



February 12, 2015

To: The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair ENE  
The Honorable Josh, Green, Chair HTH  
Members, Hawaii Senate Committees on Energy & Environment, and Health

From: Tim Shestek, Senior Director  
State Affairs

Re: **SB 689 – SUPPORT IF AMENDED**  
***Set for hearing on February 17, 2015***

LATE

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](http://www.marinedebrissolutions.org)

Next week, your committee will consider SB 689, legislation that would restrict the use of microbeads in personal care products. ACC encourages your committee to conform SB 689 to the current version of 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 committee to support these amendments 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.

DATE: 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2015

TO: Chair Mike Gabbard and Members of the Committee on Energy and Environment  
Chair Josh Green and Members of the Committee on Health

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

LATE

RE: **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB689**  
Relating to Environmental Protection. Gradually prohibits the manufacture and sale of personal care products containing synthetic plastic microbeads to protect marine life

Committee hearing, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2015 at 3:45pm, conference room 225.

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Green and Committee members,

I am writing in support of SB689 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 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 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 other reasons such as aesthetic, 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.

Thank you for bringing awareness to this important issue of plastic microbeads in personal care products. There is way too much plastic in the ocean already! The ocean needs this protection.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony in support of SB689.

Aloha,

Dean Otsuki