



**HB357 HD2**  
**RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT**  
House Committee on Finance

February 22, 2013

3:00 p.m.

Room 308

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB357 HD2, which would generate revenues for much-needed watershed protection measures, while mitigating the impacts of disposable bags in our municipal waste stream.

**Fresh water is unquestionably one of Hawai'i's most valuable resources.** The importance of fresh water to Hawai'i and its people is reflected in the 'ōlelo no'eau, "Ola i ka Wai (Water is Life)." Accordingly, traditional water sharing and management practices reflected the critical nature of fresh water to these islands and helped to ensure sufficient fresh water for food production, drinking and other domestic uses, as well as numerous ecological services. Fortunately, despite the disruption of these traditional practices and many mauka-to-makai surface water resources, the discovery and utilization of Hawai'i's groundwater aquifer system has continued to bless its residents with potable fresh water of the highest quality.

**This bill is an investment in our islands' fresh water supply.** Unfortunately, Hawai'i's ever-growing agricultural and municipal water needs and practices, changes to our local climate, and the disruption of natural systems and processes contributing to our surface and groundwater supply have begun to raise the substantial possibility of fresh water shortfalls for many regions within our islands. The consequences and costs of such shortfalls counsel critical and timely action to ensure the continued availability of fresh water to meet our municipal, agricultural, cultural and environmental needs. This bill provides a revenue-generating mechanism to continue ongoing watershed protection programs necessary to maintain our fresh water supply and maintain a fundamental foundation of life in Hawai'i nei. This measure's economic incentive to decrease the use of disposable plastic bags may also provide additional environmental and economic benefits, by reducing and mitigating the impacts of disposable bags that would otherwise enter our municipal waste stream.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** HB357 HD2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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  
FINANCE**

**Friday, February 22, 2013  
3:30PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 357, HOUSE DRAFT 2  
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

House Bill 357, House Draft 2 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

The NAR Fund is the only dedicated funding source for watershed protection. In Fiscal Year 2011, the Watershed Partnership Program, which supports 11 partnerships state-wide, shared \$1.25 million from the NAR Fund. The five island-based committees that control invasive species and contribute to watershed initiative have no authorized dedicated funding whatsoever. In Fiscal Year 2012, the Legislature provided \$2.5 million in capital improvement project funding and directed \$2.5 million of special funding for the watershed initiative. The Department has used the NAR Fund to provide these special funds.

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 Hawai'i's water supply and natural beauty for current and future generations.

Water users already pay for the loss of native forests – and those costs are high. Invasive and widespread strawberry guava evapotranspires 27%-53%<sup>i</sup> more water than native forests, causing extensive water loss across landscapes. For example, in East Hawai'i invasive plants have already reduced estimated groundwater recharge by 85 million gallons a day.<sup>ii</sup> When one considers that a 5 million gallon per day desalination plant costs \$40 million to construct and over \$5.4 million per year to operate,<sup>iii</sup> the superior economic value of protecting our forests is readily apparent.

House Bill 357, House Draft 2 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.

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<sup>i</sup> Giambelluca, T. W., Delay, J. K., Asner, G. P., Martin, R. E., Nullet, M. A., Huang, M., Mudd, R. G., Takahashi, M. 2008. *Stand Structural Controls on Evapotranspiration in Native and Invaded Tropical Montane Cloud Forest in Hawai'i*. American Geophysical Union, Fall Meeting 2008, abstract #B43A-0422.

<sup>ii</sup> Engott, J. A. 2011. A water-budget model and assessment of groundwater recharge for the Island of Hawai'i: U.S. Geological Survey Scientific Investigations Report 2011-5078.

<sup>iii</sup> Honolulu Board of Water Supply. 2009. Waianae Watershed Management Plan. Prepared by Townscape, Inc. [http://www.boardofwatersupply.com/files/01\\_WWMP\\_Title%20Page\\_AUG09.pdf](http://www.boardofwatersupply.com/files/01_WWMP_Title%20Page_AUG09.pdf)



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

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

### H.B. 357, H.D. 2, RELATING TO SINGLE-USE CHECKOUT BAGS FEES

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

February 22, 2013  
3:00 p.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The department supports this measure and offers amendments. A fee is  
2 necessary to reduce plastic bag waste.

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, and could rise to \$1,400,000 if the 75 percent reduction  
6 goal in this measure is not met. Businesses retain up to twenty percent of collections subject to taxation  
7 for the first two years, and ten percent thereafter. The first \$800,000 annually goes to the department for  
8 the second year of implementation and thereafter. The remainder of fees are distributed 80/20  
9 respectively to the natural area reserve fund and environmental response revolving fund. Up to  
10 \$800,000 is appropriated from the general fund to startup the fee collection program.

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

*Promoting Lifelong Health & Wellness*

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 minimum annual cost to administer the program is \$800,000 and is described as follows:

- 4 ○ Staff (5 FTE): \$331,338;
- 5 ○ Attorney general support: \$80,000;
- 6 ○ Staff travel to neighbor islands for two inspectors: \$40,000;
- 7 ○ Operational expenses (office lease, copier, computers, supplies, telephones, training  
8 costs, utilities, moving expenses): \$88,462;
- 9 ○ Audit contract: \$205,000; and
- 10 ○ Administrative Fees: \$55,200.

11 Therefore, the department also requests that Section 342G-63 be amended to allow the department to  
12 hire personnel to implement the single-use checkout bag program, including accounting and  
13 enforcement activities. Current staff are not able to absorb the duties of the single-use checkout bag  
14 program should this measure become law.

15 We also propose a new section to this measure to establish permanent positions for the single-use  
16 checkout bag program. We request the ability to hire permanent instead of temporary positions at the  
17 outset because it will help the department to attract and retain qualified individuals.

18 For further details on the \$800,000 annual cost to the department and these two amendments,  
19 please see the attachment to this testimony.

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

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State of Hawaii  
 Department of Health  
 Office of Solid Waste Management

Single-Use Checkout Bag Fee Collection Program  
 HB357\_HD2/SB13 \$800,000 Annual Budget

(A) Staff	Salary	Fringe	Total	
Account Clerk III	\$ 27,732.00	\$ 13,866.00	\$ 41,598.00	Assists the accountant position
Accountant III	\$ 40,512.00	\$ 20,256.00	\$ 60,768.00	Processes payments
Public Participation Coordinator	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 32,500.00	\$ 97,500.00	Plan and coordinate audit contract, educate regulated community on bag fee collection program, and collect and monitor data to evaluate effectiveness of program
Inspector (EHS IV) 2x	\$ 87,648.00	\$ 43,824.00	\$ 131,472.00	Inspect retail businesses for compliance
<b>Staff Subtotal</b>			<b>\$ 331,338.00</b>	

**(B) Operational Expenses**

Operational expenses	\$ 88,462.00	Office space lease, copier lease, supplies, telephones, computers, utilities, training, moving expenses
<b>Operational Expenses Subtotal</b>		<b>\$ 88,462.00</b>

**(C) Enforcement**

Audit Contract	\$ 205,000.00	Audit businesses to ensure compliance with program and reporting requirements
Travel	\$ 40,000.00	Related travel to neighbor islands (airfare, car rental, per diem, lodging)
AG Support	\$ 80,000.00	Attorney General assistance
<b>Enforcement Subtotal</b>		<b>\$ 325,000.00</b>

**(A) + (B) + (C) Subtotal \$ 744,800.00**

**(D) DOH-ASO Assessment on Expenses**

2.00%	\$ 15,200.00
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**(E) DAGS Central Services Assessment on Revenues**

5.00%	\$ 40,000.00
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**(A) + (B) + (C) + (D) + (E) TOTAL \$ 800,000.00**

Proposed Amendments

S.B. 13 / H.B. 357

Modify Section 3 to read:

SECTION 3. Section 342G-63, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

"(c) The department shall expend moneys contained in the environmental management special fund to:

- (1) Partially fund the operating costs of the program including its regulatory functions and the development of waste reduction and diversion activities as mandated by chapter 342G;
- (2) Fund statewide education, demonstration, and market development programs, through direct contract or direct transfer of funds to the counties and the department of business, economic development, and tourism, or under a grant program that may be developed under rules pursuant to chapter 91; ~~and~~
- (3) Provide for annual training for municipal solid waste operators in compliance with 40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 258 and ~~[chapter 11-58.7]~~ title 11, chapter 58.1, Hawaii Administrative Rules~~[-]~~;
- (4) Fund administrative, audit, compliance, and enforcement activities associated with the single-use checkout bag fee established by part , chapter 342H; ~~and~~
- (5) Fund educational outreach regarding the single-use checkout bag fee program established by part , chapter 342H~~[-]~~; and
- (6) Hire personnel to oversee the implementation of the single-use checkout bag program."

