

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [abensley80@yahoo.com](mailto:abensley80@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2511 on 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 29, 2012 9:03:49 PM

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Testimony for WAM 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Adam Bensley  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [abensley80@yahoo.com](mailto:abensley80@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/29/2012

Comments:

While I favor an outright ban on all single use bags for all of Hawai'i, this bill is a step in the right direction. Charging a fee on each bag will definitely reduce consumption. Plastic bags never biodegrade, and over time only photo-degrade into smaller and smaller pieces. At every step of the photo-degradation process plastic bags harm wildlife. Let's give the wildlife a break and pass this bill. Mahalo

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**Cc:** [lovell.annie@gmail.com](mailto:lovell.annie@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2511 on 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2012 10:09:17 PM  
**Attachments:** [plastic bag testimony pages](#)

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Testimony for WAM 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Annie Lovell  
Organization: Surfrider  
E-mail: [lovell.annie@gmail.com](mailto:lovell.annie@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

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**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [ckudo@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:ckudo@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2511 on 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2012 10:08:08 AM

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Testimony for WAM 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Colleen Kudo  
Organization: Ocean Girl Project  
E-mail: [ckudo@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:ckudo@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

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

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.

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**Subject:** Testimony for SB2511 on 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2012 8:24:44 PM  
**Attachments:** [2511.webarchive](#)

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Testimony for WAM 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Dorothy Clegg  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [dmclegg@earthlink.net](mailto:dmclegg@earthlink.net)  
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

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**Subject:** Testimony for SB2511 on 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2012 6:04:14 PM

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Testimony for WAM 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Jacob Barber  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [barberjake@yahoo.com](mailto:barberjake@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

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

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**Subject:** Testimony for SB2511 on 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2012 10:55:36 PM

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Testimony for WAM 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: JONATHAN LOTT  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [lottj001@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:lottj001@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

Please get this bill or similar passed this session. Education might get people to make the necessary changes in behavior to reverse the negatives resulting from plastics escaping uncontrolled into our environment (and eventually, our food chain and our bodies, affecting health, especially of the youngest humans, not to mention wildlife). Unfortunately the education isn't happening widely or fast enough, so a little fee for a little while (could make it sunset when conditions change) will cause people to make sensible behavior a habit. If some good use of the fee results for the state, that's a nice side benefit-- but shouldn't be the goal. Why not have Hawaii be a leading example, not a laggard for this trend? Mahalo for your consideration.

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**Subject:** Testimony for SB2511 on 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2012 3:45:49 PM

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Testimony for WAM 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Julianna FreeHand  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [jfreehand@hotmail.com](mailto:jfreehand@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:



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**Cc:** [kenzen808@gmail.com](mailto:kenzen808@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2511 on 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2012 11:05:44 AM

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Testimony for WAM 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Ken Sentner  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [kenzen808@gmail.com](mailto:kenzen808@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

This bill has overwhelming support. Please pass it to assure that our precious environment is protected for future generations.

I support SB2511.

Anyone with a dog knows it is essential to have plastic bags. I use plastic bags for other things too. When I shop I don't have to use plastic bags for my groceries because I bring my cloth bag. There are many other things that come in plastic bags, which I use for my dog and other needs instead of getting bags from the grocery store. I have seen too many plastic bags in the breeze and read too much about our overuse of plastics to feel right about getting something so harmful and using it just once when a cloth bag does the job.

Recycling plastic bags uses up a lot of energy, so instead of getting them and recycling (which is very inefficient for energy use), I use cloth bags. It's very simple. We have become such a throw-away society that many people do not realize what they are doing to our aina. We live on a beautiful island. Let's keep it that way and think before we waste so carelessly.

It isn't a hardship to pay a bit for a bag. If it is, bring a cloth bag. I went to Denmark 23 years ago and was shocked when they asked me where my bag was. That was 23 years ago!!! What has taken us so long?

