



**Conservation Council
for Hawai'i**

Hawai'i's voice for wildlife

Kō Hawai'i leo no nā holoholona lōhiu



Testimony Submitted to the House Committee on Finance
By the Conservation Council for Hawai'i
Hearing: Thursday, February 9, 2017 2 pm
Room 308

Support for HB 523 Relating to Recycling

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee,

Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports HB 523, which requires all state agencies to reasonably provide and maintain onsite collection methods at buildings and facilities under an agency's jurisdiction for the collection of recyclable materials, and appropriates funds.

If state agencies do not lead by example, how can we expect the counties, businesses, and residents to take recycling seriously?

Please pass HB 523. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Marjorie Ziegler

Marjorie Ziegler

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Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler | Administrator: Jonnetta Peters



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 6:29 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: cchaudron08@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB523 on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM

HB523

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Camila Chaudron	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, my name is Camila Chaudron, and I live in the Manoa/Makiki area. I support this measure to encourage and facilitate recycling in our community. Thank you for supporting this measure. Mahalo.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 7:24 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: zach.mermel@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB523 on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM

HB523

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Zachary Mermel	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this measure, for the benefit of future generations of Hawaii's residents, and the health of the 'aina in general.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 6:03 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: jhtakaya@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB523 on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM

HB523

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica Swart	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please offer recycling opportunities where ever possible! State run facilities would set an example for all others to also offer recycling opportunities.

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HB 523 - Requires all State agencies to reasonably provide and maintain onsite collection methods at buildings and facilities under an agency's jurisdiction for the collection of recyclable materials. Appropriates funds.

http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=HB&billnumber=523

This is an essential first step to Hawaii having a zero waste commitment. This is the only respectable thing to do, especially in that we must lead the way within State agencies and buildings to honor and respect the land and the future generations. No other organism on Earth generates waste. It's our time to wake up and let go of gross, wasteful, dangerous, and a rather archaic and disgusting way of making garbage, and in the public eye no less. You are the leaders...please lead in this most fundamental of practices.

HB1545 - Prohibits the use of polystyrene food and beverage containers in state-owned and state-run buildings and facilities beginning 1/1/2020. Requires that food and beverages be packed in compostable containers. Prohibits new contracts to purchase polystyrene food or beverage containers beginning 1/1/2018.

http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=HB&billnumber=1545

POLYSTYRENE IS CARCINOGENIC. It was absurdly embarrassing to think that people such as former mayor Billy Kenoi, actually stated that the shift to compostable containers would wreak havoc on our food outlets. Many of us refuse to buy anything in Styrofoam. To do so is to open your cellular body to carcinogenic toxicity. Is that what Hawai'i stands for. This is a small first step to a FOAM FREE HAWAII... PLEASE PASS THIS WITH FLYING COLORS. Now, more than ever, we are looking for your courage and ecological literacy,=.

HB1577 - Establishes a composting pilot project in DOE schools. Establishes a pilot project working group. Appropriates funds.

http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=HB&billnumber=1577&year=2017

YES, let's teach the children, there is no waste, just a cycling of nutrients from K through college. Please pass this unanimously. Who could be against this but someone unaware ecologically and uncaring for the future of our children's health.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2017 7:26 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: hiartrecycle@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB523 on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM

HB523

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marsha Hee	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I fully support the intent of HB523. If we are to reach our Statewide goal to reduce our solid waste stream, methane & carbon emissions and litter run off into land, ocean/water sources then the State government must set an example for positive action and expectation in their own offices, buildings & facilities to lead a change in behavior and attitude for all citizens. I support funds to provide necessary supplies, signage, education, management and develop of effective strategies and infrastructure to support all State agencies to provide and maintain onsite collection methods of recyclable materials at it's buildings and facilities. By doing so will visibly communicate an expectation of all residents and visitors to pay attention and make it a priority as consumers to learn and practice recycling habits in public places as well as in their homes and work places. This action is way overdue for future generations and for the preservation and conservation of our precious natural resources. I strongly urge you to pass HB523.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 11:43 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: karenrosen@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB523 on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM

HB523

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen Rosen	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Please support this bill requiring State agencies to reasonably provide and maintain onsite collection methods at buildings and facilities under an agency's jurisdiction for the collection of recyclable materials. Please appropriate funds to make this happen. We need to do all we can!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 2:35 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: john@sustainableislandproducts.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB523 on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM*

HB523

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
JOHN ELKJER	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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FIN-Jo

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 4:06 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: dmitts@kohalacenter.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB523 on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM*



HB523

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donna Mitts	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Thursday, February 9, 2017 2:00 PM Room 308
In SUPPORT HB 523 Relating to Recycling

LATE

Aloha Chairwoman Luke and members of the Finance Committee,

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i strongly supports HB 523, which seeks to require state agencies to provide and maintain onsite recycling collection methods for plastics, paper, and beverage containers at all state buildings and facilities.

We have 20,000 members and supporters throughout the Hawaiian Islands. Since 1968, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i has been working to protect the unique natural and cultural resources of our islands. Thanks to our advocacy Hawai'i implemented the Bottle Bill in January 2005, and as a result recycling rates nearly doubled. Today, recycling rates remain well above 68% statewide.¹

Yet, significant challenges remain. Currently, about half of the state's recyclables end up in trash bins rather than recycling bins, which unnecessarily contributes extra waste to overflowing landfills.² O'ahu alone currently produces 1.74 million tons of municipal solid waste (MSW) per year;³ meanwhile, the island's only MSW landfill, Waimanalo Gulch, lacks capacity to meet even a small fraction of the island's needs. Likewise, Kaua'i also face similar problems with its landfill, and attempts to create a new landfill are fraught with challenges for the local community.⁴

The Club supports HB 523 because recycling reduces waste, saves energy, conserves landfill space, and creates jobs in the waste management sector. A recent study estimates there are 3,000 full-time jobs in recycling. Not only are these jobs on the rise, they also appear to be recession-resistant. "[O]ne big benefit of the recycling programs is they encourage local economic development, create jobs, and recycle money in our community," noted one report on the study.⁵

¹ Bottle Bill Resource Guide, <http://www.bottlebill.org/legislation/usa/hawaii.htm>

² *The Economics of Recycling in Hawaii*, Hawaii Business Magazine. August 2012. <http://www.hawaiibusiness.com/the-economics-of-recycling-in-hawaii/>

³ *Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill Expansion Fact Sheet*, Department of Environmental Services. http://www.opala.org/pdfs/solid_waste/WGSL_Factsheet.pdf

⁴ *Trash Problems Not Only Impacting Oahu*, Hawaii News Now. <http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/9077420/trash-problems-not-only-impacting-oahu>

⁵ *The Economics of Recycling in Hawaii*, Hawaii Business Magazine. August 2012. <http://www.hawaiibusiness.com/the-economics-of-recycling-in-hawaii/>

As an island community, Hawai'i faces unique challenges in managing its waste. It is imperative that we adopt all reasonable measures to reduce the stream of waste into our landfills. Requiring that all state buildings and facilities make recycling bins available will help ease the burden on those landfills by reducing the amount of unnecessary waste entering those landfills.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony on this important issue.

Mahalo,

Marti Townsend
Director

FIN-Jo

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 8:50 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: ryan@earthfriends.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB523 on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM



HB523

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ryan christopher	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We only have a limited amount of space on our island for trash, we cant be throwing recyclables in the trash. Why would anyone be against recycling unless they make money off of us using something once then letting it sit in a landfill for the rest of eternity. Our children deserve a clean place to play and grow. Please make that possible. Thanks

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 6:07 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: zsrparlee@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB523 on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM



HB523

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 9, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Zachary Parlee	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB 523. As a teacher at Konawaena Middle School, I have seen the amount of food waste the comes from the cafeteria. To see it go to the dump is such a waste. The first reason I is because the nutrients in the food could be used for fertilizer in a school garden or local farming operation, and the second reason is because it creates a wonderful opportunity to teach students about cycles of matter and the importance of microorganisms, which break down our food. Additionally, such a program could grow into a school garden program, where students can learn how to grow their own food in a sustainable manner.

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