Add a new section to read:

SECTION \_\_. All positions established for the program established by section 2 of this Act shall be permanent positions. No permanent position shall be converted to a temporary position until explicitly authorized by the legislature.

*Margaret Wille*  
Council Member  
District 9 - North and South Kohala



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## HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

*County of Hawai'i*

*Hawai'i County Building  
25 Aupuni Street  
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720*

*Holomua Center  
64-1067 Mamalahoa Highway, Suite C-5  
Waimea, Hawai'i 96743*

*West Hawai'i Civic Center Bldg. A  
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.  
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i, 96740*

House Committee on Finance  
Friday, 02-22-13, 3:00PM, Rm 308  
HB357 HD2 Related to the Environment

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chairs and Members of the Committee,

My name is Margaret Wille, Chair of the Hawai'i County Council Committee on Agriculture, Water and Energy Sustainability, testifying in ***SUPPORT of HB357 HD2 Relating to the Environment.***

This bill establishes a single-use checkout bag program and fee and directs use of fee revenues to mitigate the effects of single-use checkout bags and protect Hawaii's fresh water supply.

With plastic bag bans in effect or pending across all four counties, this bill will address single use paper bags and spur a positive shift in our communities across the state by further disincentivizing single use checkout bag consumption.

To the argument that this is a regressive tax which hits the most vulnerable the hardest, consider that singleuse bag fees actually SAVES consumers money by reducing the overhead costs of retailers. Retail stores already charge consumers for the cost of shipping, warehousing and providing single use bags, and paperbags especially, by shifting the cost of the bags into the price of their products.

Furthermore, retailers in Hawai'i County have been happy to provide free or low cost reusable bags to their customers at the check out line, if they don't have any or happen to forget them at home or in their automobile. In addition to helping reduce their overhead costs, the retailers get free advertising and healthy competition is fostered when the public gets to choose which stylish reusable bag designs they prefer over others.

Consider a portion of the fee going to provide free reusable bags to those who cannot afford to buy them if their is ongoing concern about the impact on the poor.

If people can and want to pay the extra fee for single use bags, they can do so knowing they are helping to protect the forests of Hawai'i and the critical water supply we derive from the uplands.

*Serving the Interests of the People of Our Island  
Hawai'i County Is An Equal Opportunity Provider And Employer*



February 21, 2013

Page 2 of 2

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Margaret Wille  
Council Member District 9  
North & South Kohala

## FINTestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 6:57 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** envrvw@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM

### HB357

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Penn	Environmental Center, University of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: RL:2302

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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# TAXBILLSERVICE

126 Queen Street, Suite 304

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: MISCELLANEOUS, Single-use checkout bag fee

BILL NUMBER: HB 357, HD-2

INTRODUCED BY: House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

**BRIEF SUMMARY:** Adds a new part to HRS chapter 342H to establish a single-use checkout bag fee. On January 1, 2014 all businesses in the state are to charge and collect a fee of 10 cents for each single-use checkout bag that is provided to customers. The fee shall increase to 25 cents on January 1, 2017 if the department of health has determined that the statewide distribution of single-use checkout bags has not decreased by 75%. Permits a business to 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. Requires each customer transaction receipt to show the number of single-use checkout bags provided and the amount of the fee charged.

Allows a business to retain up to 20% of the bag fees collected between January 1, 2014 and December 31, 2015, and 10% from January 1, 2016 and thereafter. All fees retained shall be subject to HRS chapters 235 and 237 and any taxes imposed on the fees retained shall not be charged to the customer. Requires businesses subject to the single-use bag fee requirements to conduct educational outreach to their customers regarding the single-use checkout bag fee program.

No later than the last day of each month, businesses subject to the single-use bag fee are to remit to the department the fees collected by the last day of each month, less the allowable amount retained, during the immediately preceding month. A small business may remit the fees on a quarterly basis on the last day of the month following the end of a quarter. Businesses shall be subject to penalties and interest for late or underpaid fees. The first \$800,000 of fees collected annually shall be expended by the department of health for administrative, audit, compliance, and enforcement activities associated with collection of the single-use checkout bag fee. If there is any remaining balance it shall be distributed as follows: (1) 20% into the environmental response revolving fund; and (2) 80% deposited into the natural area reserve fund to be expended by the department of land and natural resources for watershed protection, restoration, and acquisition.

Violations of the single-use bag fee program shall be subject to a fine of no less than \$1,000 for each violation. Establishes provisions relating to injunctive and other relief, interaction with any county ordinances, and business reporting of the number of single-use checkout bags provided to customers and the number of reusable bags provided to customers.

Requires the department of health to submit to the legislature an annual report, no later than 20 days prior to the convening of each regular session, delineating the department's efforts to effectuate the single-use bag fee program, the number of single-use bags distributed, the statewide reduction rate in the

amount of single-use bags distributed, and any recommended policy changes needed to better effectuate the single-use bag fee program.

No later than March 31, 2014 each business that is required to charge and collect the single-use checkout bag fee shall submit to the department of health a one-time report listing the number of single-use checkout bags and reusable bags provided to customers by that business for the 2013 calendar year.

Defines "single-use checkout bag," as a bag made of plastic that is less than 2.25 mils thick, or a paper package or sack, whether recyclable or non-recyclable, that is provided by a business to a customer, and is designed for one-time use to contain and transport merchandise. A single-use checkout bag does not include: (1) bags used by customers inside a business to package loose items, such as fruits, vegetables, nuts, grains, or candies, or small hardware items; (2) bags used to contain or wrap frozen foods, meat or fish, flowers or potted plants, or other items to contain dampness; (3) bags used to protect or transport prepared foods or bakery goods; (4) bags provided by pharmacists to contain prescription medications; (5) newspaper bags for home newspaper delivery; (6) door-hanger bags; (7) laundry, dry cleaning, or garment bags, including bags provided by hotels to guests to contain wet or dirty clothing; (8) bags sold in packages containing multiple bags intended for use as garbage, pet waste, or yard waste bags; (9) bags used to contain live animals, such as fish or insects sold in pet stores; (10) bags used to transport chemical pesticides, drain-cleaning materials, or other caustic chemicals sold at retail, or (11) bags provided to customers by a business to package loose-lid beverages, including fountain drinks, coffee, or other beverages served in a disposable container with a separate lid. Defines "reusable bag" as a bag with handles that is specifically designed and manufactured for multiple reuse and is made of: (1) cloth or other machine-washable fabric; or (2) durable material suitable for reuse, including plastic that is at least 2.25 mils thick. Defines "small business" as a business that grossed \$500,000 or less in revenues than the previous year.

Appropriates \$800,000 in general funds for fiscal 2014 to the department of health for the initiation and administration of the single-use checkout bag fee program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012

STAFF COMMENTS: While the proposed measure is to deter the use of single-use checkout bags, it should be remembered that the city and county of Honolulu passed an ordinance establishing a ban on non-biodegradable plastic bags which will go into effect on July 1, 2015, and plastic bags are banned on Hawaii, Maui and Kauai. This means the single-use bag fee will only be in effect on the island of Oahu in 2014 and will only apply to biodegradable, single-use plastic bags after July 1, 2015.

This measure proposes a single-use checkout bag fee on each single-use checkout bag that is provided to customers with the revenues derived from the fee deposited into the environmental response revolving fund and the natural area reserve fund. While each single-use checkout bag provided to customers will cost customers 10 or 25 cents per bag, it is questionable whether: (1) the fee imposed would encourage customers to use reusable bags; or (2) the amount derived from this program is sufficient to address the requirements of the stated programs of the department of land and natural resources.

That said, lawmakers and taxpayers should recognize this proposal for what it is, that is, it is nothing more than another way to raise more money to fund questionable state programs. While proponents may

argue that such a fee will discourage consumers from using single-use checkout bags, the real reason for this measure is to merely raise more money to fund government programs.

Under the proposed measure, a fee is imposed for each bag provided to the consumer. A business would have to bag a customer's purchases, then complete the transaction after counting the number of single-use checkout bags it provided to the customer. Although the proposal would allow the business to retain a portion of the fees collected, the actual amount will depend on the number of bags "sold" to customers and, therefore, it is impossible to determine whether or not the fee amount retained will be sufficient or insufficient to cover the cost of compliance with the program. Note well that the amount of the retained fee will be subject to the state's general excise and income taxes. Thus, as drafted, this fee merely adds to the cost of doing business in Hawaii. So much for lawmakers' lofty promise not to affect the state's fragile economy.

If the intent of this proposal is truly to protect the environment from the misuse and abuse of single-use bags, then just ban the use of such bags as the three Neighbor Islands have already done.

This disingenuous attempt by lawmakers is so transparent in its attempt to raise new revenues that it is an insult to taxpayers who are already overburdened and who have had to endure the addition of more and more taxes in recent years as lawmakers try to close the budget gap. Retailers might just welcome such a ban as it would reduce their costs since they would not have to provide bags as a courtesy. Ah, but that would mean that there would not be another source of money for lawmakers to spend.

It should be noted that in an effort to reduce the use of single-use checkout bags, several businesses have their own programs to encourage consumers to utilize reusable bags and such programs have been successful in reducing the number of plastic or paper bags provided to customers. Others, like the big box stores, do not provide their customer any type of bags to take away their purchases and that system seems to work just as well.

To reiterate, this proposal is nothing more than a grab for money. It is one more measure that will increase the cost of living and doing business in Hawaii while truly not accomplishing the goal of "cleaning up the environment" that it seems to hide behind. Lawmakers may have been successful in tricking taxpayers once with the "bottle bill," but a second time is truly reprehensible.

Note well that while \$800,000 of the fees collected is to be expended for the administration of the program, 20% of the residual amount will be earmarked for the environmental response revolving fund and 80% is to be deposited into the natural area reserve fund for watershed protection, restoration, and acquisition. While these latter two objects of expenditure may be worthy causes, it is questionable what the relationship is between the use of single-use bags and these two programs. Thus, the fee proposed and the designated programs does not constitute an appropriate or valid user fee. While there has been demonstrated concern on the part of the administration and some legislators about the preservation of the watershed, the question is if this effort is deemed to be of such a high priority, then why is it not a priority of the taxes already paid by residents? In other words, this proposal is nothing more than an effort to find another source of funding for a program which should be paid out of the general revenues of the state and is a backdoor ploy to free up general fund receipts for more and new programs.



**O'AHU INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE**

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair

Testimony of the Oahu Invasive Species Committee in support of HB 357 Relating to the Environment

House Committee on Finance

Friday, February 22, 2013 3:00pm Conference Room 308

The Oahu Invasive Species Committee supports HB 357, which would provide critical funding to keep Hawaii's forests and watersheds healthy. The Oahu Invasive Species Committee has successfully stopped the spread of many high-threat invasive plants by removing them before they reach the intact native forests at the mountain summits.

However, in our 12-year history, we have only once had a full year of funding on January 1st. One of the many effects that climate change will have on Hawaiian forests is that it will become warmer at higher altitudes, allowing invasive plants to have yet another advantage over our unique native forests. More severe storms may create openings that invasive plants will be able to colonize faster than native plants.

Although OISC has successfully eradicated some species from Oahu, there will always be more, and climate change ensures that these species may be able to move farther into the watershed than previously thought. Without dedicated funding, we cannot keep up and will lose the ecosystem services that a healthy native forest provides.

Hawaii's native forests are thick with undergrowth that anchors soil to mountain, preventing erosion and ensuring that rainwater percolates into the island's aquifer, replenishing our water supply. Invasive plants kill off this understory, leaving our island vulnerable. Keeping the watershed healthy requires hiring staff to go out and remove invasive plants. This bill will create jobs while protecting Hawaii's water supply. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

O'ahu Invasive Species Committee



# Kaua'i Watershed Alliance

*"The Mission of the Kaua'i Watershed Alliance is to PROTECT, PRESERVE and MANAGE our valuable watershed resources for the benefit of our residents, communities and all future generations through the concerted efforts of its members."*

Testimony of the Kauai Watershed Alliance  
Supporting HB357 HD2 Relating to the Environment  
House Committee on Finance  
Friday, February 22, 2013, 3:00 PM, Room 308

The Kauai Watershed Alliance (KWA) has been actively managing portions of the mauka watershed on Kauai since 2003. Its members make up a diverse group of public and private entities including the Kauai Water Department, who own land within the mountainous watershed and understand the importance of protecting and preserving the forests that capture the water - our most precious resource.

The Kauai Watershed Alliance strongly supports **HB 357 HD 2** and its purpose to generate additional funding to protect Hawaii's forested watersheds. The source of fresh water is not the faucet, pipe, or even the well or stream it's drawn from. The real source is a system of healthy forested watersheds, not forests overrun by invasive plants and animals, which capture rain and cloud moisture, retain it like a sponge and deliver it efficiently to aquifers and surface sources for subsequent consumption in our daily lives.

Our diverse Hawaiian forests also absorb greenhouse gases, and reduce runoff and siltation into streams and onto coral reefs.

We, the people of Hawaii inherited one of the most efficient water resources imaginable; developed and refined over millions of years. It was here to bless the first humans who arrived and is the very reason why Hawaii thrives. All we needed to do was to develop delivery systems to satisfy our daily needs. All we need to do now is to take care of it and the cost is not great!

We never know the worth of water till the well is dry.

We thank you for your support.

Ben A. Dyre Limited Family Partnership, Department of Hawaiian Homelands, Department of Water County of Kaua'i, DLNR – Division of Forestry and Wildlife & Land Management Division, Grove Farm Company, Inc., Jurassic Kahili Ranch, Kamehameha Schools, Kaua'i Ranch LLC, Lihu'e Land Company, McBryde Sugar Company, Ltd., National Tropical Botanical Garden, Princeville Development, LLC

## FINTestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 4:39 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** web@1888sip2you.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM

### HB357

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jesse Law	Sustainable Island Products LLC	Support	No

Comments: Sustainable Island Products has been serving over 400 retail and food service accounts in the greater Hawaii market for the past six years with eco-friendly & compostable alternatives to petroleum-based food-service packaging supplies. We chose NOT to promote "eco" disposable alternatives to standard disposable plastic bags as it is our belief that a movement towards REUSABLE bags is the better approach to take. There simply isn't a "better" way to use and toss a single use bag, be it plastic, paper, or bio-plastic. This is a habit that must be transformed, and creating a culture around Reusable bags is a fine solution. We are in SUPPORT of HB357 and are excited to know that fees collected by this bill will go to the preservation of our watersheds & forests in Hawaii. Comment on bill: We would like to bring to the attention of this hearing that allowing for a thicker "2.25 mil" plastic bag to be considered as a "reusable" bag is rife with potential for backfire. In Maui I have witnessed plastic bag purveyors rapidly adapting (with apparent glee) by providing the new, THICKER, and more expensive plastic bags that meet the "reusable" criteria established by the bag's mil rating. What inevitably results is a dramatic increase in plastic material used per bag (avg. 4.5x) complimented by and equally dramatic increase in the cost of these bags. It goes without saying, that if these bags end up in the environment or landfill their impact will also be substantially worse than their predecessor's .5 mil bag. Food for thought: ---Costco has no bags, and is arguably one of the largest retailers in the state. ---A quick search on NBCnews.com will show "Hawaii first state to ban plastic bags at checkout" as four counties have each elected to pass legislation on the issue. This should give credence to the viability of this bill being passed at the state level. ---Please view an interactive map of the world showing the countries and cities that have passed plastic bag usage fees or bans. (This is not an endorsement of the company that created the map, but it serves as a great visualization and research tool to understand the global movement away from single use bags) <http://tinyurl.com>

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House of Representatives  
Committee on Finance  
Friday, February 22, 2013  
3:00 p.m., Conference Room 308  
State Capitol

### **Testimony in Support of HB 357 HD2**

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson, and Members of the Committee,  
The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **supports HB 357 HD2, *Relating to Environment***, which would require businesses to collect a fee for single-use bags at checkout. Part of the fee would provide critical funding for the Natural Area Reserves Fund (NARF) for watershed protection and invasive species work, which has been chronically-underfunded for decades.

CGAPS appreciates this initiative as a source of funds for watershed protection, restoration, and acquisition, and as an incentive for all of us to take one more step towards a more sustainable Hawai*ʻ*i Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,

Christy Martin  
Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS)  
Ph: (808) 722-0995



Feb. 21, 2013

Committee Chairs & Members of Finance Comm. (FIN)

**RE: Strong Support for HB 357 HD1 – Relating to Environmental Protection**

**Hearing on Mon., Feb. 22, State Capitol, Conf. Rm. 308, 3:00 pm.**

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair 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, Surfrider's Hawaii Chapters strongly support passage of HB 357, 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.

This legislation will complement the plastic bag bans on Maui, Kauai, the Big Island and Oahu in 2015 by reducing the rising use of paper bags, which have a higher carbon footprint. Production of paper bags consumes over 14 million trees annually and requires 20 times as much water and 4 times as much energy as plastic bags.

Last year, 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.

Along with dramatically reducing the proliferation of plastic and paper bags, this bill will also help 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 purpose of the bill.

Over the last four years, we have built a diverse coalition of educational and environmental groups, local businesses and thousands of citizens to support a statewide fee bill to reduce single-use grocery bags. We are committed to passing this bill because it's a win-win-win situation for the environment, the economy and the health of our people and our oceans. We support the amendment to give stores a higher portion of the funds.

