people of Hawaii. It must be protected. The Department of Land and Natural Resources' "Rain Follows the Forest" watershed protection initiative is a vital step towards protecting not only Mauna Kea, but all of Hawaii's unique forests.

It is unrealistic to expect that funding for statewide programs can be provided strictly from appropriations provided by the State. Protecting Hawaii's unique forests must be shared by all who live or visit our islands. Once the forests are gone, there is no way to get it back, and Hawaii may end up being not much different from other tropical islands. We must keep Hawaii, Hawaii.

Aside from its ecological uniqueness, Hawaii's native forests provide innumerable benefits to our island home; from water supply, to ensuring a rich soil for agriculture, to representing our natural and cultural heritage. Threats ranging from invasive species to climate change put these resources at risk. This bill provides resources to help address these threats.

The natural resource programs supported by this bill will further OMKM's efforts to limit the spread of invasive plants, prevent the introduction of new species such as invasive arthropods, and support community and University student based activities (such as plant restoration and scientific studies) which promote desired resource stewardship values identified through our public planning processes.

SB 2511 provides a clear link between consumer habitats, associated environmental impacts, and funding for programs outlined in the "Rain Follows the Forest" watershed protection initiative. Watershed protection and invasive species programs are typically leveraged several times over with matching funds from private, county, and federal; helping to ensure healthy, managed natural resources that permit our survival in the middle of the vast Pacific.

OMKM and the partners of the MKWA strongly support this bill.

Anthony Aalto
3946 Lurline Drive • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96816
808.234.9779

To : House Committee on Economic Revitalization &
Business
Hearing Date : March 20th 2012
Subject : Testimony in Strong Support of SB2511

Aloha Chair McKelvey and members of the committee

My name is Anthony Aalto. I am a resident of Honolulu and I thank you for this opportunity to testify.

This bill serves several useful goals simultaneously.

First it would provide a desperately needed source of funding for protection of our watersheds which Governor Abercrombie has made a priority of this administration. Experts such as Bill Tam of the Board of Water Supply and Professor Tom Giambelluca of UH keep warning us that our rainfall patterns are changing and our long term water supply is at risk. But there is no funding to pay for watershed protection. This bill would provide some of those funds.

Secondly it would start to reduce one of the sources of the plastics which get into the food stream and from there enter our bodies. The eminent scientist David Suzuki says that the average person in the USA now has dozens of toxic chemicals and over a pound of plastic dissolved in our bodies. Those plastics are blown into the ocean, they break down into small pieces which are consumed by the fish that we eat. Imposing a fee will markedly reduce the number of plastic bags that get blown into the waters around Hawaii every year.

Third, our planet is rapidly warming as a result of CO2 buildup in the atmosphere. Hawaii will suffer more from the resulting rise in sea levels than almost every other state. Nationally the number of plastic bags we produce consumes 12 million barrels of oil. By passing this bill we will set an example for the rest of the nation that could have a real impact in reducing our collective carbon footprint.

Fourth we will reduce demand for landfill space that is rapidly expiring

Fifth, we will start to instill in our citizens a greater awareness of the need to change personal habits if we are to confront the potential environmental disaster.

Sixth, this bill has won the support of major retailers.

Seventh, this bill has widespread public support.

For all these reasons I urge you to support this bill

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

LATE TESTIMONY

Hi, my name is Khaya Kahele-Domingo and I support SB2511. I am a 6th grade student and the vice president of He'eia Elementary school student government. I think we should ban plastic bags because it's harmful to animals. My Family and I carry reusable bags wherever we go because it's not hard to carry a reusable bag.

I support SB2511

Thank you,
Khaya Kahele-Domingo
Kapolei, 'Oahu

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

Conference room: 312

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Khaya Kahele Domingo

Organization: Individual

E-mail: khaya.girl@gmail.com

Submitted on: 3/19/2012

LATE TESTIMONY

Elementary school children, from Pearl City Highlands Elementary School to Le Jardin, public and private schools, University of Hawaii, Chaminade University and HPU students, faith leaders like Rev. John Heidel and Rev. Danette Kong, environmental scientists like Robert Bourke and marine researchers, master voyagers like Nainoa Thompson, surfers like Lopaka Kreusling, the Star Advertiser, teachers and parents, Girl Scouts and cash register clerks, businesses that would be directly affected like Safeway and Times, nature lovers and city planners, Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners, lawyers and a retired Supreme Court Justice Steven Levinson and his wife, Cathy, paddlers and hiking clubs, all who are concerned about and dedicated to watershed clean-up and conservation: the chorus of voices statewide asking that the bag fee bill be passed is broad. Support for SB 2511 literally comes from across all sectors of the community, from seniors to the very young, and from all ethnicities.

There is no downside to passing SB 2511. Voters feel an urgency about this issue and want legislators to act now. Please give the community what it is asking for and give the watershed a shot at regaining its health to sustain life for generations to come. Clearly SB2511 is a bill whose time has come. Please act now.

Mahalo.

Dawn Morais Webster Ph.D.
moraiswebster@aol.com

cell 808-383-7581

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

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Dawn Morais Webster Ph.D.
Organization: Individual
E-mail: moraiswebster@aol.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

LATE TESTIMONY

Dear House Committee on Economic Revitalization and Business,

I strongly support SB2511 and I hope you see it's diverse value to our State too!

The value of tourism to the State of Hawai'i's economy cannot be under-estimated. Related to that, the quality of the natural ecosystem is the driving force that enchants millions of people to visit here each year. Anything that detracts from the enjoyment of this island paradise WILL have a tangible negative impact on the desire of people to continue to visit here. Something as simple and now ubiquitous as the plastic bag increasingly taints the natural vistas that these tourists seek to experience.

The vast number of volunteers who dedicate their time to cleaning up the beach here highlight the need to remediate this tainted landscape. Personally, I have participated in a beach clean up every month that I have lived here. There are ALWAYS plastic bags, and often in strange and difficult locations to access. The plastic bag - that too few of us ever think about - really has an extremely sordid impact on all life (please review <http://neptune911.wordpress.com/2011/10/11/more-plastic-debris-than-plan> & the creative <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GLgh9h2ePYw>). These negative impacts of plastic bags are something that needs dire attention – for it IS also impacting the very base of our marine food chain. Instead of picking up bags, we need help to reduce their use in society. This bill SB 2511 helps to achieve this and is leads the nation as a State. Hawai'i is, and should remain, special in its respect and appreciation for the land and ocean that surrounds us.

The need for this bill can be seen in any store. I always try to bring reusable bags when I shop. However even then if I am not watching, the store packer will pack them into plastic bags and THEN put them into the reusable bag! This is as crazy as the plastic bag that is almost mandatorily imposed upon any small convenience store customer – even if it's a single, plastic-wrapped item that one buys, it seems you are not allowed to leave the store unless you take it in another small plastic bag... Things are out of control and the amount of plastic entering our world and oceans must be reduced.

All the plastic that has ever been produced still exists; plastic is forever. I invite you to a beach clean up and if you've never experienced it, I would be surprised if this experience does not leave you changed.

We must do all we can to simply use less.

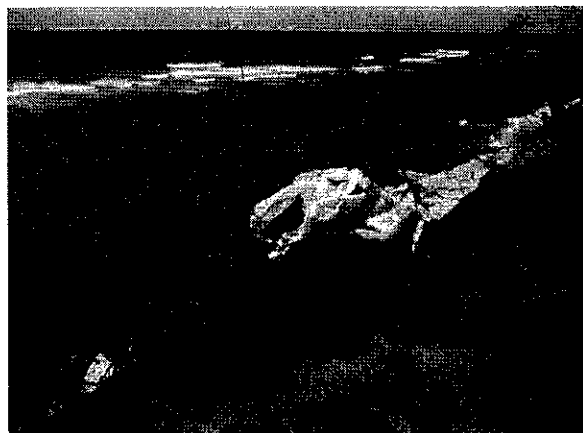
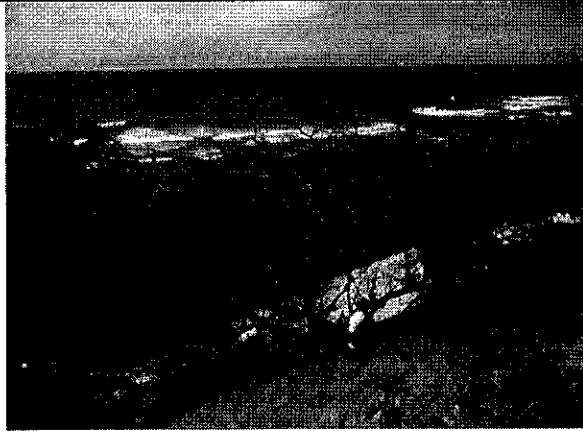
Please support SB 2511 !!!

Please enjoy the online resources provided and following are some of the efforts of my weekend activities:

Before

After

Apparently this bag lived here for years, tainting the often-photographed view of Diamond Head:	
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Let's remove these proactively, now.

And we can keep our shores looking how at their best!

Malama Pono,
James McCay
2957 Kalakaua Avenue #216,
Honolulu, HI 96815-4650

LATE TESTIMONY

Date: March 19, 2012

To: ERB Committee Members

Re: **Strong Opposition to SB 2511 SD2 HD1** (Tax on Grocery Bags)
(ERB Committee Meeting: March 20, 8:30 am, Room 312)

Aloha ERB Committee members,

I am writing to express to you my strong opposition to SB 2511, which would impose a fee on checkout bags provided to customers at stores.