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**Cc:** [coordinator@kohalawatershed.org](mailto:coordinator@kohalawatershed.org)  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2511 on 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2012 6:09:23 PM

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Testimony for WAM 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Melora Purell  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [coordinator@kohalawatershed.org](mailto:coordinator@kohalawatershed.org)  
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

Please support this bill. It is a win-win for our environment. We will reduce the number of single-use bags in the State, which will reduce the amount of solid waste pollution, especially the plastics that end up in our oceans and kill marine life. ALSO it will provide funding for very important natural resource programs in a way that is fair and equitable. The people of our State support the environment, and this is an excellent way to address critical needs to reduce waste and support conservation.

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**Subject:** Testimony for SB2511 on 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2012 9:21:08 PM

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Testimony for WAM 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Mike Brady  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [mikebrady91@yahoo.com](mailto:mikebrady91@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

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**Cc:** [myah.ely@gmail.com](mailto:myah.ely@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2511 on 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2012 6:27:13 PM

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Testimony for WAM 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Myah Ely  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [myah.ely@gmail.com](mailto:myah.ely@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

I strongly support legislative efforts to reduce the use of paper and plastic bags. These items are putting a strain on the environment. We must act immediately to cleanup the debris left by plastic bags as they are so often seen floating and flying over and around our islands.

I accept this bill as is, to help protect our watersheds in order to ensure fresh drinking water for future generations.

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

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**Cc:** [rtb@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:rtb@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2511 on 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2012 9:39:43 AM

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Testimony for WAM 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Randal T Bartlett  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [rtb@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:rtb@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

Aloha kakou, Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani & WAM Committee Members:

As an `O`ahu-born kama`aina and conservation professional on Maui for nearly 25 years, I ask for your support for SB 2511, SD1 Relating to Environmental Protection. Hawaii's forested watersheds are increasingly threatened by losses of our endangered native biodiversity and watershed capacity by invasive species when demand for both potable and agricultural water is at an all-time high and projected to grow in-step with our population. Increasing funding to protect the watershed statewide is urgently needed to provide water supplies for current and future generations of residents and visitors alike.

`Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka `Aina I Ka Pono!!!

Mahalo nui loa no kou kokua,

Randy Bartlett  
POB 11197  
Lahaina, HI 96761  
808.870.6443 cell  
[www.eastmauiwatershed.org](http://www.eastmauiwatershed.org)



# Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

PO Box 2577, Honolulu, HI 96803  
808.538.6616 [hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org)

## SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

February 29, 2012, 9:15 A.M.  
(*Testimony is 3 pages long*)

### TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 2511 (SD1)

Aloha Chair Ige and Committee Members -

The Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, with 10,000 dues-paying members and supporters, ***strongly supports*** SB 2511 (SD1). This bill 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.

In addition, we support the amendments made by the prior committees in the (SD1) version.

#### **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.<sup>1</sup> 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

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<sup>1</sup> 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](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.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup>

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,<sup>4</sup> 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

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<sup>2</sup> 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](http://www.roplast.com/documents/Free_grocery_bags_targeted_for_extinction_in_California_-_Sacramento_Politics_-_California_Politics_Sacramento_Bee.pdf).

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

<sup>4</sup> 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.

Mahalo nui loa,  
Robert D. Harris, Esq.  
Director  
Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter  
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**Subject:** Testimony for SB2511 on 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2012 4:07:08 PM

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Testimony for WAM 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Ronnie Perry  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [babyjean@hotmail.com](mailto:babyjean@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

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**Subject:** Testimony for SB2511 on 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2012 7:52:17 PM

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Testimony for WAM 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Ruey Hwu  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [hooooray@hotmail.com](mailto:hooooray@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

I strongly support legislative efforts to reduce single-use paper and plastic bags that impart a strain upon the environment in the production and disposal of these products. As you may know, these bags often foul our open spaces and pollute our fragile marine environment. Please pass the single-use bag fee bill to reduce their use and subsequently protect Hawaii's fragile environment.

Aloha,  
Ruey Hwu  
Kaimuki

As a paddler and member of the Waikiki Beach Boys Canoe Club I wish to support SB2511 and the elimination of single-use plastic bags. Too often we find single-use plastic bags floating in our waters and tangled in low laying branches. I truly hope that single-use plastic bags are eventually eliminated from use in Hawaii. However, in the meantime, requiring consumers to pay a fee for each bag used will suffice. Single-use plastic bag use should be a last resort that is not promoted.

Sincerely,

Sean Koegel  
Secretary, Waikiki Beach Boys Canoe Club  
4337 Lanihale Pl., Apt. A  
Honolulu, HI 96816

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**Subject:** Testimony for SB2511 on 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2012 6:17:38 PM

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Testimony for WAM 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Shelley Muneoka  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [shelleymuneoka@gmail.com](mailto:shelleymuneoka@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

I strongly support SB2511. It just makes good sense to pass this bill. It doesn't cost the state anything, and should actually reduce costs to private business owners. The environment desperately needs respite from single-use plastic items of all types, plastic bags is a great place to stop. This bill is also smartly written in providing a funding mechanism to cover the costs of the program as well as puts any extra towards important environmental programs. This bill makes good sense. Please pass SB2511. Mahalo.

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**Cc:** [staceykakowski@yahoo.com](mailto:staceykakowski@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2511 on 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2012 5:28:57 PM

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Testimony for WAM 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Stacey Kakowski  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [staceykakowski@yahoo.com](mailto:staceykakowski@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

I strongly support legislative efforts to reduce the use of paper and plastic bags. This bill will influence many to begin using multiple use shopping bags that many supermarkets have been selling for the past two years. This, in turn, will dramatically reduce the amount of trash that accumulates from single use paper and plastic bags. If an individual wants to continue using single use bags, then he or she should pay a fee for adding to polluting our environment.

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

Mahalo for listening,

Stacey Kakowski



Feb. 28, 2012

Committee Chairs & Members of WAM

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

**Hearing on Thur., Feb. 29, State Capitol, Conf. Rm. 211, 9:15am.**

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Committee Members,

My name is Stuart Coleman, and I am the Hawaii Coordinator of the Surfrider Foundation. With more than 5000 activists 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

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [raiders.march@gmail.com](mailto:raiders.march@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2511 on 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2012 9:43:21 PM

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Testimony for WAM 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Thomas  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [raiders.march@gmail.com](mailto:raiders.march@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:

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

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [surfrideroahu@gmail.com](mailto:surfrideroahu@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2511 on 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2012 9:15:23 AM

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Testimony for WAM 2/29/2012 9:15:00 AM SB2511

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Tim Tybuszewski  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [surfrideroahu@gmail.com](mailto:surfrideroahu@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/28/2012

Comments:  
To whom it may concern,

Here is a list of common misconceptions relating to the argument that single use plastic bags should not be banned and/or charged for their use.

1. H-power will burn the plastic bags to create energy which is a form of recycling.

The incineration of rubbish to create electricity still leaves a large amount of ash that has to be disposed of, this ash has a high concentration of heavy metals and other toxic chemicals that must be put in our landfill. As an island people are space is limited we should be focusing on reduction of our waste stream once all of those avenues have been exhausted we should then focus on reusing and recycling.

2. Plastic bags are useful to dog owners to pick up pet waste and and not just used once before being thrown away.

As a pet owner you should take on the responsibility that comes with it, once I had a child I did not get free diapers I had a responsibility to supply my child with diapers, the same argument goes for pet owners. Our marine environment should not be impaired just because dog owners want to have free bags for their pet waste.

3. We should focus on recycling the bags, not forcing people to reduce them.

Again this goes back to the H-power argument, we should be focusing on reduction of waste not recycling, recycling is a last ditch effort before throwing something away. Additionally, due to the low grade of the plastics there is not much of a market for the type of plastic that is used for single use plastic bags. In order for these items to be recycled they must be shipped to a foreign country and put up on the market for purchase. Often times there is no buyer for the plastic and it just ends up being thrown into a landfill in a foreign country. Just because the bags don't end up in our landfill doesn't mean they have been recycled.

I hope that these examples will highlight the fact that we as a community need to focus on reduction of waste. We only have some much space on an island and we can't just export all of our problems.

Please help Hawaii be a leading role model in the country and help it become the first State in the USA to take a statewide approach to a problem that is global.

Thank you.

Tim Tybuszewski

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**

Chair Ige 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.