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 they 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

Testimony of Ben Dyre Family Ltd. Partnership, Namahana Farms  
Supporting H.B. 357 HD2 Relating to the Environment.  
House Committee on Finance  
Friday, February 22, 2013, 3:00 PM, Room 308

The Ben Dyre Family Ltd Partnership supports H.B. 357 HD2, particularly its proposal to use revenue to support watershed protection programs.

The Kauai Watershed Alliance (KWA), of which we are a member, has been actively managing portions of the mauka watershed on Kauai since 2003. We as members make up a diverse group of public and private entities including the Kauai Water Department, who own land within the mountainous watershed and understand the importance of protecting and preserving the forests that capture the water - our most precious resource.

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.

The source of fresh water is not the faucet, pipe, or even the well or stream it's drawn from. The real source is a system of healthy forested watersheds, not forests overrun by invasive plants and animals, which capture rain and cloud moisture and deliver it efficiently to aquifers and surface sources at elevation (stored energy) for subsequent consumption in our daily lives. Failure to act now may lead to very high costs of desalination in the future.

Forests also help mitigate erosion and runoff into our precious streams and coastlines. Healthy and diverse Hawaiian forests that are not degraded by invasive pests 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 streams and onto coral reefs during storm events.

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 such a fee.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Holly Dyre  
General Partner  
Ben Dyre Family Limited Partnership

## **FINTestimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 10:42 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** shannonkona@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM\*

### **HB357**

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

#### Comments:

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## FINTestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 20, 2013 8:05 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** athurston@irmt.org  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM\*

### **HB357**

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Anne Thurston	Individual	Support	No

#### Comments:

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## FINTestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 20, 2013 4:53 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** tabraham08@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM\*

### **HB357**

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Troy Abraham	Individual	Support	No

#### Comments:

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**Sent:** Wednesday, February 20, 2013 4:30 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** mauibrad@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM\*

### **HB357**

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brad Parsons	Individual	Support	No

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**Sent:** Wednesday, February 20, 2013 2:16 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** cochonlibre@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM\*

### **HB357**

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cathy Goeggel		Support	No

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 20, 2013 12:45 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** davidlhenkin@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM\*

### **HB357**

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
David Henkin	Individual	Support	No

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**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 12:08 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** palmtree7@earthlink.net  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM\*

### **HB357**

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
janice palma-glenie	Individual	Support	No

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**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 12:04 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** mendezj@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM\*

### **HB357**

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	Yes

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## **FINTestimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 1:45 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** Kalikoamona@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB174 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM\*

### **HB174**

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kaliko Amona	Individual	Support	No

#### Comments:

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## FINTestimony

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**From:** Guy Kaulukukui [gkaulukukui@biologicalcapital.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 11:22 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Subject:** HB 357, HD2

I support HB 357, HD2, establishing a single-use checkout bag program and fee and urge the committee to pass the measure with an effective date of July 1, 2013. protection of our fresh water supply is paramount to a sustainable future in our island home.

guy kaulukukui

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**Guy H. Kaulukukui, Ph.D.**

Senior Vice President, Director of Hawai'i  
Bio-Logical Capital, LLC

P 808.440.8900

735 Bishop Street, Suite 235  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

[www.biologicalcapital.com](http://www.biologicalcapital.com)  
[www.biologicalcapitalhawaii.com](http://www.biologicalcapitalhawaii.com)

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Bio-Logical Capital is a land investment, development, revitalization and conservation company.

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**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** gabrielle.schuerger@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM\*

### **HB357**

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gabrielle Schuerger	Individual	Support	No

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**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 3:24 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** launahele@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM\*

### **HB357**

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Benton Pang	Individual	Support	No

#### Comments:

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## **FINTestimony**

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**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 4:03 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** mhesketts@mac.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM

### **HB357**

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marvin Heskett	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Honorable Legislator, Please pass this bill for the sake of the appearance and health of our beautiful island's environment. Help Hawaii to demonstrate its progressive leadership to the rest of the world which is rapidly turning away from the use of single use plastics, knowing the deleterious effects it has on our environment. With even local merchant associations supporting this bill, there is little reason not to pass it now. Sincerely, Marvin Heskett

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## Support of HB 357

Doora Shin

UH Manoa Student

Aloha, I am a student at UH Manoa. I wholeheartedly support the passing of HB357. With an estimated 380 million plastic bags used in the US each year & the growing amounts of marine & land animals being found with incredible amounts of plastic in their bodies as they mistake the foreign objects for food, The passing of such legislation would be a protection to the people, to the land, to our wildlife, and to our future.

This type of legislation is not new. As Hawaii being the first state to ban plastic bags with Oahu implementing the law in 2015, we have already made a statement that plastic bags are not part of our future. We must pass a bill like this to reduce the impact of plastic bags on our environment sooner than 2015. 2 years means millions of plastic bags. A fee would encourage consumers to bring their own bag and consider the consequences of the immense use of plastic bags. This fee on bags would provide funds to protect the watershed which is crucial for Hawaii. It's truly a win-win situation as stores could offer reusable bags and begin to distribute disposable bags that come from more eco-friendly sources and that are less harmful to our aina.

I am 20 years old & plan to have kids and raise them in Hawaii. I want my children and grandchildren to experience the same beauty of nature I have been lucky to experience. I want them to see all the amazing animals and marine species that make our island so beautiful. I feel that this hope I have is in great danger and the more we ignore the long-term consequences to reap the short-term conveniences, the more we are threatening the future of our island home.

Mahalo.

## FINTestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 2:29 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** w.joy.hee@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM

### HB357

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
wynnie hee	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: I HATE to see plastic bags blowing around the street, especially in downtown Honolulu or at beaches, SO CLOSE TO OUR OCEAN! My heart breaks for all the sea creatures eating plastic & dying. PLASTIC does NOT decompose... it only breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces to be EATEN by sea life which may be eaten by US. That makes plastic in YOU and ME. That can not be a good thing. Please pass this bill now! The Bag Bill HB 357 would put on 10 cent fee on single-use checkout bags, which would be used to fund initiatives to protect Hawaii's watersheds, one of our State's most important resources. While Honolulu County passed a plastic bag ban last year, it does not go into effect until July of 2015. In the meantime, this fee would go into effect July of this year, and we could curb the use of disposable bags for the two years before the ban goes into effect. Additionally, the fee would be applied to all single-use bags, including paper bags. Paper bags are damaging to the environment because: • They consume over 14 million trees annually in the US • Take 20 times as much water and 4 times as much energy as plastic bags • Contain toxic chemicals that pollute freshwater sources • Take up space in Hawaii's landfills. Importantly, the revenue generated from the bag fee would go towards protecting Hawaii's watersheds. Hawaii's native wildlife and plants are threatened by habitat loss, invasive species, and climate change, and the watersheds provide our current and future drinking water and are important to the health of our coastlines. If the bag fee successfully cuts bag use in half, we would generate \$15 million yearly for the much needed watershed initiative. We need you to submit testimony here and, if at all possible, show up to testify this Friday, Feb 22nd at 3pm in Conference Room 308 for the Finance Committee hearing at the Hawaii State Capitol, 415 South Beretania St., Honolulu. Surfrider Foundation's infamous Plastic Bag Monster will also be making an appearance! Of course, remember that the bag fee can be avoided entirely just by bringing your own reusable bag! It's a way to be environmentally smart, look stylish, and is a win-win all around.

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## **FINTestimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 2:23 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** bMcD50@aol.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM

### **HB357**

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Elizabeth McDermott	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this bill to end the free ride for plastic bags by collecting a small fee. It's crazy for a small island state like ours to continue to encourage the use of this kind of single use plastic knowing so much of it is ending up in our waterways and ultimately the ocean. This is more than merely a problem of aesthetics. As those flimsy bags degrade they begin to reenter the food chain as dangerous chemical toxins ingested by the fish we and countless other marine animals and birds then eat. Their production also contributes to climate change. The costs to our environment and public health are enormous and I would encourage that we direct as much of each one of those dimes to programs meant to address those problems as possible.

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**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 2:20 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** kano\_e\_p@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM

### HB357

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kanoelani Puuohau	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am from the Island of Hawai'i and currently reside in Nu'uuanu on O'ahu and I support the imposition of a fee on single-use checkout bags. The small 10-cent fee provides much needed funds to mitigate the effects of plastic debris in our environment. All four counties joined together and passed legislation making Hawaii the first State to ban plastic bags at the checkout. The immense effort to pass statewide legislation at the county level is indicative of the public's support for this progressive change. The ten-cent fee bill is aligned with this change by easing the transition to reusable bags. This bill decreases the pressure of compliance by allowing individuals, who are either opposed to the plastic bag ban or who have simply forgot to bring their reusable bag to the store, to purchase "biodegradable" or paper bags at the check stand. I support this bill as it eases the transition of bringing your own reusable bag and further benefits the public by allocating funds to the protection of our precious watershed. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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## FINTestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 2:02 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** jkimof@msn.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM

### **HB357**

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
James Kimo Falconer	MauiGrown Coffee, Inc	Support	No

Comments: Members of the House Finance committee, Please vote in favor of HB357 as a move to ensure the Hawaii population a clean and viable source of fresh water now and into the future. The bag bill is one of many methods that will help us continue to conserve our upper watersheds. Mahalo for your consideration. James Kimo Falconer President, MauiGrown Coffee, Inc.

