



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

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

LATE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

S.B. 620, RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

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

February 7, 2013  
2:45 p.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health respectfully does not have the resources to  
2 implement this measure and cannot support it in its current form.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** Undetermined.

4 **Purpose and Justification:** This bill requires food establishments to provide customers with an option  
5 to use compostable or reusable food containers and post signage informing customers that compostable  
6 containers are available at no extra cost. It also requires violators to pay fines for repeated violations. It  
7 also requires the department to maintain a list of suitable and appropriate packaging for prepared food.

8 The department lacks the resources to implement this measure. There are currently over 10,000  
9 permitted food establishments statewide. Current staffing levels in the Environmental Health Services  
10 Division and Environmental Management Division programs are inadequate given the number of  
11 permitted facilities.

12 There are currently no facilities in the state that compost used food containers. In addition, there  
13 are no existing and comprehensive waste collection system that would promote the segregation and  
14 collection of these containers.

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

*Promoting Lifelong Health & Wellness*

**SB620**

Submitted on: 2/7/2013

Testimony for ENE/CPN on Feb 7, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
janice palma-glenie	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, please support the end of the use of styrofoam in restaurants.  
mahalo

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
JJ Enos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Non-compostable styrene is should be replaced with compostable containers. Our landfills and marine life are suffering. Let us all help in eliminating it!

**SB620**

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tatiana Tauotaha	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I, Tatiana Tauotaha, support Maui Tauotaha in his efforts to malama aina. Mahalo nui loa.

LATE

Aloha my name is Kahi Pacarro representing SCH, we've removed over 27000 pounds of trash with the help of over 3500 volunteers, with even more supporters worldwide.

Styrofoam is one of the major items we find on the beach. Especially on town coastlines where the majority of residents live because of offshore winds. We tally the trash we collect and find styrofoam as one of the top 5 by count every time.

We are trying to reduce our dependence on oil! Polystyrene is made out of petroleum which is shipped here.

No recycling facility on island for styrofoam.

The argument this bill would take away jobs it will actually create new jobs through making compostable products and managing efficient composting facilities,

Takes up room in landfill since it is 95% air. Inefficient.

Considering the leaching effect. Eating food in styrofoam is like drinking beer mixed with gas!

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christen Hepuakoa Marquez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB620**

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kamakaniokaaina Paikai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB620**

Submitted on: 2/7/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Furst	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support SB 620 to require restaurants to provide an option to customers to use recyclable or compostable food containers. Disposable food containers, especially EPS containers, are significantly contributing to the waste stream in Hawaii. There are much better alternatives available, which should be made available to consumers.

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Honolulu, HI 96826  
mauinko@gmail.com

02/07/2013

To: Hawai'i State Legislature, ENE/CPN Committees  
Re: SB619 & SB620 relating to mālama 'āina



Aloha Kākou,

I am writing in support of SB619 & SB620 of the 2013 Hawai'i State legislative session.

I praise and respect your desire to mālama 'āina and truly do your best to take care of our beautiful island home. I thank you for addressing this issue that has been on my mind for many, many years. Please forgive me for not submitting my testimony earlier.

I am always saddened to see any kind of trash on our 'āina and polystyrene foam seems to be one of the ones I see the most. We are blessed to have our food choices here in Hawai'i and many of us use food containers that are just not good for our 'āina. Today we have alternative choices like reusable and compostable food containers and I fully support using them. Otherwise we are just being lazy and disrespecting our home.

Shall we be smart or continue to be lazy? Because I love and respect my island home, I choose to be smart. Regardless of what you folks decide I will only spend my money at establishments that also mālama 'āina in this respect and will use my own reusable containers whenever possible.

For myself and many others this is an obvious choice. Please search your conscience and do what you feel is best for your home and your future generations.

Mahalo,  
Maui

Good afternoon,

My name is Megan Fellows. I am a third year law student at Richardson, and I authored SB 620, and I will be testifying in favor of this bill.

When I first moved to Hawaii, I experienced a kind of culture shock, but it was relating to garbage. I could not fathom that an island community as small as Hawaii's would be so enamored with a disposable container so utterly contrary to the best interests of Hawaii's environment, economy, and public health.

Hawaii's economy is heavily dependent on its rich environmental resources, from protecting its beaches from litter to protecting its fragile marine ecosystem. Because expanded polystyrene—also known as EPS foam and sometimes known by the trademarked Styrofoam name—is so light, it easily escapes from garbage cans whenever there are high winds. It becomes unsightly litter on our streets, on our beaches, and in our waters. The problem does not end there. Studies show that expanded polystyrene—also known as Styrofoam—breaks down into tiny pieces of non-compostable garbage in the water. Birds and other sea life, such as turtles, eat these tiny pieces of styrene and die.

Even when EPS foam successfully makes its way to the landfill, the problem does not end there. EPS foam is not compostable. What goes to our landfills will stay there forever. On an island, that kind of waste is unthinkable. And while EPS foam can be burned, it releases neurotoxic chemicals when it does so. Years ago, people might have said, “well, we don't have any better alternatives,” but this is no longer the case. Companies such as McDonald's abandoned EPS foam for their containers years ago. Several cities around the US have successfully banned EPS foam without any problems to its local businesses. Locally, many local restaurants, and even many UH cafeterias, have already switched over to compostable food containers. Not only are these containers of equal or higher quality to EPS foam, when burned they burn cleaner also produce higher BTUs than EPS foam, which means that they produce more energy when burned in a facility such as H-Power.

I understand that many restaurants will say that switching to compostable containers is a hardship, but providing a compostable option to consumers is not. Hawaii residents are concerned about their islands. Many buy plate lunch in EPS foam clamshell containers not because they prefer it, but because they have no other choice. We are worried about our landfills, we are worried about our air pollution, and we are worried about our marine environment. The easiest way for consumers to allay those worries is to allow them choice.

This isn't just about the environment. As I said earlier, EPS foam releases a neurotoxin when burned. The EPA has found that when you heat an EPS foam container by putting hot food or hot drinks in it, those same chemicals leach into your food. Consumers deserve to be able to choose whether they will continue to be exposed to EPS foam in their food.

Although there are many difficult environmental decisions ahead of Hawaii, this one is very simple. It is a matter of empowering consumers with the ability to choose to protect their air, their water, and their own health.

Thank you for your time.

LATE

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
mariko reed	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Hawaii can be a world leader in environmental reform. We will also need a public compost service to compost all of these containers. Look at San Francisco's waste management, landfill waste has been reduced by over 70% through compost and recycling. Our islands deserve more respect than to be filled with our garbage.

**SB620**

Submitted on: 2/7/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gina Franchini	Individual	Support	No

Comments: