

HB 621, HD1



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of H.B. 621, H.D.1 with Comments
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BACKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Hearing Date: **March 19, 2015**
2:30 p.m.

Room Number: 225

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** No funding is provided to implement the measure.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department supports this measure with comments.
- 3 This measure seeks to phase out and ultimately prohibit the manufacture and sale in Hawaii of
- 4 personal care products containing synthetic plastic microbeads. The Department of Health
- 5 (DOH) is aware that the accumulation and possible impacts of microplastic particles in the
- 6 marine environment is recognized as an important emerging environmental issue. There is both
- 7 pending federal and state legislation on banning microplastics in consumer products. Many of
- 8 the major personal care product manufacturers have voluntarily pledged to phase out the use of
- 9 microbeads in their products. The DOH believes that joining other states in prohibiting the sale
- 10 of personal care products with plastic microbeads is in the best interest of protecting our marine
- 11 environment.
- 12 DOH does, however, have two suggestions with regards to the current draft of this measure.
- 13 Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS") chapter 342H, into which this bill places the new microbeads
- 14 ban, does not regulate personal care products and over the counter drugs, but rather regulates
- 15 solid wastes. DOH suggests that the legislature place the language of this bill into HRS chapter
- 16 328 because the substance of this bill is more consistent with the subject matter of that chapter,

1 specifically, the regulation of cosmetics (i.e., “personal care products”). Placement of the
2 substance of this bill into chapter 328 part I also makes the additional rulemaking and
3 enforcement authority of this bill unnecessary because that part already contains rulemaking and
4 enforcement language. Finally, we would note that since this bill operates as simply a ban on a
5 specific type of consumer product, there is no apparent need for the DOH to promulgate rules to
6 effectuate the intent of this measure.
7 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Dear Senator Baker, Senator Gabbard and Honorable Members of the Committee,

This testimony is submitted on behalf of The Story of Stuff Project and The 5 Gyres Institute. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 621.

We support the intention of the bill - to keep plastic pollution out of the oceans - and are here to encourage responsible oversight of the use of so called “biodegradable plastic” alternatives.

Small plastic is a big problem. In 2012, researchers from the State University of New York at Fredonia and The 5 Gyres Institute discovered high concentrations of plastic microbeads traced back to personal care products in all The Great Lakes¹. Subsequent research has documented microbeads in dozens of waterways across the country. Wherever scientists look, they seem to find microbeads.

Microbeads, designed to go down the drain, escape sewage treatment and are littered into the environment. How many are escaping? Scientists estimate that about 417 million plastic microbeads are discharged daily into the San Francisco Bay alone². It stands to reason that wherever there is a large population near water, similar will be true.

Once in the environment, plastic works like a sponge for other toxic chemicals present in the water, concentrating pesticides, oil from your car, and flame retardants. Within a month, microplastic can be up to a million times more toxic than the ambient water surrounding it. Beyond absorbing toxins, anything made of plastic typically has additives that give it performance attributes: rigid, malleable, soft, or hard—anywhere from 4-80% of the weight of every plastic product you touch is additives. These additives are often toxic as well. In a short time, they desorb from the plastic and enter the water, where they become bioavailable to animals—making waterborne plastic the ultimate one two punch.

Plastic microbeads also resemble fish eggs, and we know from science that plastic particles are ingested by hundreds of animals, including numerous species of fish

¹<http://www.marcuseriksen.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Microplastic-pollution-in-the-surface-waters-of-the-Laurentian-Great-Lakes.pdf>

² Based upon average estimates of microbeads found in final effluent and sewage sludge (Mason et al., unpublished data; Magnusson & Noren, 2014; Martin & Eizhvertina, 2014)

that humans consume³. After ingestion, the concentrated chemicals can transfer to the tissue of an animal causing endocrine disruption and liver damage⁴. Once transferred, these toxins are difficult for animals to purge. For example, in mammals, the only way for the body to get rid of these toxins is through breast milk or the umbilical cord. Consequently, each subsequent generation carries a higher toxic burden. We also know that bigger fish eat smaller fish, magnifying that burden up the food chain. We are at the top of that food chain, and at the end of our fishing lines we catch those big fish to eat.

After the discovery of microbeads in The Great Lakes, concerned citizens started a campaign to eliminate this plastic from consumer care products. Through a variety of tactics, a coalition of advocates were able to convince Procter & Gamble, L’Oreal, The Body Shop, Colgate, and Johnson & Johnson to agree to phase the beads out. But these brands declined to say when they would do it or with what they would replace the plastic. The lack of a definite commitment from large companies, coupled with the fact that hundreds of products contain these plastic microbeads, inspired a coalition of agencies, industry and nonprofits to put forward a policy that would prohibit the sale of consumer products containing microbeads.