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Testimony of *Stephanie Dunbar-Co*  
Supporting H.B. 357 HD2 Relating to the Environment.  
House Committee on Finance  
Friday, February 22, 2013, 3:00 PM, Room 308

I, Stephanie Dunbar-Co, support H.B. 357 HD2, particularly its proposal to use revenue to support watershed protection programs.

My family owns and manages Kainalu Ranch on southeastern Molokai 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.

Kainalu Ranch is very supportive of the East Molokai Watershed Partnership (EMoWP) and, in fact, we are looking forward to becoming partners of the EMoWP. The damage that invasive plant and animal species have done to East Molokai's mauka watersheds has been significant. Without management, this damage may prove irreparable. We are one of many private landowners in East Molokai that are eager to include our mauka forested areas in the EMoWP.

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 your support.

Sincerely,

*Stephanie Dunbar-Co, PhD Botany*  
*Fourth generation rancher, Kainalu, Molokai*

## **FINTestimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 1:23 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** surfergirl808@msn.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM

### **HB357**

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
ROXANNE RIVERO	Individual	Support	No

Comments: i am pro the bag fee bill.. or ban.. i am a full time resident/home owner and see the plastic and or paper bags as damaging to our environment, blowing in the wind, killing or ending up in our sea life.. let's put an end to this as many european countries and other states or cities have done, move forward on this action please..

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**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 12:37 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** mobrien7@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM

### **HB357**

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
mary louise o'Brien	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This bill would accomplish several positive things a once. Prevent junk in the environment and help the watershed. It is not that hard to take a bag to the store and if we forget, 10 cents goes to a god cause. Please pass this bill.

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Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair  
Committee on Finance



HEARING        Friday, February 22, 2013  
                     3:00 pm  
                     Agenda #3  
                     Conference Room 308  
                     State Capitol, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**RE     HB357, HD2, Relating to the Environment**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, 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, HD2**, which establishes single-use checkout bag program and fee and directs use of fee revenues to mitigate the effects of single-use checkout bags and protect Hawaii's fresh water supply.

**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 respect the autonomy of the counties to determine the appropriate dissolution of this issue.

**Consumers:** The retail industry is driven by our consumers. While the HD2 provides exemptions for residents participating in SNAP and WIC programs, there are many residents, particularly our senior citizens and those on fixed incomes, for which this tax will be an additional cost burden 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.

**Businesses:** Retailers with locations in each county now have four (4) different ordinances and four (4) different sets of administrative rules with which to comply. HB357, HD2 adds yet another regulation. And, while businesses will be allowed to keep 20% of the fee in the first year and 10% each year thereafter, subject to GET and income tax, the on-going education outreach requirement, the administrative costs of collecting, reporting and remitting the fees to the state, and the option for the department of health to inspect the company's proprietary business records, far outpaces the value of this allowance. These additional costs must and will be passed on to our customers.

We respectfully request that you hold HB357, HD2. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Carol Pregill, President

## **FINTestimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 12:07 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** mandiah23@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM

### **HB357**

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Amanda Hardman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This is an EXTREMELY important bill to pass for the State of Hawaii. I have yet to speak with one individual who is against this bill and hope for the sake our future generations that this bill will get passed NOW.

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TESTIMONY ON BEHALF OF H.B. 357 HD2 – RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

February 22, 2013

**(COMMENTS)** Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of H.B. 357 HD2. My name is Michael Buck, former Hawaii State Forester from 1989 to 2004. I applaud the intent of this measure as well as the sponsors who have introduced it. House Bill 357 HD2 provides a commitment to protect and enhance Hawaii's forested watershed resources. It is a commitment that our past generation gave to us and one that we should make for future generations.

The intent of my testimony is to provide some policy and economic perspective of managing Hawaii's forested watersheds in light of the enormous pressure you have as decision makers to allocate limited funds over a range of needs and requests. Hawaii's forests exist today only because of a considerable investment and political consensus established over a century ago that involved extensive fencing, animal control, and reforestation. While natural resource valuation is not an exact science, Hawaii's forested watersheds are obviously enormous assets to our economy and society and the need for dependable supplies of fresh water is expected to increase in the future.

Yet, many of our priority forested watershed landscapes are slowly degrading, and so is our water supply. Hawaii's 11 watershed partnerships provide an innovative framework for the landscape level forest management activities needed, yet they are faced with inconsistent funding. The bottom line is that we are reaping the benefits of past investments made and are not assuring Hawaii's future population of a dependable supply of water. A permanent funding mechanism for watershed management in Hawaii's is needed.

When we pay our water bill in Hawaii, little or no monies are going to manage the forested watershed where that water originates. The price consumers pay for water generally includes: the amortized cost of infrastructure to collect, purify and distribute water; the cost of energy to move water from source to tap; and, the cost of staff and materials to maintain, monitor and administer water services. No cost is assigned to water resources in their natural state or the costs associated with insuring sustainable forested watersheds to collect and percolate our water supplies.

The question of who should pay the watershed bill has been an ongoing debate at the legislature for years. Allocating a portion of the conveyance tax in 2001 provided a portion of the dedicated funding needed but that has been diminished from reduced real estate values and other programs. All citizens and business sectors benefit from our forested watersheds, yet issues of State/county relationships, military use of water, role of tourism sector, and agricultural subsidies have complicated the identification of a fair and equitable mechanism for that payment.

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It is important to remember that private lands comprise @ one half of the priority watershed areas in the State (and two thirds on the island of Oahu). Historically, private landowners allowed their forests to be managed by the Territory, under surrender agreements, but retained the water rights and did not pay any property tax. But times have changed as real property tax incentives for watersheds have not been adopted by the counties, the public now “owns” the water, and the majority of these lands are now in restrictive Conservation limits. While restrictive zoning can prevent development in priority forested watersheds, it does not pay for watershed management.

A 1911 quote from Ralph Hosmer, Hawaii’s first territorial forester, helps frame the economic argument:

*“Why this constantly recurring talk of forests and forest protection. Why not leave it to government officials to look after the forests? That is what they are paid for. The answer to these questions is simply and solely because in Hawaii forestry is a business necessity. Wherever it can be got water is the most valuable product that the native Hawaiian forest can be made to yield. In Hawaii, without the native forest we should be without water. I am not making this plea on the grounds of abstract altruism. I am merely putting up to you as a business proposition.”*

In 2001, a team of economists at the University of Hawaii did a natural resource valuation of the Koolau Mountains watershed on the island of Oahu. This forested watershed spans over 100,000 acres with an estimated sustained yield of over 133 billion gallons of water each year. It recharges the major aquifer that provides the majority of water for the city of Honolulu and Pearl Harbor. Their preliminary economic analysis of the amenities provided by the Koolau Mountains watershed on Oahu show an estimated Net Present Value of 7.44 to 14.0 billion dollars. Amenities considered in the analysis were ground water quantity, water quality, in-stream uses, species habitat, biodiversity, subsistence, hunting, aesthetic, commercial harvests, ecotourism, and climate control. Net present value per acre was estimated at \$76,000 to \$143,535, with a mean annual stream of benefits at roughly \$165 million or \$1,700 per acre.

Even without exploring Hawaii's other forested watersheds in comparable depth, the authors found prima facie reasons for concluding that other forested watersheds around the state would be at least as valuable as that of the Koolau Mountains. Management costs for this area are less than one-half of one percent of the value of the asset that was being maintained - a sound investment.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

## **FINTestimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 12:00 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** palmtree7@earthlink.net  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM

### **HB357**

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
janice palma-glenie	Individual	Support	No

Comments: A little change can go a long way! please support this bill. mahalo.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 11:54 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** waikikinani@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM

### **HB357**

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Phyllis Frus	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: We need this bill to protect our watersheds and reduce the amount of waste we produce. As you know, revenue generated from the \$.10 bag fee, which includes paper backs, will go towards protecting Hawaii's watersheds. Hawaii's native wildlife and plants are threatened by habitat loss, invasive species, and climate change, and the watersheds provide our current and future drinking water and are important to the health of our coastlines. If the bag fee successfully cuts bag use in half, we would generate \$15 million yearly for the much needed watershed initiative. Thank you for supporting this measure.