The philosophy behind this “sin tax” is abhorrent: that state government should increasingly try to manipulate citizens' day-to-day behavior and choices, even down to the level of how citizens should behave when they go to the grocery store.

The “logic” behind taxing checkout bags is no different than that of imposing penalties on the sale of paper towels because citizens should be trained to use washcloths instead of disposable paper products; or penalties on the sale of non-cloth diapers because citizens should be trained to use cloth diapers that have fewer impacts on landfills; or penalties on beef products because cattle ranching is environmentally costly; or penalties on ice cream because so much greenhouse gas-producing energy is consumed keeping ice cream refrigerated.

SB 2511 is a misdirected step towards more “Big Brother” government, in which the state decides which types of day-to-day consumer behavior are politically-correct and which are not.

Government should interfere with citizens' choices only when there is a truly compelling reason to do so. In the case of shopping bags and SB 2511, there is no such reason, unless one believes that the state legislature has a legitimate interest in embarking on a crusade to manage consumer choices in a host of areas.

For these reasons, I strongly oppose SB 2511 and respectfully ask that you do the same by killing this bill.

Carl Imperato
P.O. Box 1102
Hanalei HI 96714

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 4:34 PM
To: ERBtestimony
Cc: mdeycaza@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/20/2012 8:30:00 AM

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

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: mike deycaza
Organization: Individual
E-mail: mdeycaza@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 4:38 PM
To: ERBtestimony
Cc: oceandevotionhawaii@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/20/2012 8:30:00 AM

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

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lisa Kreitzer
Organization: Ocean Devotion Hawai'i
E-mail: oceandevotionhawaii@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

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.

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

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 5:24 PM
To: ERBtestimony
Cc: launahele@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2511 on 3/20/2012 8:30:00 AM

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

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Benton Kealii Pang
Organization: Individual
E-mail: launahele@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:
This is a good bill with broad support, please pass it.

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 6:11 PM
To: ERBtestimony
Cc: redahi@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: LATE TESTIMONY - Testimony for SB2511 on 3/20/2012 8:30:00 AM

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

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: B.A. McClintock
Organization: Individual
E-mail: redahi@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

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

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 8:56 PM
To: ERBtestimony
Cc: kailieha@hotmail.com
Subject: LATE TESTIMONY - Testimony for SB2511 on 3/20/2012 8:30:00 AM

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

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Joylin K L Domingo
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kailieha@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:
My 'Ohana and I support SB2511.

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 9:42 PM
To: ERBtestimony
Cc: steven.mazur@gmail.com
Subject: LATE TESTIMONY - Testimony for SB2511 on 3/20/2012 8:30:00 AM

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

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Steven Mazur
Organization: Individual
E-mail: steven.mazur@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:

Please pass this Bill to reduce the extremely wasteful single use bags from entering our landfills, ocean, streams, beaches, and everywhere we go on these islands. The littered bags are everywhere, harmful to our marine life, and a waste of our resources. The revenue raised by the \$.10 fee will support our water sheds. Water is the most vital and fundamental thing to all life on this planet and good fresh water is limited in Hawaii Lets protect and restore our watersheds. Aloha.

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 10:26 PM
To: ERBtestimony
Cc: jbautista619@yahoo.com
Subject: LATE TESTIMONY - Testimony for SB2511 on 3/20/2012 8:30:00 AM

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

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jerome Bautista
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jbautista619@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/19/2012

Comments:
Aloha

Oahu is one step closer towards reducing an item that pollutes many open spaces, beaches, and pose real threats to our marine life. Each person uses about 400 single use bags, and a lot of precious finite resources are used to produce the plastics that Maui, Kauai and other countries have deemed they do not need. This bill is a great start towards reaching that goal and it also helps our watershed efforts that keeps our drinking water clean. I look forward to the day Oahu, its beaches, the volunteers that do beach clean ups, and marine life have less to worry about. Please support this bill and reduce the amount of single use bags being used.

Mahalo for your time and consideration

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 2:11 AM
To: ERBtestimony
Cc: angelavideotron@gmail.com
Subject: LATE TESTIMONY - Testimony for SB2511 on 3/20/2012 8:30:00 AM

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

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Angela Breene
Organization: Individual
E-mail: angelavideotron@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/20/2012

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

I strongly support SB 2511 which places a small fee on the single use bags that litter our land and ocean. I've experienced bag free Kauai and it's great! So much less plastic. On Oahu I could pick up discarded plastic Foodland and Longs bags all day long and not even make a dent in the problem. People can adapt, and will enjoy the results. Let's pass SB2511

Mahalo,

Angela Breene