But not all the bills currently being considered across the country actually address the problem—the cosmetic industry supports a bill that leaves a truck sized loophole for so-called biodegradable plastic such as PLA—the compostable corn cup you may have seen at a beer festival. The problem is that PLA does not biodegrade more effectively than traditional plastic in the environment; PLA needs an industrial composting facility to biodegrade properly. Industry supported legislation also leaves loopholes for other kinds of plastic including the same type found in cigarette filters. These plastics, if adopted to replace the status quo microbeads, will present the exact threat to our ecosystem that this legislation is meant to stop.

We as advocates have no problem with entrepreneurs who desire to innovate. But let us make sure this law does not allow for the problem to endure, and let’s make sure that if industry is going to substitute another type of plastic in their reformulations, that there is transparency. It would irresponsible to allow the same industry that has caused the problem - and knew about the problem before it entered the public discourse - to self govern. If they are going to use plastic again, we want to make sure that it will biodegrade before it reaches the end of the wastewater treatment pipe. It doesn’t matter if biodegradable plastics go away in two years or two months—fish will still eat them, and they will still absorb toxins during that residence time. And if plastic microbeads continue to flow into the environment via wastewater every day, any biodegradability clock is reset with every drop. Beyond this, the intention behind the development of biodegradable plastics is to make them less harmful if they happen to escape the waste stream into the environment - not for them to be intentionally littered.

³ http://www.int-res.com/articles/meps_oa/m485p155.pdf

⁴ <http://www.nature.com/srep/2013/131121/srep03263/full/srep03263.html>

For nearly a year, industry would not admit that they were trying to replace plastic with plastic, choosing rather to spend big bucks to kill microbead bills by confusing the public and legislators alike. Now that we know their intentions, we need to put an end to the dirty tricks and bait and switch policies they support. We have given them four years to do the right thing, and we do not want to be back here four years from now having the same debate because they refused to switch to an environmentally benign substitute. From media reports on business deals concerning investment into plastic microbead alternatives, it's clear what industry intends as a replacement; another type of plastic. Let us ensure that government has the ability to assess whether these emerging technologies are safe, so that our shared waters are uncorrupted for generations to come.

Contacts:

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The Story Of Stuff Project
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Campaign Manager
The 5 Gyres Institute
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Mobile: 805.708.3435

Jodi Malinoski
Surfrider Foundation Oahu Chapter
Committee of ENE/CPN
Tuesday, March 19th, 3:30 PM in Room 225
Bill HB 621 HD 1: Synthetic Plastic Microbeads
Support of HB 621 HD 1

Dear Chair Gabbard, Chair Baker, Vice Chair Green, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and committee members,

Aloha, my name is Jodi Malinoski and I am the Rise Above Plastics Coordinator for Surfrider Foundation Oahu Chapter. The Rise Above Plastics coalition comprises of five environmental groups: Surfrider Foundation, Styrophobia, Sustainable Coastlines, Conservation Council for Hawaii, and Kōkua Hawaii Foundation; I am writing to represent our coalition who is in strong support of House Bill 621.

Over 80% of marine pollution is floating plastic. Synthetic microbeads are a type of plastic pollution that is particularly problematic because once in the ocean, they cannot be recovered. Microbeads are too small to be filtered out by Hawaii's sewage treatment facilities. Instead, they are discharged with treated sewage, where they absorb persistent organic pollutants and are consumed by a variety of marine life, including the fish we harvest for food. Several states such as Illinois, California, and New York have already introduced legislation to ban microbeads. As a similar Bill, HB 621 builds on the voluntary phasing out of these products by companies such as L'oreal, Proctor and Gamble, and Johnson and Johnson. These companies are phasing out the use of plastic exfoliants and are replacing these microplastics with natural alternatives that are more environmentally friendly and will not bioaccumulate up the food chain if ingested by marine life.

This Bill is important because it reduces a type of pollution that cannot be cleaned up from the marine environment, yet poses many health risks to marine animals and humans. Along with the voluntary action of several large skin and tooth care companies to reduce microbead pollution, Hawaii needs to take action to prevent the selling and distribution of products containing microplastics. On behalf of the Rise Above Plastics campaign, please pass HB 621 against synthetic plastic microbeads.