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## **FINTestimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 10:47 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** stacey.fineran@westonsolutions.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM

### **HB357**

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stacey Fineran	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I fully support the bag fee that is proposed in HB357. Hawaii's watersheds are lacking the much needed revenue that this bill could provide. Hawaii's native wildlife and plants are threatened by habitat loss, invasive species, and climate change, and the watersheds provide our current and future drinking water and are important to the health of our coastlines. If the bag fee successfully cuts bag use in half, we would generate \$15 million yearly for the much needed watershed initiative.

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## FINTestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 10:26 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** ndavlantes@aol.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM

### HB357

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Davlantes	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Honolulu County's ban doesn't go into effect for more than two years. This bill would take effect this July, cutting down the use of disposable bags two years earlier. Additionally, the fee would be applied to all single-use bags, including paper bags, which also damage the environment because millions of trees are cut to produce them, the paper contains toxic chemicals, and they take up landfill space. Most important for Hawaii's future is that the revenue generated from the bag fee would go towards protecting the state's watersheds. Native wildlife and plants are threatened by habitat loss, invasive species, and climate change, and the watersheds provide our current and future drinking water and are important to the health of our coastlines. Cutting bag use in half would generate \$15 million yearly for the watershed protection.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 5:13 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** aegray@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM  
**Attachments:** testimony.txt

### HB357

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrew Gray	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This is a great bill with revenue supporting a very important cause. If we do not take care of our watersheds now it will be much more expensive to make up for it down the road when we could be facing water shortages. Lets do the responsible thing and take care of the Hawaiian islands. Free bags are a small convenience that we can easily live without. The bag fee supports sustainability by incentivising reusable bags, which are much better for the environment. Both plastic and paper bags take a toll on our natural resources by creating trash and consuming resourced during the production. We take so much from the 'aina, why don't we give something back?

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**Testimony of Joyce Masamitsu  
Associate Director of Public Policy for Verizon  
Before the  
House Committee on Finance  
H.B. 357 H.D. 2  
February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013**

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair,  
House Committee on Finance  
Hawaii State House of Representatives

***RE: Testimony House Bill 357 H.D.2 – Single-Use Check Out Bags***

Dear Chairwoman Luke and the Members of the Committee,

This letter is written on behalf of Verizon to oppose House Bill 357 HD2, unless amended. HB 357 HD2 would create a special state fund and require retailers to collect a fee from their customers for every single-use bag provided. While Verizon embraces the author's goals to support green initiatives by encouraging the use of reusable bags, HB 357 HD2 is burdensome to many local businesses and unnecessary from an environmental standpoint.

Verizon seeks an amendment to limit the applicability of the bill's requirements to businesses that sell food and beverages. Such an approach has been adopted in other cities and counties. Los Angeles County's ordinance contains the following language as part of its definition for applicable businesses to which the ordinance applies: "a drug store, pharmacy, supermarket, grocery store, convenience food store, foodmart, or other entity engaged in the retail sale of a limited line of goods that includes milk, bread, soda, and snack foods, including those stores with a [liquor] license ..."

Currently, related ordinances have been adopted by and are in effect in Maui, Kauai, and Hawai'i counties to enforce environmentally friendly policies by, among other things, banning single use plastic bags. (Honolulu County's ordinance goes into effect July 1, 2015.) These County ordinances encourage businesses to use bags that are made of paper (to include recyclable and biodegradable bags in certain instances), or that are reusable, while prohibiting the use of plastic bags. Each county passed measures it felt most appropriate to address the concerns and needs of its community.

While it is clear the intent of HB 357 is to increase funding of certain, important environmental initiatives, it does not take into account the burden it imposes on retailers and consumers who try to do the right thing. For example, Verizon carry-out bags are wood free; the paper in the manufacture of the bags is plant based and not made from trees, wood or wood fiber. In addition, the paper has been certified by the Programme for the Enforcement of Forest

Certification (PEFC), a global organization that promotes the sustainable management of the world's forest. This includes measures to protect water quality, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, species at risk, and forests, with exceptional conservation value. The irony of HB 357 is that it permits the use of "reusable bags" that are less environmentally friendly than Verizon's bag, and which includes thick plastic bags that are not particularly "green" because they do not have to be biodegradable, and could eventually be disposed of by the user into the environment.

Unlike grocery stores, large retail stores with pharmacies and convenience stores who may provide hundreds or thousands of bags to their customers daily, Verizon provides environmentally-friendly and much smaller bags and by the nature of our business, provide comparatively far fewer bags to our customers. Verizon recommends that this legislation instead focus on grocery stores, large retail stores with pharmacies and convenience stores – where items are likely to be purchased in large volume requiring multiple and typically larger bags.

For the above stated reasons, Verizon is opposed to HB 357 HD2 and requests the Committee to consider an amendment that would limit the burden to bill and collect the new fee and comply with monthly reporting obligations, to businesses that are responsible for the majority of the distribution of single use bags on a daily basis. As written, this legislation penalizes companies that have proactively adopted substantive green policies or have altered business processes to comply with county ordinances.

In closing, Verizon asks Chair Luke and the Members of the Committee to NOT PASS HB 357 HD2. If, however, the Committee decides to pass HB 357 HD2, Verizon requests your consideration to limit application to businesses that sell food and beverages such as grocery stores, large retail stores with pharmacies and convenience stores.

Thank you for your consideration of this amendment to House Bill 357 HD2.

Respectfully Yours,



Joyce Masamitsu

## FINTestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 5:07 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** jenaries23@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM

### **HB357**

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer Milholen	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in support of this bill as a necessary disincentive to single-use plastic bag distribution. Thank you.

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## FINTestimony

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**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 10:08 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** nihipalim001@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM

### **HB357**

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michele Nihipali	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I recently returned from San Francisco where a \$0.10 per bag has been put into effect. Plastic bags were already banned and only paper bags are available. The result is people bring their own reusable bags or pay the fee. You never see any plastic bags littering roadsides, beaches or any other public places. We are on an island with constant fighting about where the next landfill will be. Lets do something and reduce the amount of non-biodegradable plastic piling up on our roads, beaches and landfills.

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## FINTestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 10:00 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** IkaikaPestana@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM

### **HB357**

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ikaika Pestana	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support the fee on plastic bags because it would raise revenue for the state government while decreasing the use of disposable plastic bags which are harmful to our environment.

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## **FINTestimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 9:47 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** blairadactyl@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM

### **HB357**

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Blair	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Single use plastics are wasteful and unnecessary. This bill is a great step in the right direction to help curb the damage being incurred by to our fragile island environment. I SUPPORT HB357.

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February 21, 2013

To: The Honorable Sylvia Lake, Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

From: Marirai C. Maui Tauotaha  
mauinko@gmail.com

Re: **HB357 HD2 – STRONG SUPPORT**  
Hearing on Friday, February 22, State Capitol, Conf. Rm. 308, 3:00pm

Aloha Chair Lake, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in strong support of HB357 relating to the environment which has the purpose of reducing the amount of single-use checkout bags used in our beloved island home.

This is a long overdue measure and I praise the members of the legislature in pursuing this pono endeavor. I mahalo all of you for taking a simple issue and using your powers to create significant positive impact. Please forgive me for my brief testimony but I don't feel the need to ramble on, you folks are on it!

I am one of the many who already use our own reusable shopping bags and I look forward to more people adopting this practice. The proliferation of reusable shopping bags will not only demonstrate our commitment to respecting our ʻāina but also will provide opportunities for businesses to enlist individual shoppers as walking billboards; providing their logos on an environmentally conscious tool used throughout the islands on a daily basis. It's great, cost-effective PR.

I humbly ask that you see this measure through and remain firm in your commitment to mālama our ʻāina and continue to educate not only the residents of Hawaiʻi but even visitors about simple ways to kōkua the environment. These visitors may take this pono value home with them and mālama their own ʻāina where they live. Potentially becoming walking billboards in their respective hometowns.

