

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
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE**

**Monday, February 11, 2013
3:30pm
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 357, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

House Bill 357, House Draft 1 proposes to require 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 (NAR) Fund for watershed protection. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports this bill.

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. This measure implements the central natural resource stewardship goals of the Abercrombie Administration's *A New Day in Hawaii* plan to provide funding for natural resource protection. Funding would support the Department's *The Rain Follows the Forest* plan (available online at <http://Hawaii.gov/dlnr/rain>) to implement on-the-ground actions needed to stabilize Hawaii's water sources. 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.

The actions proposed in the plan protect the natural resources threatened by the consumption of single-use checkout bags from deforestation and fossil fuel use. 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.

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

ESTHER KIA'AINA
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

Forests are enormous economic assets in Hawaii. 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 Hawai'i 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.

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.

House Bill 357, House Draft 1 is a responsible measure that reduces damage from bag consumption and provides dedicated funding for essential environmental programs. The Department notes that it has submitted its own and slightly different version of a bag fee proposal in the way of House Bill 934 and Senate Bill 1165.



HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (HFIA)

1050 Bishop St. PMB 235

Honolulu, HI 96813

Fax : 808-791-0702

Telephone : 808-533-1292

DATE: Monday, February 11, 2013

TIME: 3:30 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 325

TO: COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair

Rep. Derek S.K. Kawakami, Vice Chair

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

RE: HB 357, HD 1 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENT

Position: Comments

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Kawakami & Committee Members:

Our stores are on track to spend about \$60K more per store annually on bag costs in counties where plastic is banned. In order to cover these costs retailers need a significant 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. This bill continues to increase costs for consumers and retailers in the form of implementing new fees which are subject to the GET, business reporting, audits, implementing new tracking systems, codes and annual reports while not giving enough back to cover these increased costs.**

Smaller retailers are at a much greater disadvantage because they can't buy paper bags in bulk and are paying much more than their larger counterparts for paper bags, which on average cost more than 10 times that of a plastic bag. Our local stores have taken a huge hit as the plastic bag ordinances have gone into effect and have seen their overhead costs skyrocket.

In California, county councils across the state have opted to allow the entire fee to stay with the consumers and retailers in order to negate the increased cost of the paper bags that ban ordinances have resulted in. Even a significant portion of this fee staying with consumers and retailers will not cover the amount of money stores are losing by purchasing paper instead of plastic bags. If the goal of this measure is to ensure that food prices do not continue to increase due to costly bag ban mandates then this measure must be amended. In it's current form, this bill does not achieve that goal.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor

SHAN TSUTSUI
Lieutenant Governor



HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

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FEDERAL
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Department of Defense
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Testimony of the HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

Before the House Committee on CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

February 11, 2013, 3:30 PM
Hawaii State Capitol, Rm 325

In consideration of HOUSE BILL 357 HD1 RELATING TO SINGLE USE CHECKOUT BAG FEES

House Bill 357 mandates the collection of a 10-cent fee for single-use checkout bags. This bill allows businesses to retain a portion of the remittance, with net revenues being 1) deposited in the environmental response revolving fund administered by the Department of Health and 2) deposited into the natural area reserve fund for watershed management and invasive species control projects administered by the Department of Land and Natural Resources. **The Hawaii Invasive Species Council strongly supports this bill.**

The production of single-use checkout bags negatively affects ecosystem health through the use of crude oil, water, and forest resources. Further, single-use bags that are not recycled may become debris that negatively impacts native species and/or natural ecosystem processes. It is therefore logical that the collection of this fee be used, in part, for actions that promote environmental health. The use of these funds for response to environmental emergencies, watershed protection and management, and the control and/or eradication of invasive species will support the health of native ecosystems in Hawaii that may in part mitigate the negative impacts of production and distribution of single-use checkout bags.

House Bill 357 is a logical and necessary measure to decrease the negative environmental impacts of single-use bags while concomitantly providing support for established programs that benefit Hawaii's ecosystems and protect our way of life. Therefore the Hawaii Invasive Species Council strongly supports this bill.