Warmest Mahalo,

Jodi Malinoski

Rafael Bergstrom
Surfrider Foundation Oahu Chapter
HB621
ENE/CPN, March 19th 2015, 3:30PM
Strong Support

The use of microbeads, made of small plastic particles, presents significant problems for human health and marine life. Microbeads, which are designed to be “flushed” with use, are not filtered in treatment plants and end up in our fresh and ocean ecosystems. Like many plastics, these small pieces remain in our environment without breaking down and thus enter food systems. Animals may ingest these and then subsequently the contaminated fish life can enter the human food system. Many mainstream cosmetic companies have already stopped the use of these microbeads as there are plenty of natural alternatives that can provide the same effects.

Surfrider Oahu continues to advocate for a community in which we significantly reduce our reliance on all forms of single use plastics. Our Rise Above Plastics coalition believes that we can create a world in which we have a stronger kuleana towards protecting our near shore waters from unnecessary plastic pollution. Please join us in creating an environment that we respect enough to protect for generations into the future.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Rafael Bergstrom
Oahu Chapter Coordinator, Surfrider Foundation

March 17, 2015

The Honorable Mike Gabbard
Committee on Energy and Environment, Chair
Hawai'i Senate
State Capitol, Room 201
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Support for H.B. 621 (Lee) – Prohibiting Synthetic Plastic Microbeads

Dear Chairman Gabbard,

I am writing on behalf of the Consumer Healthcare Products Association (CHPA) to respectfully urge your support for House Bill 621, which seeks to phase-out the use of synthetic plastic microbeads in personal care products and over-the-counter medicines.

CHPA is the 133-year-old trade association representing the leading manufacturers and marketers of over-the-counter (OTC) medicines and dietary supplements. Every dollar spent by consumers on OTC medicines saves the U.S. healthcare system \$6-\$7, contributing a total of \$102 billion in savings each year. CHPA is committed to promoting the increasingly vital role of over-the-counter medicines and dietary supplements in America's healthcare system through science, education, and advocacy.

CHPA member companies understand that plastic pollution in the environment is of concern to regulators, policy makers, advocacy groups and the public. CHPA's member companies do not oppose the phase-out of plastic microbeads from over-the-counter medications. In fact, many manufacturers have already begun proactively phasing-out the use of synthetic plastic microbeads.

CHPA supports uniform state solutions aimed at avoiding a patchwork of differing laws to address concerns related to synthetic plastic microbeads. To date, Illinois is the only state to have passed a law prohibiting the sale of products containing synthetic plastic microbeads¹, though as many as 27 states will consider legislation on the issue in 2015. CHPA supports H.B. 621 because it mirrors the existing Illinois law, ensuring reasonable effective dates and uniform definitions for key terms. The bill also closely aligns with legislation that has been passed by the Washington State Senate and both chambers of the legislatures in Colorado, Indiana, Maine and New Jersey.

CHPA commends Representative Lee for his balanced approach to addressing this issue, and we respectfully urge your support for H.B. 621 without further amendments. CHPA sincerely appreciates your consideration of our position on this issue. If you have any questions regarding our position, please contact CHPA's in-state counsel, Lauren Zirbel (LSZ Consulting) at 808-294-9968 or LaurenZirbel@gmail.com.

¹ Illinois Public Act 098-0638 – Signed into law June 9, 2014

Consumer Healthcare Products Association
Support for H.B. 621
March 17, 2015 - Page 2 of 2

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sean R. Moore". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Sean R. Moore
Associate Director, State Government Affairs

cc: Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
The Honorable Chris Lee, Hawai'i House of Representatives
Ms. Lauren Zirbel, LSZ Consulting

Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawai'i

P.O. Box 25284 · Honolulu · Hawai'i · 96825

(808) 393 2168 · www.b-e-a-c-h.org

DATE: 16th March, 2015

TO: Chair Mike Gabbard and Members of the Committee on Energy and Environment
Chair Rosalyn Baker and Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

FROM: Suzanne Frazer, President, Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawai'i

RE: **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB621 HD1**

Relating to Environmental Protection. Gradually prohibits the manufacture and sale of personal care products containing synthetic plastic microbeads to protect marine life.

Committee meeting on Thursday 19th March, 2015 at 3:30PM in room 225.