Mahalo nui loa,  
maui



## **FINTestimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 8:23 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** alohaxtc@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM

### **HB357**

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Harvey Arkin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, They consume over 14 million trees annually in the US • Take 20 times as much water and 4 times as much energy as plastic bags • Contain toxic chemicals that pollute freshwater sources • Take up space in Hawaii's landfills. Importantly, the revenue generated from the bag fee would go towards protecting Hawaii's watersheds. Hawaii's native wildlife and plants are threatened by habitat loss, invasive species, and climate change, and the watersheds provide our current and future drinking water and are important to the health of our coastlines. If the bag fee successfully cuts bag use in half, we would generate \$15 million yearly for the much needed watershed initiative. Please support bill HB 357 the Watershed Protection/Bag Bill! Thank you

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NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
Governor

SHAN TSUTSUI  
Lieutenant Governor



## HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

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M.R.C. Greenwood, Ph.D. (UH)  
Richard Lim (DBEDT)  
Glenn Okimoto (DOT)

### PARTICIPANTS

Keali'i Lopez (DCCA)  
Alapaki Nahale-a (DHHL)  
Maj. Gen. Darryll Wong (DOD)

SENATORS  
J. Kalani English  
Clarence Nishihara  
Gilbert Kahele  
Ronald Kouchi

REPRESENTATIVES  
Mele Carroll  
Mark Hashem  
Derek Kawakami  
Clift Tsuji

COUNTIES  
Mayor Alan Arakawa  
Mayor Peter Carlisle  
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U.S. Department of Agriculture

## Testimony of the HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

### Before the House Committee on FINANCE

February 22, 2013, 3:00 PM  
Hawaii'i State Capitol, Rm 325

### In consideration of HOUSE BILL 357 HD2 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'i 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'i 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'i's ecosystems and protect our way of life. Therefore the Hawaii'i Invasive Species Council strongly supports this bill.

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

## FINTestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 7:16 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** marigold\_zoll@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM

### HB357

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marigold Zoll	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support the bill to add a fee to one time plastic bag use. 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. Funds generated by this bill would significantly improve the States ability to conduct watershed management that would have long lasting positive effects for the people of Hawaii.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 6:52 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** deehowlbeads@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM

### **HB357**

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Karen Howell	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Please pass the bill.

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## **FINTestimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 6:35 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** oahurandy@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM

### **HB357**

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Randy Ching	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The bag fee will help fund watershed protection in the state. Currently only about 10% of our native forest watershed is fenced and actively managed. We can double that to about 20% if we establish a source of dedicated funding, such as the bag fee bill. Please pass this bill and move it forward. Mahalo. Future generations will be grateful.

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Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i  
Supporting H.B. 357 HD2 Relating to the Environment  
House Committee on Finance  
Friday, February 22, 2013, 3:00PM, Room 308

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*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 HD2 and the proposed offset fee on single-use check out bags. The production, distribution, use and disposal of single-use check out bags are a significant contributor to litter in Hawai'i, are a threat to marine and bird life, and contribute to greenhouse gas emissions that exacerbate the effects climate change.

Climate change is an imminent and unprecedented threat to natural systems (e.g., forests, coastlines, coral reefs, wetlands) and to every person in Hawai'i that—whether they know it or not—depends on services from the natural environment for their livelihoods, health and welfare. Even if we drastically reduce CO2 emissions now, we will still feel the effects of climate change. In Hawai'i, science indicates that this may include:

- More frequent and more severe storms, and increased runoff and siltation;
- Overall, less rainfall and therefore less fresh water;
- Higher temperatures that may affect the health of forested watersheds;
- Climatic conditions even more conducive to invasive plants, insects and diseases;
- Sea level rise and high wave events that will harm coastal areas and groundwater systems; and
- Ocean acidification that will inhibit the growth of protective coral reefs.

We must plan and implement mitigative and adaptive measures to ensure the resilience of our natural and human systems. One of the most effective tools we have to help address the effects of climate change in Hawai'i is to protect our forests. Healthy 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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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 5:34 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** walter@wmasgroup.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM

### HB357

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Walter G Kortschak	Jurassic Kahili Ranch	Support	No

Comments: Dear Finance Committee members: As a member of the Kaua'i Watershed Alliance (KWA) and owner of a large ranch on the North Shore of Kaua'i, I am writing to express my strong support for HB 357 which will provide funding from the bag bill for the Department of Land and Natural Resources' "Rain Follows the Forest" watershed protection initiative. The health of our watershed is vital in providing clean water for our native plants and animals and ultimately for the health and well being of our communities. KWA has made significant progress on Kaua'i over the past several years, and the "Rain Follows the Forest" initiative represents an opportunity to take a proactive position on watershed health - one that will benefit all of us on the islands and strengthen our economy. Currently only about ten percent of the priority watersheds in the State are protected from feral animals and ecosystem transforming invasive weeds. I have first hand experience with the widespread damage feral pigs and invasive plant species inflict on my ranch. We need to undertake large-scale watershed protection, and I sincerely believe that the goal of doubling the number of acres of protected area is achievable if monies are dedicated to this initiative. SB 2511 would provide the dedicated funding that would make this a reality. May have an opportunity to make a difference that will effect our children and it can be remarkable. Mahalo for your support of HB 357. Aloha, Walter G. Kortschak, Owner/Managing Member, Jurassic Kahili Ranch.

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## FINTestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 2:38 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** wichman@ntbg.org  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM

### **HB357**

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Chipper Wichman	Kauai Watershed Alliance	Support	No

Comments: Dear Finance Committee members, 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 for HB 357 which will provide funding from the bag bill for the Department of Land and Natural Resources' "Rain Follows the Forest" watershed protection initiative. The health of our watershed is the key to providing clean water for our native plants and animals and ultimately for the health and well being of our communities. We have made some important progress on Kaua'i over the past several years, and the "Rain Follows the Forest" initiative represents an opportunity to take a proactive position on watershed health - one that will benefit the 'āina as well as our communities and economy. 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, and I sincerely believe that the goal of doubling the number of acres of protected area is achievable if a minimum of \$11,000,000 annually is dedicated to this initiative. SB2511 would provide the dedicated funding that would make this a reality. The KWA stands ready to help DLNR implement this visionary plan across property lines on the island of Kaua'i - the difference it could make in our lifetimes will be remarkable. Mahalo for your support of HB 357. Aloha, Chipper Wichman, KWA Chair, NTBG CEO

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## FINTestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 12:26 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** wybart4@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM

### HB357

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wyatt Bartlett	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The production and shipping of both plastic and paper bags burns a considerable amount of fossil fuels, leading to an increase in global greenhouse gases. Increasing levels of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, are the leading factor in global climate change. In order to protect our environment from pollution and ourselves from rising sea levels, it is important that we limit the burning of fossil fuels as much as possible. The action encouraged by this bill, using reusable bags instead of single-use plastic or paper ones, is one step in the right direction.

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February 20, 2013

House Committee on Finance

**Public Hearing: February 22, 2013, 3:00pm, Room 308**

**Re: HB 357 HD2, Relating to the Environment/single-use bag waste reduction**

Dear Chair Luke, and Vice Chair Nishimoto,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 357 HD2.

The ocean and coastal area provide the people of Hawaii a place of beauty and world class recreation. I have coordinated several beach cleanups over the past four years witnessing first-hand some of the problems single-use plastics cause to our environment and the image it sends to our nearly 7 million visitors each year. The harm from single use plastic and paper bags that is less visible is more alarming.

HB 357 does not require much reinforcement on the benefits it will have on our environment from the reduction of use of single-use plastic and paper bags and the complimentary benefits the revenue will provide to watershed protection and education.

This Bill is a great balance between the objectives of the State and the single-use bag problem. A ban only on plastic bags has caused an increase in the use of paper bags in other places such as Maui and San Francisco, which also have a negative environmental impact. A ban on both plastic and paper bags may be ideal to the environment, but does not allow for consumers the choice to use them if they are willing to pay a small fee for the waste it creates; instead this Bill provides a disincentive and supports our watersheds.

This Bill will raise money for watershed conservation paid directly by those who consume things that cause some of the damage instead of everyone paying through other tax measures.

When Alice Ferguson Foundation completed a survey for the results in D.C., it was found that 78% of businesses experienced a zero or positive impact on business and D.C. experienced an 80% reduction in 2010. In order for Hawaii to have the same success, I strongly support passing HB 357 into law now.

Thank you for considering my comments in support of this Bill,

Steven Mazur  
(808) 469-5022  
[steven.mazur@gmail.com](mailto:steven.mazur@gmail.com)  
59-625A Ke Iki Road  
Haleiwa, HI 96712

## FINTestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 20, 2013 8:55 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** lulubell@hawaiiantel.net  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM

### **HB357**

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lucille Morelli	Individual	Support	No

Comments: You would not believe the amount of bags caught by the park fence that we see & try to pick up every night that we walk our dog. Maybe people won't be so careless if each bag costs money? Even if that doesn't stop the bags from flying, putting this money to good use will help.

