



Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

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

LATE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

February 11, 2013, 3:30 P.M.
(Testimony is 3 pages long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 357, HD1

Aloha Chair McKelvey and Members of the Committee:

The Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, with 10,000 dues-paying members and supporters, ***strongly supports*** HB 357, HD1. 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* and environmental protection.

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

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 would 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.

II. Reducing Our Opala Problem.

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

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

Even if these bags are burned at H-POWER (only on O'ahu), they are essentially converted to greenhouse gasses, further hastening global climate change, and ultimately not addressing the root of the problem. Similarly, with nearly 40% of the State's solid waste-stream able to be diverted from disposal at the landfill, plastic bags pose the single-most significant challenge to composting facilities, contaminating the compost, getting wrapped in the splines of processing equipment, and reducing the value of the compost product.

III. 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 businesses 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.

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

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.

IV. Single Use Bags Tax Our Environment.

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

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

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

Ben Dyre Family Limited Partnership

Namahana Farms

LATE

Testimony of Ben Dyre Family Limited Partnership
Supporting H.B. 357 Relating to the Bag Fee Bill
Monday, February 11, 2013, 3:30PM, Room 325

I support H.B. 357, particularly its proposal to use revenue to support watershed protection programs.

Our family is a member of the Kauai Watershed Alliance and we recognize the necessity of natural resource stewardship even during challenging financial times. We understand that the source of our pure water is a system of healthy forested watersheds which capture rain and cloud moisture and deliver it efficiently to aquifers and surface sources for subsequent consumption in our daily lives and for the benefit of our island economy.

We are a big supporter of TNC and a member of the KWA because of all the significant efforts that have been made in helping preserve our State's precious natural resources.

This bill proposes to provide additional funding for the protection of our native forests, which are the source of nearly all the islands' supply of fresh water. The watershed protection and invasive species programs supported with state funds and leveraged several times over with matching funds from county, federal and private sources help to ensure healthy, managed natural resources that are critical for isolated island chains such as Hawaii.

Hawaii's Natural Resources are unique and provide value for our people and our economy; and thus would make them a reasonable beneficiary to a portion of the funds generated by the Bag Fee Bill.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Holly Dyre
General Partner
Ben Dyre Family Limited Partnership

kawakami2 - Rise

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2013 7:32 PM
To: CPCtestimony
Cc: aimeestiner@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 11, 2013 15:30PM



HB357

Submitted on: 2/10/2013

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aimee Stiner	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I support this bill.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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kawakami2 - Rise

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2013 7:44 PM
To: CPCtestimony
Cc: bkulbis@reagan.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 11, 2013 15:30PM



HB357

Submitted on: 2/10/2013

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brett Kulbis	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: If this bill is imposed, the cost of living for everyone in Hawaii will go up. 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. This is nothing more than another money grab by our legislators.

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



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Feb 11, 2013, 3:30 pm
(Testimony is 1 page long)
TESTIMONY IN STRONG FAVOR OF HB 357

Aloha Chair McKelvey and Members of the Committee:

Mahalo nui for hearing this environmentally significant bill. Your support for this legislation is truly appreciated. I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 357 as proposed.

Single-use grocery bags have become obsolete around the world and country, yet still comprises much of litter and marine debris in Hawaii, as well as causing the continued burden on out landfills. Bags are made from and use fossil fuels to produce and ship, yet are typically used for just a few minutes before being discarded.

A small fee would help to reduce the amount of the unsustainable practice of taking single-use bags, and would help to fund important watershed initiatives.

Hawaii's watersheds are amongst our most precious resources and need our protection. It is the source of our water and life, protecting the watersheds means protecting native plants and the beautiful landscape and water for our future. This bill has widespread support and provides a wonderful outcome for our environment both directly and indirectly.

Thank you again for hearing this bill. I am available to help refine such a policy that would be most beneficial to the State of Hawai'i. Please do not hesitate to draw upon my time, effort, and knowledge in this opportunity to move forward.

I respectfully ask that this committee advance this measure. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Joy Leilei Shih

kawakami2 - Rise

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2013 7:58 AM
To: CPCtestimony
Cc: jkimof@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 11, 2013 15:30PM

LATE

HB357

Submitted on: 2/11/2013

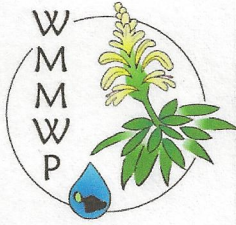
Testimony for CPC on Feb 11, 2013 15:30PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Kimo Falconer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: It is very important that the State of Hawaii lead the nation in this very important piece of Legislation. Our fragile ecosystem depends on measures such as this. Our watersheds and Natural area reserves deserve this kind of attention and funding sources. Mahalo, James K. Falconer

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West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership

February 11, 2013

LATE

Supporting H.B. 357
Relating to Environmental Protection

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

Watershed Partners

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

Aloha Legislators,

The West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership **Supports H.B. 357** to provide funding to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for watershed protection programs through the checkout bag fee. Identifying funding sources for the DLNR's "Rain Follows the Forest" watershed protection initiative is a highly worthy cause.