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Baker and Committee Members,

Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawai'i (B.E.A.C.H.) supports HB621 HD1. This bill is very important to the effort to reduce plastic in the ocean and this ban needs to go into effect by next year at the very latest. We respectfully request that you **please amend the start dates for the ban** to go into effect much sooner than the 3-5 years in the bill. Manufacturers can change immediately to using natural alternatives and retailers are unlikely to have 3 years worth of merchandise stored away as these items would go off in that time and be unsaleable. Also with the cost of storage/space in Hawai'i so high, retailers would not be holding 3-5 years worth of stock as it would cost too much to store it.

There also needs to be one start date for this bill. There is especially no need to allow extra time for removal of plastic microbeads from "over-the-counter drugs" as microbeads are only added to toothpaste for colouring and decorative purposes. Plastic microbeads are not an active ingredient in toothpaste nor are they approved by the FDA to be included in this product.

To ensure this law is not undermined in the implementation phase and unintended consequences result, please **remove "synthetic"** from all mentions of "synthetic plastic microbead" in this bill and amend the following 2 definitions:

"Plastic" - this definition needs amending as it says that plastic retains its shape after disposal - this is not true as we've seen a lot of plastic in pieces or melted after disposal and at H-Power the plastic is in ashes after disposal, so this definition needs to be amended to **remove "retaining their defined shapes during lifecycle and after disposal"**.

"Synthetic plastic microbead" - please **remove** the word "**non-biodegradable**" from this definition. As it is important that all plastic microbeads are banned including those made from bio-plastics as these do not biodegrade or compost in the ocean and will still be ingested by marine life. There are plenty of naturally occurring substitutes for plastic

microbeads including sand, sea salt, sugar, fruit seeds, oats, rice, bamboo, nut shells, etc. Plastic should never be washed down the drain in any form including “biodegradable” and “compostable” plastics.

Also in the definition on “synthetic plastic microbead” it includes “used to exfoliate or cleanse in a rinse off product”. This does not include the fact that microbeads are added to toothpaste purely for decorative purposes and not used to exfoliate or cleanse. Microbeads are also added to products as bulking agents and to non rinse-off products such as sunscreen, make-up, bubble bath and wrinkle creams among other products. Therefore the use of the microbeads should not be included in this definition unless it includes all the uses and reasons why microbeads are added to personal care products. Please *delete* “used to exfoliate or cleanse in a rinse off product” from this definition and *delete* “synthetic”.

It is important to ban the sale and manufacture in Hawai'i of plastic microbeads in personal care products as they are not able to be removed at wastewater facilities and therefore they get discharged into the ocean. These plastic microbeads are so small they can't be removed from the ocean or from the beach if they wash ashore.

The whole food chain is affected by plastic in the ocean. Plankton has been found to be ingesting plastic. All plastic is made with chemicals and there are also chemicals that attach onto the plastic in the ocean - these are persistent organic pollutants (POPs) such as DDT, DDE and dioxins. The chemicals in and on plastic in the ocean are passed through the food chain, bioaccumulating along the way. These chemicals cause cancer and other diseases. In the ocean, POPs attach onto not only plastic made from fossil fuels, but also plastic made from biomass. Therefore please pass a ban on all plastic microbeads, not just “synthetic” or “non-biodegradable” ones.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB621 HD1.

Sincerely,



Suzanne Frazer.
President,
Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawai'i (B.E.A.C.H.).



Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawai'i is an all volunteer, non-profit organization that brings awareness and solutions to marine debris through environmental education; plastic reduction/litter prevention campaigns; and marine debris removal and research; in order to inspire actions by individuals and the community that protect Hawai'i's marine life, sea birds and ocean/coastal environment.



March 16, 2015

To: The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Members, Senate Committees on Energy & Environment, and Commerce and Consumer Protection

From: Tim Shestek, Senior Director
State Affairs

Re: **HB 621 HD 1 – SUPPORT**
Set for hearing on March 19, 2015

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) is a national trade association representing chemical and plastic manufacturers in the United States. Our members are committed to the safety of their products and to the protection of public health and the environment. To that end, our industry has implemented several programs aimed to reducing and eliminating marine debris by promoting the proper use, handling, recycling and recovery of these valuable materials. Information about these efforts can be found at www.marinedebrissolutions.org

This week, your committees will consider HB 621, legislation that would restrict the use of microbeads in personal care products. ACC supports the language contained in HB 621 HD 1. This language would bring Hawaii in alignment with existing law in Illinois and is consistent with model language adopted by the Council of State Governments last year. ACC urges your committees to support this bill so that a uniform and practical approach to this issue can be implemented nationally.