The Hawaii Invasive Species Council is an interagency collaboration established by Chapter 194, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for the purpose of cabinet-level direction on invasive species prevention, control, research, and outreach issues in Hawaii.

kawakami2 - Rise

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2013 4:28 PM
To: CPCtestimony
Cc: wichman@ntbg.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 11, 2013 15:30PM

HB357

Submitted on: 2/9/2013

Testimony for CPC on Feb 11, 2013 15:30PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chipper Wichman	NTBG and KWA	Support	No

Comments: Testimony Supporting HB 357– RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT As the Chair of the Kaua’i Watershed Alliance (KWA) and the Director and CEO of the National Tropical Botanical Garden (NTBG), I am writing to you to express my STRONG support of HB357. If successfully passed, HB 357 will create a source of new revenue which can support watershed protection and invasive species control. This is critical to the long-term health of our state. Currently only about ten percent of the priority watersheds in the State are protected from feral ungulates and ecosystem transforming invasive weeds. We need to undertake large-scale watershed protection to ensure our grandchildren have clean water and a healthy environment and HB 357 can help to make this happen! Please pass HB 357 out of Committee. Me ka mahalo nui, Chipper Wichman, Director and CEO

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Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting with an Amendment H.B. 357 HD1 Relating to the Environment
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
Monday, February 11, 2013, 3:30 PM, Room 325

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which life in these islands depends. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands 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 H.B. 357 HD1 and the proposed offset fee on single-use check out bags to help reduce the use of these bags and to fund important watershed protection and invasive species control programs.

We also support an amendment to the bill to exempt low income individuals and families from paying the fee:

§342H-B Distribution of single-use checkout bags; fee. (a) Beginning January 1, 2014, all businesses in the State shall charge and collect a fee of 10 cents for each single-use checkout bag that is provided to customers, provided that a business may provide single-use checkout bags free of charge to any customer participating in federally approved nutrition assistance programs, including the supplemental nutrition assistance program and the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children.

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 and diverse 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 and to control invasive species.**

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**Testimony of the Hawaii Green Growth Initiative
In Support of HB 934/HB 357/SB 1165 Relating to the Environment**

House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

11 February 2013, 3:30pm
Conference Room 325

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

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

I am writing on behalf of the Hawaii Green Growth Initiative (HGG) in support of HB 934/HB 357/SB 1165. HGG brings leaders from the energy, food and environmental sectors together to achieve Hawaii's sustainability goals and to be a model for building a green economy. HGG's members include approximately 40 leaders and 30 advisors from government, private, and non-profit organizations in Hawai'i.

HGG asks you to support HB 934/HB 357/SB 1165 because it creates an innovative funding source to expand protection of Hawaii's watersheds and water supply while also reducing the consumption of single-use paper and plastic bags statewide.

HGG recognizes the critical importance of Hawaii's watersheds and water supply to the long-term sustainability of our island economy, culture and environment. Watershed restoration paired with invasive species removal significantly increases water availability by decreasing erosion and siltation, which also benefits our reefs and fisheries. Healthy watersheds also help to mitigate climate change and assist in the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative's target by absorbing greenhouse gases.

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

As a partnership representing Hawaii's leaders in environment, food and energy, HGG asks for your support of HB 934/HB 357/SB 1165.

Mahalo nui for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Audrey Newman". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Audrey Newman
Senior Advisor, Global Island Partnership (GLISPA)
Promoting action for island conservation and sustainable livelihoods. www.glispa.org



Representative Angus L. K. McKelvey, Chair
Representative Derek S. K. Kawakami, Vice Chair
Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
State Capitol, Honolulu, HI 96813

HEARING Monday, February 11, 2013
 3:30 pm
 Conference Room 325

RE: HB357, HD1, Relating to the Environment

Chair McKelvey, 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. The retail industry is one of the largest employers in the state, employing 25% of the labor force.

RMH opposes HB357, HD1, which requires certain businesses in the State to collect a 10-cent fee for each single-use checkout bag provided to customers, allows businesses to retain a specified portion of fees, subject to income and general excise taxes, directs use of fee revenues to fund programs to mitigate the effects of single-use checkout bags and protect Hawaii's fresh water supply, and establishes provisions relating to violations, injunctive and other relief, county ordinances, business reporting, and audit authority.

While we appreciate the additional consideration provided retailers in HD1, we have two serious concerns:

Counties: All four counties have enacted ordinances that address the plastic/paper single-use bag issue, each in a manner that works within the environmental structure and requirements of that county. At this point, we should respect the autonomy of the counties to determine the appropriate dissolution of this issue.

Consumers: The retail industry is driven by our consumers. Our greatest concern is the added cost burden that HB357, HD1 will impose on our residents. This per-bag tax is regressive and will add to the cost of living for our families and consumers who can least afford higher prices at the grocery store. Last year the Department of Health increased the deposit beverage container handling fee by 50% to 1½ cents. This year there are bills moving through the Legislature, including the sugary beverage tax and the increase in the glass advance disposal fee, which will further raise food prices. We must speak for our customers.