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

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

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

By unanimous consent and on behalf of our partners,

Mahalo nui loa,

Christopher N. Brosius
Watershed Coordinator

kawakami2 - Rise

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2013 7:46 AM
To: CPCtestimony
Cc: tabraham08@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 11, 2013 15:30PM*

LATE

HB357

Submitted on: 2/11/2013

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Troy Abraham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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People
Serving
People



Hawaii Restaurant Association

1451 South King St., Suite 503
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
www.RestaurantHI.com

Phone: 808.944.9105
Fax (Toll Free): 877.494.3245
hra@RestaurantHI.com

Submitted in Support (With changes) of HB357

LATE

February 10, 2013

The Hawaii Restaurant Association supports, with additional language, HB357.

Specifically, it is suggested that two words (“and beverages”) be added to the exclusions on page 6, line 5.

This additional language will make HB357 consistent with language in the bill passed by the Honolulu City Council in 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger Morey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Roger Morey
Executive Director



LATE

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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
H.B. 357, H.D. 1, RELATING TO SINGLE-USE CHECKOUT BAGS FEES

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

February 11, 2013
3:30 p.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The department supports the intent of this measure however prefers the
2 administration's version of the checkout bag fee collection program.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure requires the department to undertake substantial administrative
4 duties at a significant cost to implement the checkout bag fee program. The annual cost to the
5 department is estimated to be at least \$800,000. Businesses retain up to twenty percent of collections
6 subject to taxation for the first two years, and ten percent thereafter. The first \$800,000 annually goes to
7 the department for the second year of implementation and thereafter. The remainder of the fees are
8 distributed 80/20 respectively to the natural area reserve fund and environmental response revolving
9 fund. Up to \$800,000 is appropriated from the general fund to startup the fee collection program.

10 **Purpose and Justification:** The department supports the reduction of solid waste, litter, and the use of
11 petroleum resources. We believe that a fee of 10 or 25 cents will provide an effective disincentive and
12 reduce plastic bag waste. Further, as the state agency responsible for maintaining water quality
13 standards in our streams and ocean, we believe it is appropriate that revenues from this fee on a pollutant
14 be invested not only in pollution prevention programs but to also protect and enhance the source of our

1 island's drinking water. The health of our people will be enhanced by improving and maintaining the
2 health of our watersheds.

3 The department prefers the bag fee collection bill versions proposed by the administration,
4 H.B. 934 and S.B. 1165.

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

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LATE

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

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File:

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H.B. 357, H.D. 1, RELATING TO SINGLE-USE CHECKOUT BAGS FEES

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kawakami2 - Rise

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2013 11:53 AM
To: CPCtestimony
Cc: kypedunk@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 11, 2013 15:30PM



HB357

Submitted on: 2/11/2013

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaipo Duncan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Testimony of Kaipo Duncan Supporting H.B. 357 HD1 Relating to the Environment. House Committee on Housing Monday, February 11, 2013, 10:00AM, Room 329 I, Kaipo Duncan, support H.B. 357 HD1, particularly its proposal to use revenue to support watershed protection programs. The State Government Agency I am employed with is a member of the Kauai Watershed Alliance and I recognize the necessity of natural resource stewardship even during challenging financial times. I understand that the source of our pure water is a system of healthy forested watersheds which capture rain and cloud moisture and deliver it efficiently to aquifers and surface sources for subsequent consumption in our daily lives and for the benefit of our island economy. I have attended the quarterly meetings for the Kauai Watershed Alliance over the last five (5) years and have come to value the importance of its stated purpose. That is the protection of Kauai's natural environment which is the most beautiful place on earth. It is what makes Kauai unique and so valued by locals and tourists alike. This bill proposes to provide additional funding for the protection of our native forests, which are the source of nearly all the islands' supply of fresh water. The watershed protection and invasive species programs supported with state funds and leveraged several times over with matching funds from county, federal and private sources help to ensure healthy, managed natural resources that are critical for isolated island chains such as Hawaii. Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of HB357 HD1. Sincerely, Kaipo Duncan, DHHL Kauai Land Agent

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kawakami2 - Rise

From: Mike Loo [mloo@princeville.com]
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2013 10:37 AM
To: CPCtestimony
Cc: Mike Loo
Subject: HB 357 HD1 Relating to the Environment and Bag Bill



Aloha Chair McKelvey and Committee Members

My name is Michael Loo, representing Princeville Development LLC. We are members of the Kauai Watershed Alliance which works diligently, constructively and proactively to protect and sustain the watershed areas of Kauai. This precious resource must be protected and there is never enough funding to actively support activities to sustain this resource, which is the heart of life for all of us. We support the implementation of this measure so that there will be some funding set aside to protect our drinking water supplies. As the owners and operators of a public utility that delivers drinking water, we are acutely aware of the need to preserve and protect our water shed. Consumers will have options; they can learn to use reuseable bags as we Kauaians already do. So implementation of this bill should not be viewed as a penalty. Thank you for considering our remarks.

Michael Loo