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## FINTestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 20, 2013 8:10 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** ari@styrophobia.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM

### HB357

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ari Patz	Styrophobia	Support	Yes

Comments: There is no such thing as a free ride. Things that seem free often come with great costs that can not be see for some time to come. As this Nation moves forward we see that pro environment issue are of greater and greater importance. Regardless of how damaging the impacts of our actions are, it is easy to see that a clean environment is favored over one littered with single use bags. The convenience offered by single use bags is a short term luxury that we should not afford. Just because we can, does not mean that we should. With the passing of this bill, monies will be provided to fund programs that the general fund would otherwise struggle to support. Industry will take in monies to help offset any hardship and the issues surrounding single use bags will become a greater part of our culture. Bag usage will drop and a more socially responsible and environmentally astute Hawaii will emerge. We can build a thriving Hawaii economy based on doing things as good as we can. Mahalo, Ari Patz

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## **FINTestimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 20, 2013 7:31 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** melanie.abecassis@wanadoo.fr  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM

### **HB357**

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melanie Abecassis	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this bill to finally reduce waste and plastic pollution. Many European countries have successfully eliminated single use bags from supermarkets. It is time that Hawai'i acts on this too. This bill is a good step towards waste reduction and changing habits until the plastic bag ban goes into effect.

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## **FINTestimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 20, 2013 7:13 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** joebretzke@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM

### **HB357**

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
joe bretzke	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We should ban all plastic, but this is a crucial first step

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## FINTestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 20, 2013 4:55 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** barrybws@aol.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM

### HB357

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barry Usagawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support House Bill No.357 HD2, which establishes a fee to mitigate the damaging effects of single-use checkout bags by improving water quality and watershed health. Watershed partnerships involving agencies, landowners, organizations and community groups require a dedicated, stable source of funding to implement forestry management projects that improve the health of Oahu's forest reserves and groundwater aquifers. A stable source of funds will ensure partnership programs and projects are sustained especially in a climate change future of decreasing rainfall and increasing drought severity. Thank you for this opportunity to support HB357 HD2.

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## FINTestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 20, 2013 3:10 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** MSMatson@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM

### **HB357**

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
MS Matson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Strongly support.

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## FINTestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 20, 2013 2:46 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** rezentesc@aol.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM

### HB357

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cynthia K.L. Rezentes	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Luke and members of the Committee on Finance, While not being a popular bill for many, I believe that this bill will move in a direction to eventually make all of our lives better. As an island community which relies heavily upon our ocean resources, I am definitely in favor of options that will help to reduce the amount of plastics that find their way into our ocean waters. I have heard of various instances where plastic bags in the near-shore waters have been "sucked" into the leg of an outboard/inboard motor causing major damage to engines costing thousands of dollars of repair. In addition, there have also been numerous stories of sea creatures who either have ingested the plastic bags (probably thinking the bag is a jelly fish meal) or have been entrapped by plastic bags. Considering the importance that is placed on our island culture and ocean connection, these instances are not acceptable and if there does not appear to be other alternatives that will keep these plastic bags contained and not loose in our environment, perhaps it is time to pay the true cost of this convenience that we have all enjoyed thus far. Therefore, at this time, I would support this bill to further encourage everyone to consider opting for re-usable bags which may be more readily managed and controlled with lesser impacts to the environment. Mahalo, Cynthia K.L. Rezentes

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## FINTestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 20, 2013 1:30 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** noelk@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM

### **HB357**

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Noel Kent	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We need to curtail the use of plastic bags and at least secure some revenues from their continued impact on the environment.

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## CONSERVATION COUNCIL FOR HAWAII'I

Testimony Submitted to the House Committee on Finance  
Hearing: Friday, February 22, 2013 3 pm Room 308

In Support of HB 357 HD 2 Relating to the Environment

Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports HB 357 HD 2, which establishes single-use checkout bag program and fee. Directs use of fee revenues to mitigate the effects of single-use checkout bags and protect Hawai'i's fresh water supply. Appropriates funds. Effective July 1, 2012. (HB357 HD2). We support the bill for the following reasons:

- ✚ Investing in our watersheds makes good ecological and economic sense.
- ✚ 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, a central goal of *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 Hawai'i's forests have been lost. Historically, the threat was overharvesting and development.
- ✚ Invasive species are one of the most significant threats to our watersheds, native species, habitats, cultural areas, recreation areas, and agricultural lands.
- ✚ The longer we wait to take significant action, the higher the cost will be to reverse the damage, thereby threatening water supplies for future generations.
- ✚ Forests also help mitigate erosion and runoff into our precious streams and coastlines.
- ✚ 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 may benefit invasive pests.
- ✚ 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.

Please pass HB 357 HD 2. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Ziegler



**Hawai'i's Voice for Wildlife – Ko Leo Hawai'i no na holoholona lohiu**

Telephone/Fax 808.593.0255 • email: [info@conservehi.org](mailto:info@conservehi.org) • web: [www.conservehi.org](http://www.conservehi.org)

P.O. Box 2923 • Honolulu, HI 96802 • Office: 250 Ward Ave., Suite 220 • Honolulu, HI 96814

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Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler



## HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (HFIA)

1050 Bishop St. PMB 235

Honolulu, HI 96813

Fax : 808-791-0702

Telephone : 808-533-1292

DATE: Friday, February 22, 2013  
TIME: 3:00 P.M.  
PLACE: Conference Room 308  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

TO:  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair

Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen	Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi
Rep. Mark J. Hashem	Rep. Gregg Takayama
Rep. Kaniela Ing	Rep. James Kunane Tokioka
Rep. Jo Jordan	Rep. Justin H. Woodson
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi	Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita
Rep. Nicole E. Lowen	Rep. Beth Fukumoto
Rep. Dee Morikawa	Rep. Gene Ward

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

RE: HB 357, HD 2 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENT

### Position: Comments

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

**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.



**Testimony of the Hawaii Green Growth Initiative  
In Support of HB357/SB 1165/ HB 934 Relating to the Environment**

**House Committee on Finance**

22 February 2013, 3:00pm  
Conference Room 308

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

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Johanson and Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Hawaii Green Growth Initiative (HGG) in **support of HB357/SB 1165/ HB 934 to provide critical funding for watershed protection and invasive species management through a fee on single-use bags**. 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. Our members include more than 40 leaders from government, private, and non-profit organizations in Hawai'i.

HGG asks you to support HB357/SB1165/ HB 934 because it creates an innovative funding source to expand protection of Hawaii's watersheds and water supply, and to address our most pressing invasive pest species. It also will help reduce 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 of this bill. Implementation of these bills is 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 residents, 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 HB357/SB 1165/HB 934.

Mahalo nui for your time and consideration,

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

Audrey Newman  
Senior Advisor, Global Island Partnership (GLISPA)  
*Promoting action for island conservation and sustainable livelihoods.* [www.glispa.org](http://www.glispa.org)

## **FINTestimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 5:21 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** laurie@honoluluweekly.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM

### **HB357**

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
laurie carlson	slow food oahu	Support	No

Comments: It is disappointing that this bill isn't a no-brainer for Hawaii. We live on an island. We depend on tourism for our economy. We need to protect our marine environment and eliminate plastic bags as best we can. We need to legislate this change. Voluntary action is not enough.

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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## FINTestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 5:34 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** fuzzyhippo@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM

### **HB357**

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jason McMurray	Individual	Support	No

Comments: It's about time this was changed! It's so easy and beneficial to bring a reusable bag, all the public needs is a little 10 cent push towards that direction.

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## **FINTestimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 6:06 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** louise.giuseffi@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM\*

### **HB357**

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Louise Giuseffi	Individual	Support	No

#### Comments:

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## FINTestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 6:02 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** Brycegroff@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM\*

### **HB357**

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bryce Groff	Individual	Support	No

#### Comments:

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## **FINTestimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 6:50 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** envrvw@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM

### **HB357**

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
David Penn	Individual	Support	No

Comments: RL:2302

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## FINTestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 6:31 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** pageelse@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM

### HB357

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Page Else	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this measure. Less than 1% of the Hawaii state budget goes to supporting land management (DLNR) and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, yet these agencies manage the resources which must sustain us. Tourists come to Hawaii to see natural beauty and coral reefs. But our reefs are badly degraded in many areas because our watersheds are not healthy. It takes a healthy forest in the upper watershed to help protect water quality and groundwater supplies. This tax is a way to help fund forest protection. Water supplies are also essential to agriculture.

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## FINTestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 6:59 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** ferentinos@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB357 on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM

### HB357

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Ferentinos	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We need to ensure fresh water is available for the people of Hawai'i in perpetuity by protecting our watershed forests, a central goal of A New Day in Hawai'i plan. More than half of Hawaii's forests have been lost. Historically, the threat was overharvesting and development. Today's threat is invasive plants and animals. Most importantly, healthy forests that are not overrun by invasive species efficiently capture and deliver fresh water into streams and aquifers for our use. Forests can actually increase water capture up to 50% more than through rainfall alone. The longer we wait to take significant action, the higher the cost will be to reverse the damage, thereby threatening water supplies for future generations. Forests also help mitigate erosion and runoff into our precious streams and coastlines. Healthy forests will become even more critical as we experience the already proven effects of climate change, including more severe storms but overall less rainfall, and temperature changes that may benefit invasive pests. 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.

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