Thank you in advance for considering our views. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me or ACC's Hawai'i based representatives Red Morris and/or John Radcliffe at 808-531-4551.





March 18, 2015

Committee Chair & Members of ENE (Energy & Enviro.) & CPN (Commerce and Consumer Protection)

RE: Strong Support for HB621 – Relating to Plastic Microbeads – Strong Support

Hearing on Wed., 3/19/15, State Capitol, Conf. Rm. 225, 3:30PM

Dear Chairs Gabbard & Baker, Vice Chairs Green & Taniguchi, and Committee Members,

As the Hawaii Regional Manager of the Surfrider Foundation, I'm writing in strong support passage of HB621. We helped draft this bill to help companies and consumers better understand and deal with the issue of plastic microbeads, which are put into cosmetic, dental and personal care products as "scrubbers" but lead to plastic pollution, contamination of the marine food chain and health issues.

Personally, I have written articles about this issue and worked with the environmental group 5 Gyres that first discovered the microbeads. 5 Gyres helped lead the effort to educate the public about the issue and then worked with large corporations like L'Oreal, Johnson & Johnson and Proctor & Gamble to phase out their use. Expanding on their work, we formed the Rise Above Plastic Coalition, which includes organizations like Styrophobia, Conservation Council for Hawaii, Sustainable Coastlines, Surfrider, Kokua Hawaii Foundation and many other groups who are committed to reducing plastic pollution.

Over 80% of marine pollution is floating plastic. Synthetic microbeads are a type of plastic pollution that is particularly problematic because they are too small to be filtered out by Hawaii's sewage treatment facilities. Instead, they are discharged with treated sewage into the ocean, where they absorb persistent organic pollutants like PCB's and DDT and are then consumed by a variety of marine life, including the fish we harvest for food.

Several states such as Minnesota, California, and New York have already introduced legislation to ban microbeads. Based on these bills, HB 621 builds on the voluntary phasing out of these products by companies who already recognize their harmful environmental and health effects. Unfortunately, some of the companies now seem to be replacing these plastic microbeads with other so-called "biodegradable plastics" like PLA. Often mistaken as fish eggs and food, these microbeads still attract all kinds of pollutants in the water and are then consumed by marine creatures up the food chain and onto our dinner plates.

In order not to replace one form of plastic pollution with another, we need to do one of two things: either remove the vague, misleading term "non-biodegradable" in the definition of "synthetic plastic microbeads" and replace it with non-compostable; or define "biodegradable" as "capable decomposing back into natural elements."

HB621 will help reduce a type of pollution that cannot be cleaned up from the marine environment and poses health risks to marine animals and humans. Hawaii should join this national campaign to take action to prevent the selling and distribution of products containing plastic microbeads. On behalf of the Rise Above Plastics campaign, we ask you to pass HB 621 with amendments and ban plastic microbeads. Mahalo for your time and consideration and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or suggestions.

Sincerely,
Stuart Coleman
Stuart H. Coleman
Hawaii Regional Manager

Surfrider Foundation Hawaii Chapters * 2121 Algaroba St., #1107 * Honolulu, HI 96826
808-381-6220 * scoleman@surfrider.org * www.surfrider.org

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [ENETestimony](#)
Cc: scolemansurfrider.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB621 on Mar 19, 2015 15:30PM
Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 4:22:28 PM

HB621

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for ENE/CPN on Mar 19, 2015 15:30PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stuart Coleman	Surfrider Foundation	Support	Yes

Comments: In order not to replace one form of plastic pollution with another, we need to amend the bill in one of two ways: either remove the vague, misleading term “non-biodegradable” in the definition of “synthetic plastic microbeads” and replace it with the term "non-compostable," which is clearly defined by ASTM; or define “biodegradable” as “capable decomposing back into natural elements in a "natural / marine environment.” You can see the Minnesota State Legislature's bill for language.

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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DATE: March 19, 2015

TO: Chair Mike Gabbard and Members of the Committee on Energy and Environment,
Chair Rosalyn Baker and Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

FROM: Alexandra Glenn
Honolulu, HI 96815

RE: **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB621 HD1**
Relating to Environmental Protection. Gradually prohibits the manufacture and sale of personal care products containing synthetic plastic microbeads to protect marine life.

Committee meeting on Thursday 19th March, 2015 at 3:30PM in room 225.