We respectfully request that you hold HB357, HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Carol Pregill, President

RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII
1240 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 215
Honolulu, HI 96814
ph: 808-592-4200 / fax: 808-592-4202

kawakami2 - Rise

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2013 6:43 AM
To: CPCtestimony
Cc: bsager42@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 11, 2013 15:30PM

HB357

Submitted on: 2/9/2013

Testimony for CPC on Feb 11, 2013 15:30PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bill Sager		Comments Only	Yes

Comments: HB357 The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party strongly supports HB357 which will place a 10¢ fee on single-use paper and plastic bags with 80% of the revenue going to the DLNR for watersheds and invasives. · The "Rain Follows the Forest" initiative is working to ensure fresh water is available for the people of Hawai'i in perpetuity by protecting our watershed forests. This is a central goal of the "A New Day in Hawai'i" plan. · Healthy forests that are not overrun by invasive species efficiently capture and deliver fresh water into streams and aquifers for our use. · By pulling moisture from passing clouds, forests can actually increase water capture up to 50% more than through rainfall alone. · When forests are lost or degraded, Hawai'i loses its source of fresh water. · More than half of Hawaii's forests have been lost. Historically, the destruction of native forests has been the result of damage by goats, pigs, axis deer and wild cattle. Much of our native forest has been destroyed by invasive plants like straw berry guava and the passion vine. Today's threats continue to be invasive plants and animals. Recent introductions like miconia simply compound the problem. · Efforts to eradicate new introductions must be immediate and consistent. Once established an invasive plant or insect can cause millions of dollars of damage to agricultural crops, be a threat to public health and can devastate important native watersheds. Consistent effort is essential to effective control. Adequate, consistent funding for quarantine and invasive species control is essential. When funds supporting these programs are cut four even a couple of years, a decade of work can be lost. · Healthy forests will become even more critical as we experience the likely effects of climate change, including more severe storms but overall less rainfall, and temperature changes that will benefit invasive pests. · The bag tax bill would support this watershed protection through essential forest management programs and invasive species control. · · Testimony by Hawaii 's Watershed Partnerships emphasized the importance of consistent effort and the struggle to adequately fund their work. Watershed Partnerships have depended on grants from Counties and private sources. They have received little if any support from the State. As a result, their programs have been limited and they have had to ignore all but their very highest priorities. Their programs need consistent funding, and the bag tax is a good solution because it provides a consistent source of funding to DLNR to support watershed management initiatives and invasive species control

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Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2013 12:18 AM
To: CPCtestimony
Cc: wailua@aya.yale.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 11, 2013 15:30PM*

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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HB357

Submitted on: 2/9/2013

Testimony for CPC on Feb 11, 2013 15:30PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wailua Brandman APRN- Rx BC FAANP	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Friday, February 08, 2013 7:06 PM
To: CPCtestimony
Cc: mikagawa@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 11, 2013 15:30PM*

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HB357

Submitted on: 2/8/2013

Testimony for CPC on Feb 11, 2013 15:30PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Ikagawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2013 4:10 PM
To: CPCtestimony
Cc: pamelapcm@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 11, 2013 15:30PM*

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HB357

Submitted on: 2/8/2013

Testimony for CPC on Feb 11, 2013 15:30PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pamela Williams	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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1101 Fort Street Mall
Honolulu, HI 96813
(808) 532-1596 Fax (808) 532-1597

TO: Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair, and Members of
COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

FROM: Victor Lim

SUBJECT: HB357 HD1 Environment/Single Use Check out Bags

DATE: February 9, 2013

I am writing in support of HB357 H.D. 1 but would recommend that you add the two words (and beverages) to the exclusions (2) © on page 6 to be (Bags used to protect or transport prepared foods, bakery goods and beverages). This will also make this language that was passed by the Honolulu City Council last year.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to lend my input.

TESTIMONY to the HOUSE COMMITTEE ON Consumer Protection & Commerce

HB 357 H.D.1 Relating to the Environment

Monday, February 11, 2013

3:30 PM -- State House Conference Room 325

Submitted in OPPOSITION by: Mary Smart, Mililani, HI 96789

Chairman McKelvey, Vice Chair Kawakami and Members:

1. The State may have a compelling interest in protecting natural resources; however, the push to charge a fee for retail plastic bags and encourage people to transition to reusable cloth bags is dangerous to the health and safety of the people of Hawai'i and the United States. This bill harasses the consumer and businesses. It will waste more money than any benefit derived from it. A government imposed fee will require an immense oversight and enforcement mechanism which will eliminate any hoped for gains or improvements. Hawai'i has oversight experience with the bottle bill. The [June 30, 2010 report](#) titled State of Hawaii Deposit Beverage Container Deposit Special Financial and Program Audit, exposes mismanagement problems and possibly fraud. These findings should raise sufficient concern to avoid another government run program that adds nothing but overhead to our already bloated government budget.

2. Reusable bags can be a source of disease and burden our already strained hospital emergency rooms. Shoppers are advised to use separate bags for meat, vegetables and pre-packaged foods [here](#) and [here](#) with a reminder that the bags should be cleaned after each use. It is unlikely that reusable bags will be cleaned after each use and it is even more unlikely the consumer will use [antibacterial](#) cleaners (contains pesticides) as recommended. However, if they do, washing consumes water and energy resources and the bag will have to be replaced more frequently. The pesticide is another hazardous material with which we must deal. Norovirus and e-coli were passed to individuals from a reusable bag as reported in a May of 2012 [article](#).

3. Even people who are meticulous with their own bags may pick up microorganisms from the [cart](#). A [study](#) of grocery carts by Dept. of Soil, Water and Environmental Science, University of Arizona, Tucson states: "The total numbers of heterotrophic bacteria were as great as 1.1×10^7 on the handle and seat. Coliforms were detected on 72% (62) of the carts. E. coli was identified on 18 of 35 carts (51%) on which coliform identification was conducted." Shoppers may be homeless or store their bags in their car trunk, or let pets walk on the bags, and just live in a dirty environment. All these bags will be brought to the store that formerly maintained a sanitary, disease free environment and now the community will be endangered.

4. As [reported](#) from The Center For Consumer Freedom 1/24/11, many cloth bags have been found to contain lead in excess of government's limit. Lead is a hazardous material when ingested and therefore is not optimal for toting groceries. We finally removed lead paint from the environment and this ill thought out mandate will introduce a new menace.

5. Grocery bills will escalate because costs associated with reusable bags will be transferred to the consumer and make groceries even more expensive than they are now. Mark Daniels is vice president of sustainability and environmental policy for [Hilex Poly, a company that manufactures plastic bag and film products based in South Carolina](#). "... The difficulty added to packing groceries by using paper or reusable bags may seem small, but overall productivity slows and, as a result, costs for grocers increase." Rick Crandall, director of environmental stewardship for the Southern California division of SuperValu agreed, noting that "the switch to reusable bags has actually increased labor costs in the production line at Albertsons stores. Each store is likely to spend \$6,000 to \$10,000 or more annually due to checkers taking more time packing groceries in reusable bags, he said. Those calculations don't include the time it takes the cashier to pause for counting and/or charging for the bags."

6. The state and other authorities mandate that residents of Hawai'i use plastic bags under certain circumstances. If the legislature restricts one source, the bags will have to be purchased from another source which counters the intent of this bill. The [Hawaii Public Housing Authority Annual Plan for Fiscal Year 2013, Pet Policy](#), page 5 item 17 states "Waste must be disposed of by being placed in a sealed plastic bag and then placed in a trash container outside of the building. The [Island Colony Condo house rules](#) state regarding the use of the trash chute, #9b, All trash thrown down the chute must be sealed or tied in disposable plastic bags with a capacity of no larger than 10 gallons." The [Royal Mauian Guest Rules and Information](#) (updated 2/22/2012) states regarding trash, "Disposable diapers should never be put in the trash chute. We ask that they be sealed in plastic bags and taken to the basement and put directly in the trash dumpster at the loading dock. All trash must be secured in a plastic bag before putting it down the trash chute and taking it to the dumpster at the loading dock. Used cooking grease should be put into a receptacles that is kept under the sink in each unit. Grease receptacles should be changed as required and used ones fully sealed and placed in the trash. Owners that rent their units should provide plastic trash bags and cooking grease receptacles for the renters to use." The [Kalele Kai House rules](#) regarding refuse (B-16) state " All trash must be thoroughly drained and wrapped in paper and all garbage and other refuse shall be securely wrapped, preferably in plastic bags, and securely fastened before taking to trash room and using trash chute."

If free retail plastic bags are no longer available, Hawai'i residents will have to purchase them at added expense, and all the purported savings will evaporate. The State, residential and resort communities and individuals recognize the utility of plastic bags and we are optimistic Committee members will agree. One has to ask, if people do not use plastic bags as required, will disease become widespread?

7. According to the [American Progressive Bag Alliance](#) "On a per bag basis, plastic bags are more resource efficient, reduce landfill waste and generate few greenhouse gas emissions" When comparing between the [2001 Municipal Solid Waste in the United States](#) and [2009 Municipal Solid Waste in the United States](#) (pages 50 - 54) Americans have significantly increased amount of plastic bag recycling.

8. The plastic bag industry and recyclers employ thousands of Americans. A reduction in plastic bags results in a reduction in American jobs. The News Tribune (Tacoma Washington) [article](#) published on July 13, 2012 by Ken Holmes, marketing director for American Plastic Manufacturing, a Seattle-based plastic bag manufacturer "plastic bags made in the U.S. are made from natural gas, not foreign oil. They are 100 percent recyclable and reusable;" He further states: " And because plastic bags weigh less, they have less of an impact than paper when it comes to carbon emissions, transport and the use of water in production." He continues to show that a ban on plastic bags will affect American employment, "As an employee for a local plastic bag manufacturer that is part of an industry supporting more than 30,000 jobs across America and about 1,000 in Washington state alone...". [Command Packaging](#) are an endorsed partner of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the first U.S. manufacturer to receive the Environmentally Preferred Rating (EPR). They have made strides by "continuing to decrease waste and energy use; expanding our educational services to encourage recycling; creating our own recycling center to increase the source for recycled materials and make recycled products; partnering with businesses and communities to collect and make new recycled and reusable bags made in the U.S.A." The United States excels in recycling and can be the model for other nations.

9. Cloth bags have many other characteristics that are problematic and leave a bigger footprint on the environment. It costs a lot more and consumes more resources to manufacture those cloth bags than paper and plastic bags. Many of the cloth bags are made in [China](#) not the US which requires fossil fuel to transport them to Hawai'i.

10. University of Oregon Chemistry professor David Tyler was [interviewed](#) in 2012, he discussed the comparisons of green house gases generated by plastic, paper and cotton and had the following interchange:

"Q: In looking at the research that's out there, what have you found regarding plastic shopping bags versus paper or cotton bags?"

A: There are really good things about plastic bags—they produce less greenhouse gas, they use less water and they use far fewer chemicals compared to paper or cotton. The carbon footprint—that is, the amount of greenhouse gas that is produced during the life cycle of a plastic bag—is less than that of a paper bag or a cotton tote bag. If the most important environmental impact you wanted to alleviate was global warming, then you would go with plastic.

Q: Why is the carbon footprint for a plastic bag less than that of a paper bag or cotton?

A: Cotton is typically grown on semiarid land so it consumes a huge amount of water and you also need a lot of pesticides. About 25 percent of the pesticides used in this country are used on cotton. Paper is just typically considered a fairly polluting industry. Whereas the petroleum industry, where we get our plastics, doesn't waste anything. Chemists have had sixty to seventy years to make the production of plastics fairly efficient and so typically there is not a lot of waste in the petroleum industry.

11. The exemptions of paragraph 342H-A, exempt food donation (and government) programs (by defining them out of the term "business") indicate legislators are aware of the burdensome nature of this bill on both the provider and the consumer. Without plastic bags being shipped to Hawaii for the retail market, the cost for the remaining users will be increased and availability will decrease.

12. The bill criminalizes people and shops for distributing a bag that was the wrong thickness by a matter of millimeters. Criminals should be people who hurt other people, not people who help and/or provide a service to others.

Testimony in Support of H.B. 357 HD1 Relating to the Environment
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
Monday, February 11, 2013, 3:30 PM, Room 325

Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair

Rep. Derek S.K. Kawakami, Vice-Chair

House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

I am writing in strong support of H.B. 357 to support watershed protection. Anyone who has ever participated in a beach cleanup recognizes that plastic bags are an overwhelming blight on the landscape. Furthermore, as a hiker, I frequently see the deleterious effects of invasive species and imported pests on our forests. This bill provides a dedicated funding source to support the protection of our forests and watersheds while discouraging single-use bags. The state has traditionally relied in part upon federal funding to fight invasive species. This source of funding is in great peril. The state must identify alternative sources of funding or we can kiss goodbye our native forests and their beneficial effects on water supply and water quality.

Please vote in favor of H.B. 357. The longer we wait, the more expensive it will be to reverse decades of neglect of our watersheds.

Thank you,

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