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Baker and Committee Members,

I support HB621 HD1. It is important to ban the sale and manufacture in Hawai'i of plastic microbeads in personal care products as they are not able to be removed at wastewater facilities and then they are discharged into the ocean where marine life ingest them. Plastic microbeads are so small they can't be removed from the ocean. Therefore please pass a ban on all plastic microbeads, not just "synthetic" or "non-biodegradable" ones as they are all harmful to the environment and marine life.

Please amend this bill to delete synthetic in all mentions of "synthetic plastic microbead", remove "non-biodegradable" and "used to exfoliate or cleanse in a rinse-off product" from the microbead definition as microbeads are added to products for other reasons such as for decoration.

Also please start this ban earlier than the 3-5 years in the bill as microbeads are polluting the ocean and harming marine life and the food chain and allowing this to go on for another 3-5 years is unacceptable.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB621 HD1.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Glenn

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [ENETestimony](#)
Cc: amybrinker@mac.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB621 on Mar 19, 2015 15:30PM*
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 8:16:02 PM

HB621

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for ENE/CPN on Mar 19, 2015 15:30PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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DATE: 18th March, 2015

TO: Chair Mike Gabbard and Members of the Committee on Energy and Environment
Chair Rosalyn Baker and Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

FROM: Dean Otsuki
P.O. Box 25284
Honolulu, HI 96825

RE: **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB621HD1**
Relating to Environmental Protection. Gradually prohibits the manufacture and sale of personal care products containing synthetic plastic microbeads to protect marine life

Committee meeting, Thursday 19th March, 2015 at 3:30pm, room 225.

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Baker and Committee Members,

I am writing in support of HB621HD1 to prohibit the manufacture and sale of personal care products containing plastic microbeads to protect marine life.

I'm concerned about the definition of "plastics" in this bill because plastics do not retain their shape during their life cycle and after disposal. Plastic breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces if exposed to UV light and high temperatures. Please amend the definition of plastic to add "derived from fossil fuels or biomass (plant based)". Please amend the bill to remove "synthetic" from synthetic plastic microbeads as this does not include all the types of plastic.

Under the definition of "Synthetic plastic microbead" the word non-biodegradable should not be used. This provides a loophole for manufacturers to produce "biodegradable" plastic microbeads with additives such as starch or compostable plastic microbeads which would not compost in the ocean environment. These would still harm marine life. There are other natural alternatives such as ground walnuts, almonds, pumice, sand, etc. to replace plastic microbeads.

Also in the definition of synthetic plastic microbead, plastic microbeads are "used to exfoliate or cleanse in a rinse off product." Plastic microbeads are used for many other reasons such as aesthetic and filling, therefore all reasons and uses should be included as to why they are in personal care products or eliminate the uses part of the microbeads definition.

I am respectfully requesting to amend the starting dates to July 1, 2015 because polluting the ocean with plastic microbeads is a very serious problem and needs to be addressed right away.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB621HD1.

Aloha,

Dean Otsuki

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [ENETestimony](#)
Cc: edward.g.bohlen@hawaii.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB621 on Mar 19, 2015 15:30PM
Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 5:03:17 PM

HB621

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for ENE/CPN on Mar 19, 2015 15:30PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edward Bohlen	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Plastic Microbeads are not removed from sewage by our wastewater treatment plants, harm marine life and bio-accumulate up the marine food chain. Please pass HB 621 and ban Plastic Microbeads. Mahalo.

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To: [ENETestimony](#)
Cc: hlimm@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB621 on Mar 19, 2015 15:30PM
Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 12:31:45 PM

HB621

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for ENE/CPN on Mar 19, 2015 15:30PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Holly Limm	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in strong support of HB621. Microbeads cause harm to the marine environments, because they are not filtered out of sewer water. These microbeads can cause direct harm to humans, because of toxin bioaccumulation in the food chain. We are directly ingesting these toxins that are absorbed by microbeads, when we eat sea food. There are alternatives to microbeads such as sand, coffee grinds, and other fruit products. Hawaii should ban the sale of products with micro beads. Thank you for your opportunity to provide a written testimony in support of HB621

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [ENETestimony](#)
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB621 on Mar 19, 2015 15:30PM*
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 3:48:16 PM

HB621

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for ENE/CPN on Mar 19, 2015 15:30PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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HB621

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for ENE/CPN on Mar 19, 2015 15:30PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ronnie Perry	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I strongly support this bill. Microbeads are becoming a huge problem in our oceans. They are so small they are ending up in our ocean ecosystem. These tiny bits of plastic are even getting into the respiratory system of sea creatures. We need to ban this immediately. Please support this bill. Mahalo, Ronnie Perry

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